



## Episode 73 – “Patagonia Jerkin”

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Generously Transcribed by Erica Dix

SALLY: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books, so if you are anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 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 plays)

EMILY: We have to make this snappy because I'm in the middle of a boss fight in Windwaker.

SALLY: I told you we could wait.

EMILY: It's okay, this is actually my relaxation 45 minutes. I get very stressed and sweaty when I'm fighting anyone in any video game because I'm bad at them. I just had to call, I had to Facetime Cambria, our very first listener and the love of my life, and be like, how do I get into this room, and she was like, you have the key, you just open the door. And I was like, what? it's because I haven't played since 2016.

SALLY: It was very, very funny.

EMILY: And I can't remember what I've accumulated. I looked at the wiki and apparently I got the boomerang in this fight? Like what the hell. God.

SALLY: In the fight that you're currently fighting?

EMILY: No, in the dungeon, in this dungeon.

SALLY: Oh ok, cause I was like, that doesn't make sense.

EMILY: Sorry, think of it all as one long fight because they're constantly like here are some monsters to fight and then you kill them and you get some gems and hearts and whatever.

SALLY: Shouldn't be rewarded for monsters.

EMILY: And pots.

SALLY: Pots?

EMILY: I think the pots are actually magic and that's what I used to um.

SALLY: Use the flying leaf?

EMILY: Use the flying leaf.

SALLY: So they're telling you that pot is magic?

EMILY: Definitely yeah, that sounds like something.

SALLY: In order to use your magic leaves? [laughter]

EMILY: That does sound like a message that- hey, get away from the muffins.

SALLY: Ahh, that's my last muffin.

[laugh]

SALLY: I guess he can have it if he really wants it that badly.

EMILY: It's very delicious.

SALLY: You can have it if you want it.

EMILY: No that's okay. Oh, wow I see you tweeted about this. [laughter]

SALLY: The people don't think I'm funny anymore, I have to redo my content.

EMILY: Oh, they think you're funny.

SALLY: No, no one thinks I'm funny. Not even Tybalt.

EMILY: Tybalt is an absolute demon.

SALLY: A little eldritch horror, yeah.

EMILY: Is you a Lovecraftian beast?

SALLY: Is you a Lovecraftian... Yes, you is a Lovecraftian beast.

EMILY: Hello, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Link apparently. Hello, what are you doing?

SALLY: Is that Zelda? Is Tybalt Zelda? Is that how that works?

EMILY: I guess.

SALLY: Who am I? Am I the pots?

EMILY: If I could remember any characters from any Zelda game besides Link and Zelda then I would tell you who you are.

SALLY: Are there other characters?

EMILY: I think there's Ganondorf, he's the big bad. But I'm not going to- No, Tybalt is Ganondorf, you're Zelda. You have long blond hair.

SALLY: Yeah but have you seen the redesign where she is-

EMILY: And I'm Link because I'm an idiot.

SALLY: She's got the cool short haircut and Link has got the long beautiful baby hair?

EMILY: [unintelligible]

SALLY: Emily's taking the cat away. He's probably trying to bite her face off. If you can hear her yelling about that.

EMILY: He's being very bitey.

SALLY: Yeah, he's not a nice cat.

EMILY: He doesn't like watching me play video games because it distresses him.

SALLY: Yeah, he's like, why aren't you playing with meeeee?

EMILY: Oh my god, she's so intensely focused on something other than meeeee!

SALLY: Which is simply unacceptable as far as Tybalt is concerned.

EMILY: To try and relate this to the chapters at hand, me playing video games is with the intensity with which Perrin approaches blacksmithing. Only he's apparently good at it. Did we say our names?

SALLY: No, you said you were Link. So, I guess yes? Maybe?

EMILY: Oh, well. I'm Emily, I guess, Juchau.

SALLY: And I'm Sally Goodger.

EMILY: We're coming at you live. No, we're not, why did I say that.

SALLY: Watch what happens live. Before we get started, sorry I'm watching the Twitter feed blow up in real time. Follow us on twitter @EHR\_podcast. Before we get started I wanted to make a bit of a correction from last week where we dunked on herbalism pretty hard, and one of our listeners let us know that herbalism and medicinal herbs has been really helpful for them in their journey with illness, so there was sort of a bias of ours that we were perhaps not taking in the full picture of what herbalistic medicine can do, so apologies for our lack of full knowledge there.

EMILY: Yeah, we certainly didn't intend to alienate anyone or even really to dunk on herbalism as an accepted art of today and especially as an Eastern medicine rather than Western medicine. I

think we are just coming at it from a weird Utah bias where essential oils are a thing, and those definitely do not work and are a multi-level marketing scheme, and that's a really pervasive part of the culture of Utah so we're both kind of skeezed out by that. But of course, herbalism is a legitimate medicine so if that's what you use, great for you.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Feel free to tell us about it.

SALLY: Yeah I would love to know more and yeah, just repeating what Emily said, we've both had pretty unfortunate encounters with essential oils and I think it sort of has skewed, at least, speaking for myself it has skewed my whole relationship to any type of non-traditional medicine which is bad. It's a personal bias that I need to overcome. Thank you for educating us and making me think a little bit more about that. So.

EMILY: Oh my god I was at lunch today with my family and I broke the news that Zulu, which is a fun new restaurant in Utah that we all liked cause it was a lot like Nando's, and they just have fun chicken dishes and like, side dishes, and Sally told me yesterday while we were going to my Dad's surprise half-birthday party... [laughter]

SALLY: Gotta update on Chris's surprise half birthday party.

