



## EHR Extra: Teen Narc

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SALLY: How 'bout this one? Morgan asked, "Can I have advice plz?"

EMILY: No.

SALLY: [laughing] Open ended question.

EMILY: Next question [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs] Okay. Um [laughs].

[Theme song by Glynn Mackenzie plays]

EMILY: We can't talk about *Wheel of Time*. This is, in fact, Everybody Hates Rand, a *Wheel of Time* podcast, but we did not have time to read *The Shadow Rising*. And also I'm dreading reading *The Shadow Rising*. So.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, no offense.

SALLY: I'm hoping...[sighs]. It's upsetting. We'll get into it, but there are parts of *The Shadow Rising* that are so interesting [collar jangling in the background]. Tybalt you do not belong on the table!

EMILY: Tybalt! Down! [metal hitting glass]. I'll exile you.

SALLY: Get your boogered face out of here.

EMILY: Your grimy – he's like a toddler.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He's always got some sort of weird fluid on his face.

SALLY: [softly] It's very confusing.

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: Anyway, whatever. I lost my train of thought. We'll talk about that in future episodes.

EMILY: Yeah, well maybe next week's episode will just be us talking about *The Shadow Rising* as a concept before we start even –

SALLY: Before we even have the courage to get into it.

EMILY: Yeah. It's just such a thick book.

SALLY: It is one of the thick – thicker ones. At least it feels that way.

EMILY: Yeah, it also – yeah. It's the first one – it's not the first one. I don't know why I was about to say that. *The Dragon Rising* does – *The Dragon Rising*.

SALLY: *The Dragon Rising!*

EMILY: God. It's like a fun blend between. *The Shadow Reborn* and *The Dragon Rising*. *The Dragon Reborn* does the thing where, like, it really blocks out character perspectives.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: So you have, like, nine chapters from Perrin's point of view, but then you have eight chapters from Egwene's point of view. And kind of as you get closer to the end that eases up a little bit. But *The Shadow Rising* also does that and it's a little...worse, I think, because in *The Dragon Reborn* you at least kind of get the sense that everyone's working toward the same thing and will eventually be all reunited. And *The Shadow Rising* has the opposite movement.

SALLY: Yeah. Everyone's going in opposite directions.

EMILY: Everyone's going in different directions, so it's, like, I have nothing to look forward to when it comes Perrin's perspective. Anyway.

SALLY: God, Perrin's perspective in that book –

EMILY: I know. We can't talk about it.

SALLY: -- almost broke me fundamentally as a person.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] It was really painful.

EMILY: Okay. But instead we are here to talk to you about advice. Because this was a thing was a thing we could prepare for with minimal effort [laughs].

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: Sorry to the McElroy brothers for, like, knocking their whole shit.

SALLY: Yeah. Knocking your schtick.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: But.

EMILY: I don't think they're a very litigious bunch, so as long as we don't call it – as long as we don't, you know, start using John Roderick and the Long Winters.

SALLY: [laughs] Off the album –

Both: Putting the Days to Bed.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I think we'll be okay.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But this is a one-time thing. I'll never give any of you advice again.

SALLY: I mean, and this is also what you guys voted for. We could have been talking about Alexander the Great, but NOOOO.

EMILY: Yeah, what the fuck is up with you guys?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I'm going to talk about Alexander the Great anyway just to bother you.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Because, like, honestly. What? Advice? Who wants that? But anyway, some of you did. And sent in questions. So.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Okay. So how do you want?

EMILY: I'm so tired.

SALLY: Do you want to pick the questions? We have a mix of questions that listeners sent in and that we asked our family and friends for.

EMILY: You can – that would be mostly your family and friends, because mine...suck.

SALLY: I mean, I wasn't gonna say it.

[both laugh]

EMILY: It was like I couldn't ask my family because then I would have to admit to the existence of a podcast, which I – 80% of them I do not want them to know about.

SALLY: Mmm.

EMILY: And my friends just...yeah. Suck. Just kidding. I only have four of them and, like, two of them were traveling and the other two were, like...

SALLY: What?

EMILY: What? Yeah. Confused and I was too lazy to respond to them. Okay, that was way too long. You can just ask whatever questions are, like, speaking to you at this particular moment.

SALLY: [laughs] Okay. Um, this comes from my sister-in-law Melissa who asks, "Liz," – who is her daughter [Sally laughing about] – "asked me to put diaper cream on her bum, and when I did I said her booty wasn't irritated at all, to which she responded," – [laughing harder] I'm sorry – "by pulling her butt cheeks apart and farting into my hand. How do I reassert my dominance with this toddler?" [continues laughing]

EMILY: There's no way. She's got you. She's got you on lock. Like, that is the fucking ultimate power move.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: How do you think – how do you think Alexander the Great conquered fucking Mesopotamia or whatever?

SALLY: He just walked in there –

EMILY: He just walked in there, ripped – [laughing]

SALLY: [laughing] Was it Xerxes that was ruling Persia at the time, or whatever?

EMILY: [laughing] It might have been.

SALLY: [laughing] And he was like, “Hey Xerxes will you put this itch cream on my butt?”

EMILY: Like, fucking. Actually, no. On the model of Alexander the Great, the only person who established dominance over Alexander the Great was a philosopher in Athens at the time.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Whose name escapes me. But Alexander fucking invaded Athens, was like, “Here I am,” and he was like, “Bring this dude to me.” And they were like, “We can’t. We can’t find him.” So Alexander went to his house and he was, like, in the bath. And he was basically like, “Fuck you, Alexander” [laughing].

SALLY: Nice.

EMILY: I got that story all wrong, but what I’m saying is – is that it’s a difficult position to be in as a parent, but the only way to match your child’s body horror –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] – is to completely outrank them.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: With body horror.