EMILY: She was like, did you know Zulu's owned by the guy who owns Young Living Essential Oils? and I was like, oh no, now I can't go there anymore. So, I told my family that, so that's why I can't go there anymore. And they were immediately like, "so we can't buy on Amazon because Amazon's evil?" And I was like, "no, what are you, what conclusion? What happened? I just don't want to support essential oils. Can you all be calm." Anyway, my Dad's surprise half birthday party was a hit.

SALLY: True.

EMILY: Yeah, he loved it. He was fucking delighted.

SALLY: It was a very tender, he just had like a childlike glee in his eyes.

EMILY: Yeah, he was just like giddy. His best friend came.

SALLY: Who is the funniest man on the planet.

EMILY: Yeah. Ben.

SALLY: Good old ben.

EMILY: Ben is also, that is peak environment for Ben, when he has, like, a willing and engaged audience. He's a performer.

SALLY: You can tell.

[laughter]

SALLY: He was very funny and his wife was also hilarious.

EMILY: Yeah, they're very cute and extroverted and it's like why are they friends with my parents?

SALLY: No, your parents are also precious.

EMILY: Introverted, quiet people on the planet. Yeah.

SALLY: Becky does like being alone.

EMILY: Yeah, she does. She just likes being in her room reading a book. No one disturbing her. That's what we do for Mother's Day. It was more of a challenge when we were like seven. Now it's like, okay yeah we can entertain ourselves. Okay, Wheel of Time. We read two chapters today. Sally would know the numbers, but I don't because I don't remember chapter numbers.

SALLY: I think it's 50 and 51. One of them is called "The Hammer". We should offer the disclaimer that I didn't read the chapters, I did read the wikis, but I was going to read the chapters and then I saw that the first one was called "The Hammer" and then I decided that I was not going to read the chapters. So...

EMILY: It's an immediate turn off.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I actually find this particular pair in chapter to be like, I mean it's like you have this very pure little like three page section of the chapter which is like the crux of the chapter where Perrin is just working in a blacksmith shop, just kind of cause he lacks something to do and is, this is what he was raised to do basically, he was a blacksmith's apprentice, and it's just like something he's passionate about and likes to do. And that's a genuinely endearing Perrin

moment. Unfortunately it's bracketed by Perrin being insufferable around all these other insufferable characters, who are at least for some reason in this book being insufferable. I don't usually find Moiraine as offensive as I do.

SALLY: Me neither, but she's rough in The Dragon Reborn.

EMILY: Yeah, it's very odd and we've tried to figure it out but I don't really think, have come to any conclusions.

SALLY: I think a large part of it might be that she's presented predominantly through Perrin's point of view.

EMILY: That's probably true.

SALLY: Because Perrin has a really weird, like I feel like Perrin and Moiraine's relationship, like the boundaries aren't as defined in a weird way, like Rand and Moiraine we know are going to be like, at odds. So, like that kind of frames it a little bit, and Mat and Moiraine are just sort of like, whatever.

EMILY: Ships in the night.

SALLY: Yeah. So, like that sort of frames that idea. but Perrin and Moiraine's relationship is really hard to pin down. So, I feel like it's really easy for them to get sort of in a weird...

EMILY: Yeah, she's very much like, a mentor separated from her mentee in this book and that, apparently without that anchor Robert Jordan doesn't know how to, like, handle her or have her be a character that makes sense. Although she does have other inscrutable moments throughout her time in the series. Like marrying Thom. What the fuck.

SALLY: Every time you say it it makes me die a little inside. [singing] And I die a little each time...

EMILY: I did realize that I hate Moiraine and Thom slightly less than I hate Morgase and Tallanvor. Because I had to read Morgase and Tallanvor getting married for my [crosstalk]

SALLY: Ahh, they get married?

EMILY: Don't even get me started, it's fucking terrible. I was like, okay there's an age difference in both relationships, that's gross and fetishy on both ends. Cause like even if

Moiraine is in her mid-40s, Thom is still in his, like, 60s, and of course there's the whole Aes Sedai fetishy thing of like, oh but they don't look old.

SALLY: Yeah, she looks like she's 28.

EMILY: Yeah you know or the whole age thing, which really is just an excuse for men to be like, "but she doesn't look old."

SALLY: Yeah but she's still hot. You know. She's hot and powerful, it's like a weird MILF thing.

EMILY: And I think my least favorite characteristic of Aes Sedai, the whole agelessness thing it's like, hey young women and old women can't be powerful? And really it's just women aren't allowed to have age.

SALLY: Yeah well know it's like this chronic thing throughout literature to like that trope of the beautiful young woman who removed her necklace or whatever and she becomes old and so suddenly it's like this object of desire is now this disgusting and often presented as evil being.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And so, it's this like, young women are important and are your allies and are basically, you know, powerful and have agency whereas old women are evil and don't have agency and don't matter. It's stupid.

EMILY: Yeah. Like, Gandalf is allowed to be old so why can't Moiraine be old.

SALLY: Gandalf's old as shit.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Why isn't Maggie Smith playing Moiraine.

EMILY: Oh my god!

SALLY: I guess we should address that there were some casting decisions made last week.

EMILY: Decisions plural or was it just....

SALLY: No, it was just Rosamund Pike, I don't know why I said decisionsssssss...



EMILY: Yeah last week I think it came out when we released our last episode so we'd already recorded this week's, it's confusing, so... Yeah you're addressing it a little late but.

SALLY: We typically record on Mondays these days so it's like, episode drops on Monday and we record on Monday so there's like a week dissonance... so if something happens in that time and you feel like we haven't addressed it, it's not because we're not paying attention it's just cause our schedules are insufferable these days.

EMILY: Yeah anyway Rosamund Pike. My friend Devin texted me about this, he was like "have you seen this?" and I was like, "I really don't have any feelings about it." and he was like, "okay but as someone who hasn't, read or interacted with Wheel of Time in any way, this is intriguing because it's like an A-list movie star, so it kind of makes it seem like the show will be like, really well funded and really good or whatever. And I was like, "yeah, that's certainly what that indicates to me, that the show is going to be quote-unquote better than I thought it was going to be, you know, a little, have a slightly better budget.

SALLY: Yeah, for sure.

EMILY: Than I initially assumed which usually goes a long way to making fantasy series more enjoyable. Not to say that low-budget fantasy series can't be enjoyable. Merlin, on the BBC, that was fun as shit.

SALLY: Yeah, I know, I kind of had the same oh, I was surprised by it to be honest, like genuinely deeply surprised that someone with that much, like, Hollywood clout was doing the wheel of time.

EMILY: Yeah. And I just genuinely never gave it a second thought to Moiraine's casting prior to this, I always was just like I'm interested in the quote-unquote younger characters casting because I assume it's going to be mostly unknowns, and because it's going to be, it's a much tougher... Like, no offense to Rosamund Pike but frankly anyone could play Moiraine, all you have to do is be aloof and not have a lot of facial expressions. And say some mysterious shit every once in a while. If you are going by the book, Moiraine isn't much of a character.

SALLY: Yes, she's very like, reserved it's not like casting Mat, I feel like, is going to be really difficult.

EMILY: Yeah like casting Mat is going to be batshit 'cause Mat goes through wild ranges of action and emotion in pretty much every scene he's in, same with Egwene. You know, as opposed to sort of like one note characters like Nynaeve also.

SALLY: Yeah, who's just angry.

EMILY: Who's just angry all the time.

SALLY: It's just yeah like Moiraine is just reserved, Lan is just, a brick wall, and Nynaeve is just pissed off.

EMILY: Yeah if they were like, and now Lan is being played by Daniel Craig, I'd be like, again like okay that indicates some budgetary things also...

SALLY: But also Lan is coded to be East Asian so maybe don't cast Daniel Craig.

EMILY: I don't know why that's the name that popped into my head.

SALLY: It's because Daniel Craig please James Bond with absolutely no range of emotion. Like he doesn't even read like [crosstalk]

EMILY: You know who I would actually be intrigued by as Lan, Keanu Reeves. [laughter] Guys I just fixed Wheel of Time. He's perfect. He's tall. He's an action star. He's got East Asian heritage.

SALLY: Beautiful.

EMILY: He's just got the best voice of all time. It's this deep gravelly voice so when he says shit like duty is heavier than a mountain or whatever, I'd be like, yeah Keanu, it is.

SALLY: Alright. And for once I would be like, "Nynaeve, I get why you so horny."

EMILY: No really. And then we had Nynaeve as a 26-year old be like, "damn I'm horny for Keanu Reeves," I'd be like, "yeah, fucking same." [laughter] And we all have to go see Always Be My Maybe on Netflix because that is legitimately one of the funniest scenes of all time with Keanu Reeves.

SALLY: Keanu Reeves is a treasure. A while ago Cambria asked me what my feelings are on Keanu Reeves in some Instagram question and I was like, "I don't have any, and that's a lie."

EMILY: We're in the Keanu-ssance, I'm telling you. Welcome to the new era. Of Keanu Reeves.

SALLY: He's just really pretty.

EMILY: He's just incredible.

SALLY: His voice is really sexy too.

EMILY: Yeah it doesn't really, sometimes his voice throws me off, like in the John Wick movies it's so low.

SALLY: "My town."

EMILY: But it just, I'm always just like, what? Cause it doesn't feel like he's delivering, I can't explain it.

SALLY: I mean I haven't seen John Wick so I don't know.

EMILY: I don't know either.

SALLY: Well we will watch it and then I'll know.

EMILY: Yeah. Sally is on a mission to see the John Wick movies.

SALLY: I'm on a mission to quote, get into, unquote, the John Wick movies. Anyway.

EMILY: That's our update.

SALLY: That's our perfect casting.

EMILY: That's our input on Wheel of Time casting.

SALLY: Rafe Judkins, if you're listening.

EMILY: Keanu Reeves, get him.

SALLY: Keanu Reeves, if you're listening.

EMILY: Keanu Reeves, if you were listening, you'd be perfect. But I also respect your, your decision to not play Lan because he's the most insufferable character.

SALLY: Yeah, who else could Keanu Reeves play? Who is more fun?

EMILY: I mean he could play any number of Borderlander dudes. Uno.

SALLY: Yeah that was going to be what I said but then I was like, I don't know. I don't know if he's got it.

EMILY: Yeah, he's like, bald and I love Keanu's perfect beautiful hair.

SALLY: I know, how does he do it?

EMILY: It's just incredible.

SALLY: Who do you think styles his hair or do you think it just does that?

EMILY: I don't know. Who else could Keanu play?

SALLY: We don't have to turn this into a Keanu Reeves fancast episode. It's okay.

EMILY: It is a Keanu Reeves fancast episode. We'll come back to you if I think of someone by the end of this episode, I'll tell you who I think it should be. [laughter] What?

SALLY: That just was funny. I'll tell you who I think it should be and the rest of you can eat shit. I don't give a shit what the rest of you think. I'm Emily Juchau.

EMILY: Well Keanu Reeves could also do really fun things with one of the Forsaken, like if the forsaken were played by like good actors,

SALLY: Famous, famous people.

EMILY: Yeah. That would be incredible and if someone was like Sammael and then it like flashes over to...

SALLY: George Clooney.

EMILY: George Clooney. Or Brad Pitt. I'd be like, oh fuck me.

SALLY: What if they just got the cast of *Ocean's Thirteen* to play the various.... [laughter]

EMILY: George Clooney would have to be Balal cause he's a silver fox or something.

SALLY: That's right. There's not enough women unfortunately in the cast of- Well yeah they would just have to mix it up with the cast of...

EMILY: Ocean's 8.

SALLY: Ocean's 8. What am I saying I'm such a fucking fool.

EMILY: Oh my god Sandra Bullock playing...

SALLY: Anne Hathaway as Graendal, that'd be the only interesting cast...

EMILY: That's true.

SALLY: Because I'm big horny for Anne Hathaway.

EMILY: Also, Anne Hathaway has, let me be frank, amazing boobs.

SALLY: No, I knew where you were going. We all knew where you were going. She has incredible tits.

EMILY: In *Ocean's Eight* specially I was like, damn girl, i want to put my head on those titties, and like, nestle in there and die.

SALLY: I know, when she's in that, like, pink dress, and they're like, up to her clavicles, and I'm just like, damn Nicky, your bobbies. They look real good. So anyway yeah that's the only interesting. Graendal.

EMILY: Yeah and Cate Blanchett playing one of the pointy ones. Lanfear.

SALLY: Oh my god, Sandra Bullock was playing Lanfear I'd finally be like, Lanfear makes sense.

EMILY: Yeah, Sandra Bullock has the color palette.

SALLY: Okay, we can't keep talking about this. Please Daniel we can't keep talking about this.

EMILY: Please Daniel we can't keep talking about this. Although it's good we did this because there is nothing much to talk about in these chapters. So, Perrin and company get to Tear, which now brings our amount of main characters in Tear to 100%.

[laughter]

You know, Moiraine like, describes Tear in the usual oh, they all have different impressions and I guess if I was a different reader than I would find that meaningful but I don't really, it's just kind of like... ehh. Perrin does have a funny moment where he's kind of looking at people's outfits imagining himself in like the baggy britches and cracks himself up, and Loial's like, "Perrin, what are you laughing at? Don't you see everyone looks miserable?" and Perrin's like, "Damn, everyone does look miserable."

SALLY: Loial's like, "You fucking piece of shit. Stop laughing."

EMILY: Loial's like, "how dare you."

SALLY: "This is a humanitarian crisis, and you're laughing."

EMILY: It is funny though that it takes Loial, as an empathetic figure notices people's faces and emotions, Perrin is like looking at clothes and architecture.

SALLY: Which is like, it's true, all Wheel of Time characters are like, you get clothes, you get architecture, and you get the state of the people, is like typically the way that Robert Jordan describes things, and then there's Loial who's just like, "Oh my god, everyone's suffering."

EMILY: I know. Loial's just constantly like, "Jesus, everyone's starving, everyone's upset," and of course it's all due to the, we've seen this now six times in this book series. Ah, Faile's there, being annoying. She's like, "I wish everyone would answer my questions," and Perrin's like, shut up, and also being annoying because he's all like, "She won't leave me alone, but I refuse to call her by the name that she wishes to be called by." And I'm like, what a dumb hill to die on honestly. And also respect people and call them the name that they wish to be called by. Yeah, Faile's kind of immature and is choosing names at random, seemingly.

SALLY: But like, who cares?

EMILY: She doesn't like her old name, so fucking drop it.

SALLY: Yeah. Like you should never just like, call people what you want to call them.

EMILY: Yeah. It's very obnoxious.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Always ask people's permission to call them by names. Anyway, but they go to an inn, I think it's just called the Star, and the innkeeper is like, this fucking emo dude. He's been having bad dreams like everyone else he's like, "hello, welcome to the Star, I see you have an Ogier. Here, I'll put two beds together."

SALLY: Nice voice.

EMILY: Fucking perish. Hope you fucking die. And everyone's like, "okay." Meanwhile Moiraine is like, cloaked, and has taken off her Aes Sedai ring, she gives a, I mean Perrin gives more of an update, it's not that Aes Sedai are banned from Tear, it's that channeling is banned in Tear, and also like so, Moiraine is trying to like stay under the radar because she will be surveilled if she comes out as an Aes Sedai. But they all sort of meet in their private dining room to go over things and Moiraine is like, well I'm off to go do some recon, all of you can fucking die.

SALLY: Pretty much.

EMILY: And Perrin's like, "that sounds about right." So, she and Lan go off and I can't remember what Perrin does but he comes back and is like, oh Faile and Loial are nowhere to be found. I don't think he would hang out with them anyway, Perrin's such a weird bastard. A lone wolf as it were.

SALLY: Do you get it? Do you... Do you get why she said that? It's pretty funny.

EMILY: Wolf jokes.

SALLY: Do you get it?

EMILY: But then he goes to the blacksmith shop next door where there's just a blacksmith doing some stuff. And we launched into a lot of technical terminology for blacksmithing which nevertheless I did find entertaining because I like to try to understand, it's very fascinating to read like, it's always just good to read about people doing what they love. It's why Robin McKinley books are so good, it's because she puts her main characters in an occupation that gives them a lot of pleasure. She has a good vampire book where the main character is just like, a baker, and she's kind of like just talking about the baking that she does with all the art of love that she pours into it.

SALLY: That's so cute.

EMILY: And you kind of get Perrin over here talking about like, carbon. and I'm like whoa damn. Finally, Perrin has, like, smarts. I don't know.

SALLY: Perrin's got a brain in his woolly head.

EMILY: Perrin's got a brain in his woolly head, and is like, hello. I'm just here to...

SALLY: I wish you guys could have seen the little motion that she made for blacksmithing. It was so cute.

SALLY: Perrin is not cute when he is blacksmithing though, he is real sexy. And Robert Jordan does not fail to tell us that. He's in like, one of those leather vests and he's all sweaty and he's banging shit...

EMILY: And this is also hilarious, he walked into the blacksmithing shop like, observes the blacksmith for a minute and then just goes over and starts working the bellows for him, like without talking, and it's supposed to be such like a man moment, like, "we don't exchange words, we just...."

SALLY: We just make the blacksmithing-

EMILY: We are men of action.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Etc. Etc. And it's like, this guy's like, "Are you an apprentice?" and Perrin's like, "yeah," and the guy's like, "okay." And then they just go about their fucking business. It's very weird. And stupid I mean, if I were like, working, and someone just came up to me and started doing- like if someone came behind the front desk of the hotel and just like dropped into the other computer, and was like "I'm going to check people in," I'd be like, "HELLO? Police?" And/or I'd just clock out and leave.

SALLY: And be like, alright, you seem to got this.

EMILY: Yeah, you've clearly got it. But yeah, this dude it's just...

SALLY: Yeah I feel like this scene, or some variation of it, happens in like high fantasy where you get technical, but when you put it outside the realm of like, craftsmanship it's a really weird thing to just like, have happen.



EMILY: Yeah, and particularly blacksmithing, it's all playing into the blacksmith archetype if this happened in a fucking seamstress shop, you know, it would be... but, you know, we had a very similar scene just a minute ago where Nynaeve was talking herbs with Mother Guenna, and of course, you know it's women, so they verbalize, and they have to talk about things, they can't just do. Stupid. [barfing noise] It's all bad guys. But similarly, I also did find like, Nynaeve's little convo with Mother Guenna enjoyable. It's nice to see characters do things that they love

SALLY: Yeah and I feel like on that...

EMILY: Mat's gambling addiction, that's always just like...

SALLY: I love gamblings. I know it's bad, but the gambling scenes are fun. And he does have an addiction and I'm concerned about him but...

EMILY: And they become less fun as you get into the series, I feel, anyway, because it's just like every other Mat scene opens up with him gambling and I'm just like, okay now we're just, now we just don't know what to do. what else would that be doing.

SALLY: Apparently just gambling.

EMILY: Yeah apparently just gambling.

SALLY: I do read sometimes.

EMILY: I do read sometimes. Mat "has never opened a book in his life" Cauthon. Dingus. [laughter] Anyway, Perrin's gets lost in the work and then suddenly the sun's down and this dude's clocking aught and... Did I just say clocking aught? Clocking out? But also off. And Faile's just casually sitting on an anvil over somewhere.

SALLY: Wink.

EMILY: I know, wink. Ew, what?

SALLY: There's got to be some type of euphemism in there.

EMILY: No, I don't want to think about it. I hate that. And is also like, damn, my shirtless boy, cause Perrin's just wearing a leather vest because-

SALLY: Why wouldn't he be?

EMILY: Why wouldn't you be.

SALLY: You're working around a lot of flames and metal, why would you have sleeves on.

EMILY: I don't know, well [crosstalk] Catch fire. Is it better to be scarred or to catch fire?

SALLY: Probably to be scarred. I guess.

EMILY: Perrin does talk about how like, blacksmiths use hammers longer than you think they are to avoid getting your hands scarred, but it's also just like, you're just wearing a leather vest. Aren't your titties like, occasionally getting sparks on them and shit? Sally has her face covered because she can't look at me cause he is so mad at me. [laughter] I'm just saying.

SALLY: Well that's what, yeah, it's the same thing that I was saying with the arms, just with his titties I guess. But like, I don't know, it just doesn't make sense to me. I get it, they'd catch fire. But also, the glassblowers would always wear, like you'd have to wear certain types of fabrics but if you were reaching into the furnace, you just put gloves on.

EMILY: Of course, yeah yeah, yeah. Those like big long-ass leather gloves, [crosstalk]

SALLY: Like up to your shoulders. I don't know, so like, apparently leather vests exist, but leather gloves do not.

EMILY: I don't know, yeah. and also like, why [crosstalk] well that's just such a weird item of clothing.

SALLY: I was having this conversation at work the other day, cause they're starting a program where like if you have been there for a year, you get to choose, this is so like, environmentalist nonprofit, you get like an item of clothing from Patagonia.

EMILY: Oh my god.

SALLY: At least I think it's Patagonia, it might be whatever the other one is. Columbia? North Face? I don't know. One of those.

EMILY: One of those faves of National Parks, environmentalists.

SALLY: And like, two of them are just like jackets, and the third one was a white fleece vest, and like, two members of the committee who are like, committee doing this, who I am close friends with, were like, "what do you think?" and I was like, "is that a white fleece vest, because

that is god awful.” And they were like, “No, it's really cool,” and I was like, “vests are inherently bad.”

EMILY: I just think that the only time vests are good, is when like they're the third piece of a three-piece suit.

SALLY: Oooh sexy.

EMILY: Because yeah that does a whole lot for me, but like, vests just on their own?

SALLY: I don't understand vests, no shirt.

EMILY: Yeah, that particularly is like, what kink is this, apparently Faile's because she's all big horny for Perrin in a leather vest.

SALLY: And I feel like Sarah McClintock's probably made a vest that I like, so I should watch my tongue a little bit, but-

EMILY: Yeah, maybe just Sarah, tell us-

SALLY: Explain the vest to me.

EMILY: Explain the vest.

SALLY: Is Perrin technically in a jerkin?

EMILY: Is he? What's the difference between a vest and a jerkin, does one close and the other doesn't?

SALLY: This has become the fun new segment, what is EHR googling this episode.

EMILY: Yeah, Sally's Googling.

SALLY: What is the difference between-

EMILY: Siri! What's jerkin?

SALLY: A vest and a jerkin. And a jerkin off.

EMILY: No, is that an autocorrect? Did it try and do that?

SALLY: What is the difference between a vest and a jerkin?

EMILY: I mean I know that jerkins don't have sleeves

SALLY: Waistcoat vs. jerkin. That's not what I asked for.

EMILY: Is a waistcoat like a vest that you wear under your coat? What is a waistcoat? I'm not sure that I know what any item of clothing is.

SALLY: Sarah, we need help! A jerkin is a man's short close-fitting jacket usually made of light-colored leather often without sleeves worn over the doublet. So that's what that is, it looks like this, allegedly.

EMILY: But over the jacket.

SALLY: But over the jacket. So, I'm guessing, but vests also go, so now I just have to google vests. We just gotta get a working definition.

EMILY: I feel like just has more of a v-neck, jerkins apparently go up to like,

SALLY: A waistcoat or vest, it's saying they're the same thing, is that a sleeveless upper body garment, it's usually worn over a dress shirt or necktie. So, like what the fuck.

EMILY: Vests are more of an inner garment, jerkins are more of an outer garment? should Your Patagonia vest really be a Patagonia jerkin?

SALLY: First of all, how dare you assume that I would ever get a Patagonia vest, I do have some, I know I'm dressed like a dirty boy scout today but I do have some class, thank you very much. [laughter]

EMILY: Screech.

SALLY: I will text Julie though and tell her that she got a Patagonia jerkin.

EMILY: Enjoy your Patagonia jerkin. Whatever the fuck that means.

SALLY: Just text them with no context. Patagonia jerkin sounds like a weird sex thing.

EMILY: Yeah it does. Anyway, the blacksmith is like, "keep the hammer my dude-" [laughter]

SALLY: Someone came to the hotel and you're like, "keep the keyboard my dude."

EMILY: Yeah if someone came into the hotel and was like, "I'm gonna help you with this," I'm just gonna be like, "yeah, keep the... there aren't any tools..."

SALLY: The keyboard, just unplug it and take it with you.

EMILY: I guess... Here, have this.

[laughter]

EMILY: Keep a pen? I don't know. Here, take this pen. It's all I have left of my father. Keep it secret, keep it safe. Anyway, this guy is like, "here's payment, it's a hammer," and he's like, "oh my god, thank you so much." he's like, so heart warmed. He's very touched by this. And he brings it up to his room and is like, "I'm just going to spend a while staring at the hammer and the axe together, which is what is going to be doing for the next thirteen books. I know it's only a 16 book series but I assume it extends. Perrin's fucking love of the hammer versus... Is this, like, a metaphor for bisexuality? If so, it's a terrible one.

SALLY: Bisexuality is either creation or destruction.

EMILY: Hammer or axe.

SALLY: The two genders.

EMILY: The two genders, hammer and axe.

SALLY: Is he, you know, a hammer?

EMILY: Is he, you know, an axe?

SALLY: Oohoh. Winkedy winkedy.

EMILY: Yeah, anyway then parent gets called down to dinner and unceremoniously, Moiraine is like, "welp, another Foresaken, Balal's in Tear." And everyone's like, "well fuck me, right?" And Loial's like, "oh my god, I should leave," and Moiraine's like, "Loial, you can leave whenever you want." And Loial's like, "I can? What? I can? Well, I probably won't, I haven't done enough research for my book yet." And Moiraine's like, "Okay, that's great that you were

staying with us, but I do need you to stop complaining if that is the case.” and Faile’s like, “do I have a choice?” And Moiraine’s like, “no, you’re dying here. Fuck you.”

SALLY: Loial I trust. You’re a bitch.

EMILY: You’re a bitch, and I hate you for-

SALLY: You’re a shady bitch.

EMILY: For unknown reason. Which is bad writing.

SALLY: It’s... bad writing.

EMILY: It’s... bad writing. Anyway but she also, Moiraine, not Faile, asks Loial what he knows about Balal, and then Loial proceeds to tell us everything we will then know about Balal, which is that he is called the net weaver, and Moiraine extrapolates from this that that means he is very strategic and smart, and like, thinks in advance, and that he's also been known as the envious because he envied not just Lews Therin, but also some of the other people in the Shadow, all of which leads Moiraine to believe oh, so his plan is what I think it is, which is to allow Rand to get Callandor but then take it from him and kill him with it. So that he then has this most powerful weapon which is like yeah, a standard bad guy plan I guess. But again this doesn't really, you know, move Balal up in the books of like, intimidating villains for me. Especially because everyone's like oh, he must have such great strategy, and he lives and dies in the space of one book. So I'm like, not convinced my guys.

SALLY: I know. Like, the Forsaken especially the ones that die early on, I’m like, “was I supposed to be scared of that motherfucker?”

EMILY: Yeah, cause I’m not. Balal’s on screen for like 2 seconds and then Moiraine balefires the shit out of him and it’s like, whyyy.

SALLY: Isn’t Moiraine in this chapter also like oh, BT-dubs, in the last year, I learned balefire-

EMILY: Yeah she’s like, Perrin’s like, “how are you gonna kill one of the Forsaken,” and she's like, “well even the forsaken can be killed by balefire,” and Perrin’s like, “oh, is that what she used against the dark hounds?” She’s like, “yeah, I've learned a lot in the last year that will make me more dangerous.” Presumably like, I don’t know, when she went off on her little study abroad with those sisters up in the borderlands, and that's where she learned balefire or something?

SALLY: These old ladies just taught her balefire.

EMILY: Yeah I don't know it's-

SALLY: Very weird.

EMILY: Again, more mysterious shit I don't really need, I don't care how Moiraine knows balefire.

SALLY: It just would have made more sense to me if she knew before the series started.

EMILY: Yeah, I mean it's like, hidden knowledge but then, that would be interesting to me if she found it in the tower somehow. I don't know. Balefire kind of begins and ends in my interest with the idea that it was a banned weapon in the Age of Legends because it basically caused like, nuclear amounts of destruction. And I'm like, okay, that's intriguing. But after that I'm kind of like, okay this is the like, balefire sort of amounts to you, the video game player, like breaking into the code and just hitting kill all. Get rid of your enemies.

SALLY: Kill all Balal. Yeah. It's, I don't know.

EMILY: Just kind of a cheat code, you know.

SALLY: Well yeah, and it's just like I don't know, this is just I think the problem of immersive things, where you need to like set up a system to break that, but it's like Wheel of Time does it so much, like it's hidden knowledge, it's forbidden, but then our characters are just like, using it willy-nilly that it like, doesn't really have any stakes for me. Very early on-

EMILY: She doesn't even have to learn it, she just whips it out.

SALLY: Yeah, and Rand does the same thing pretty much. And so it's just kind of like, I don't, this doesn't really mean anything and me.

EMILY: Yeah. To me it's just cheat code, just, people know it.

SALLY: Yeah, I think Wheel of Time just sometimes struggles with, like, accurately depicting how powerful and dangerous the magic, 'cause we are not very frequently in a point of view that can't use magic of some sort.

EMILY: Yeah. We do have Mat, who by book 5 is more or less immune, like he can't be, it's interesting, no one ever tries to balefire Mat that I know of, but I would love to see it almost

cause would that fall apart? And how buck wild would that be, someone tries to balefire this dude and he still just standing there like, what the fuck.

SALLY: All his clothes are singed.

EMILY: And he's just like, "ah, dang it."

SALLY: Dang it, I liked this coat.

EMILY: So yeah, we don't get a lot of, yeah, points of view of people who aren't magic users and that is a little bit, I mean that sounds weird to say because Mat and Perrin are both non-magic users, but they're not interacting so much with magic users.

SALLY: Yeah, like they don't- or they have interacted with them so frequently, like in Mat's case, with the Aes Sedai so much, that it just like, and Mat's- but even Perrin has his weird wolf thing so it's kind of like he is in Tel'aran'rhiod all the time, just like Egwene is, so it's like, weird to put them all in this, like, power structure against someone who like, is genuinely afraid of Aes Sedai.

EMILY: Yeah, it's how characters like Min could be way more interesting, because Min is a person with relatively little power kind of surrounded by people with nuclear amounts of power and that would be really intimidating and really scary, like, constantly. And it would be really interesting to see how you deal with that and, how you face off with that, and how you come out of that alive.

SALLY: Especially cause Min, yes she's got her vision thing, but she can't channel and she also doesn't have social status the way Faile does, like Faile can fling around the fact that her dad is Davram Bashere and whatever, and her cousin's like the queen of whatever.

EMILY: Saldaea.

SALLY: Like that, she's got a lot of clout, but Min doesn't have any of that, she's just like a...

EMILY: Yeah, Brigitte can't channel but she's a fucking Hero of the Horn.

SALLY: She's fucking Birgitte, like, what are you going to do about it.

EMILY: We're not worried about her. So yeah, like, Min could be an interesting character And a few other characters like her could be More interesting in this could be emphasized instead of her just being wet for Rand, you know? Come on.



SALLY: It's literally her entire character arc.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: It's very stupid.

EMILY: Anyway, Moiraine and Lan go off to do recon because they're like, "our only option apparently is to get into the Stone of Tear and try and stop this before it happens." Kill Balal, essentially. And Perrin's like, "okay, do you like, need our help with that?" and Moiraine's like, "no, you have no point here." And Perrin's like, "great, thank you." Faile's like, "What are you going to do?" And he's like, "I'm gonna go stare at a hammer and an axe and also trying to decide if I like you or not." and Faile's like, "great, that sounds productive." And then this chapter ends. And then we switch over to Nynaeve, who for the sake of brevity I'll just say, she is in Tear, she's starting to, I don't know, she's in Tear, she's haggling with someone, everyone's mad at each other, everyone's depressed, she gives us a lot more of that. Then she goes, Juilin comes up and finds her and is like, "Hey, I found something, you gotta come back to Mother Guenna's with me," and she's like, "great," walks into Mother Guenna's and immediately gets shielded and punched around by Black Ajah. It's actually kind of funny because they shield her like, hahaha maniacal laugh maniacal laugh, and she punches them in the face. But then they start, like, beating her with the Power which is unfortunate. And they're like, "you're crazy, you fought almost as hard as Egwene did," and they bring her into a different room where Elayne is like, a little bit bloodied, and Egwene is like flat out unconscious, she's been beaten so hard. And Nynaeve's like, "great, well fuck you, I'm gonna kill you." And these ladies are like, "okay great. Mother Guenna, we won't kill you if you don't tell anyone anything." And she's like, "fine. Sorry Nynaeve," and Nynaeve's like, "no, yeah I get that."

SALLY: She's like... [crosstalk]

EMILY: Yeah that's a fine choice, I respect that. Self-preservation does matter. And Nynaeve's like, "Juilin, how could you betray us?" And Juilin's like, "I don't even really know. You know?" and Juilin, this also could be a really interesting thing, has been put under compulsion, and it's like the one cool, like, Juilin has this really cool moment where he comes back at the end of this book, and we barely met him but all we know about him is he was put under compulsion, forced to betray these girls, and is like, "Hey, I'm here, I'm gonna fucking make that right," like that's a very admirable character quality.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But then it's immediately thrown under the bus for sticking around way too long.

SALLY: Yeah, he could have just been like a really solid one hit wonder but instead he becomes like...

EMILY: Or he could have been like, and now I'm gonna like, I don't know, start hunting all the Black Ajah on my own. Like how cool would it be if Juilin was just in and out of the book series hunting down these 13 ladies.

SALLY: Yeah. Don't fucking brainwash me, Juilin.

EMILY: Speaking of people who have no power and are facing up against people with a lot of power. But Nynaeve, Elayne, and Egwene are now taken off to the Stone of Tear because as we find out, the ladies are staying in the Stone of Tear under, and Nynaeve finds out, oh, Balal is there, one of the Forsaken. She's like, ah fuck. And the ladies are like, "and 13 Myrddraal are on their way here so we can turn you," and that really freaks Nynaeve and Elayne out, and the chapter ends with them screaming, which is a little dramatic, but hey. You gotta do what you gotta do. That's that.

SALLY: Some weird chapters.

EMILY: Yeah, we don't have a lot of analysis for that. We all knew this was going to happen.

SALLY: Yeah, we been knew.

EMILY: Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne getting kidnapped, like, dur dur dur. Here we are. Now Mat's here, so he can save them. Like, yeah. Pretty predictable. Still Mat's gonna have the best chapters of all time and the rest getting...

SALLY: Excited.

EMILY: And Egwene and Nynaeve, we don't talk about that enough but that's fun, how they're in a cell and Egwene uses Tel'aran'rhiid to fucking wreck the Black Ajah's day, like.

SALLY: That's awesome.

EMILY: Cool as shit. But yeah, next week we will finish up with the lead up to Stone of Tear, I think we actually start getting into it, Mat's gonna, Mat's gonna find out that the girls have been kidnapped, meanwhile Perrin, I think, and Faile have a weird thing? I think that's when she gets sucked into Tel'aran'rhiid and he has to go-

SALLY: Oh yeah, I forgot that's what happens to Perrin and Faile.

EMILY: Yeah, because it's ridiculous because as Moiraine said, there's no point for Perrin to be here.

SALLY: Why the fuck are you here?

EMILY: So Robert Jordan was like, "I got to give them some romance shit to do."

SALLY: What if Perrin was just blacksmithing the entire time shit went down at the Stone of Tear?

EMILY: That would be hilarious.

SALLY: Wouldn't it be so funny if Matt was like, "Where the fuck were you?"

EMILY: Perrin's like, "I made this cool horseshoe."

[laughter]

EMILY: Mat's like, "I fucking hate you."

SALLY: It would be super funny too because horses are a symbol of luck.

EMILY: Oh my god.

SALLY: I made this cool horseshoe.

EMILY: I made this horseshoe. Oh also in Nynaeve's chapter she saw Rand and was like, "what is Rand doing here," so again bringing our tally of people who have seen Rand but not believed that they saw Rand up to 100%.

SALLY: Have you seen my Rand?

EMILY: Have you seen my Rand? Okay. Yeah. That's it.

SALLY: That's it.

EMILY: Gotta go back to Windwaker, y'all. Thanks for joining....

SALLY: Please fucking lunatic. Thanks to Glynn MacKenzie for our wonderful theme song.

EMILY: Yeah thank you.

SALLY: It's fabulous and we love it. This week's sort of EHR call to action is that we would love you to rate, review, and subscribe on iTunes. Unfortunately, iTunes is still sort of the main podcasting platform even though we've tried to promote ourselves on other platforms, it would be great if you could review us there because it adds visibility. It would be super awesome.

EMILY: Especially as like now I'm having friends who have never read Wheel of Time And are getting slightly in Wheel of Time, and I'm sure that's going to happen to all of you now that the TV show gets bigger so, point them in our direction, cause I fancy that we provide like a fun context for people who want to know what to expect from the show.

SALLY: Yeah I hope so. Yeah.

EMILY: Do you have a sign off?

SALLY: Yes. Today one of my Salt Lake City local heroes came to the Aviary and I knew this was happening because he'd asked me, and we've been corresponding a little bit in regards to another project, and he was like, "I wanna do this, I wanna bring my boyfriend to the aviary for a cute date," so I was gonna leave him some free tickets, and today was like the worst migraine I've had in months, I forgot. So I'm literally dressed like a disgusting Boy Scout today, like so nasty looking, And I get a call from the cute kids at the front desk and they're like there's this person for you, and I was like, "shit," and they were like, "what?" and I was like, "never mind," so I came down and of course he's like beautiful and glamorous and fab, and he gave me this big hug, and I was like, sweaty and gross, and probably smelled. It was awful. It was so sad you guys.

EMILY: I bet he loved you.

SALLY: No.

SALLY: And as we were talking like a million children walked inside the gift shop and he was like, "What's happening?"

EMILY: Like a baby chain? Like one of those...

SALLY: Just like a million children.

EMILY: Baby chains ruin everything.

SALLY: Anyway, guys it was really sad and I'm really depressed about it because I love him and I want him to think I'm really cool and I'm not. Especially last week because I had like seven out of seven bangin' outfits.

EMILY: You really did, you really did look awesome last week.

SALLY: No. So, I'm pretty upset about it. All things considered.

EMILY: At least you weren't in a leather jerkin.

SALLY: That's true. It could have been worse. I could have had my titties out in a blacksmith shop.

EMILY: It could always be worse. Bye!