SALLY: Because I feel like it’s very hard to establish dominance over a toddler.

EMILY: I mean, yeah you can’t. Because dominance in their little toddler brain is so flexible.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It depends completely on the moment.

SALLY: Yeah, and, like, Liz in particular is a strong-willed beast [laughs] so.

EMILY: She really is.

SALLY: Um, what are some ways you can establish dominance over a kid? You can call her by the wrong name. I do that sometimes.

EMILY: [cackles]

SALLY: It makes her really upset.

EMILY: Yeah, my mom calls my nephew Jack Otis sometimes. She also does that to Adam.

SALLY: That's the name of – yeah. Do that. Call – whatever toddler is misbehaving call them by Emily's ancient rotting dog's name [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] He really is. He, like, smells.

SALLY: He's, like, rotting before our very eyes.

EMILY: I know. It's very upsetting.

SALLY: [laughing] It's very alarming.

EMILY: Have I told you they're going to call – they're going to put up a plaque.

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: In the swimming pool. It's going to be the Otis Lee Memorial Swimming Pool.

SALLY: Yeah [laughing] it's, like, really upsetting. Just call her an Otis [laughs].

EMILY: Be like, "Otis?" And she'll be like, "What?"

SALLY: "I'm not Otis. I'm Lizzie."

EMILY: No, you're Otis now.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Only people who fart are named Otis.

SALLY: [laugh]

EMILY: That's what you get.

SALLY: Oh, anyway. I have no idea about parenting, but I think calling her Otis is a good start. Yeah. Okay. Next question from Anonymous: How do I bond with my coworkers at my new job?

EMILY: Ummm.

SALLY: You're at a new job, Emily.

EMILY: I am at a new job.

SALLY: How are you bonding with your coworkers?

EMILY: [sighs]

[long pause]

SALLY: Emily informed me before this episode that she's not very introspective. [laughing] So this might be a difficult question for her.

EMILY: This is too much of a hurdle. I bond with coworkers completely instinctively as a survival mechanism. Like, I know this is how I'll survive this job. So, this one was easy. I only work with one coworker, really, just because we have a – there are two people in my position. Like, we're a two-man team as it were. And I just looked at her desk and she had, like, nerd shit all over it so I was like, "Oh, this will be easy" and was like, "So do you play Dungeons and Dragons?" And she was like, "Yes!" And then we've been talking about that for, like, two weeks.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It was very easy. Pinpoint accuracy. I can always get 'em.

SALLY: That's true. You're very good at that. I, yeah, I kind of have the same strategy.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Where it's, like – one time when I was in sixth grade, and this has, like, influenced a lot of my socialization throughout my life, is some quote where it's like, "You'll make ten times the friends you do by asking questions about them as opposed to talking about yourself."

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: And so – I mean, there's destructive things about that where – I also crave privacy in the workplace.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: I love that people know nothing about me at my job.

EMILY: Be an enigma.

SALLY: Yeah, exactly. Then people are like, “Ooh, what’s the tea?”

EMILY: Yeah, that’s one strategy. Is to just be as mysterious as possible.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: If you can go into the office wearing a mask?

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: That would be ideal [laughs].

SALLY: Ideally like a really freaky one.

EMILY: Yeah, like a clown mask or something.

SALLY: Or one of those – what are those ones that have like the huge beaks?

EMILY: Oh my god, like a plague doctor mask?

SALLY: YES! Where a plague doctor mask [giggles].

EMILY: Just show up wearing a plague doctor mask. Don’t comment on it. When someone is like, “What is that?” Be like, “What is what?”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Just gaslight all of them.

SALLY: Fear is the mind killer [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] Fear is the fucking mind killer. Or, yeah, just say that. Fear is the mind killer.

SALLY: Yeah, just gaslight your coworkers.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I think that’s a great way to [laughing] make friends.



EMILY: It is, in fact, a very short-term strategy. So, like, if you're planning on working with these people for a long time, then my advice might change. But we're all millennials. We're not expecting to work with anyone for longer than five years.

SALLY: Yeah, year and a half max, baby.

EMILY: Come on.

SALLY: Yeah. Another strategy is to just be the fucking funniest person in the room at all time. It's a difficult road to walk, but.

EMILY: I know. I've been trying to do that since I was about 10.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: When I realized that, um, beauty would not be my currency as it were.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: I was just like, "That's not going to work for me." And I was like, "Okay, what are my other options? I could be the smart kid, but I don't want to be the smart kid."

SALLY: Yeah, it's a – a lonely life.

EMILY: Yeah, it's a burden more than anything. I was like, "Or I could be the fucking funny kid." And everyone loves the funny kid as long as you don't cross the line into obnoxiousness.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which I'm sure I did. And still do.

SALLY: But it's important when you're learning how to be funny you have to go through that trial period

EMILY: Yeah you have to go through the fire of –

SALLY: Being the obnoxious kid.

EMILY: Everyone kind of hates you.

SALLY: And then that – that only sharpens your humor blade, like a whetstone.

EMILY: Yeah. You could also bond with your coworkers by getting really dramatic changes to your appearance like a haircut.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: That's just like a – just shave all your head, *V for Vendetta* style.

SALLY: Mmm. Get a face tattoo.

EMILY: Should work. Yeah, get a facial tattoo.

SALLY: On the second day of work.

EMILY: Not only is that a huge power move over the people who hired you [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah. Show up the first day and look so fucking snatched for the gods.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: You roll in the second day there's a face tattoo, and then everyone is gaslighting themselves like [laughing], "Holy shit did they have this the entire time we interviewed them."

EMILY: Yeah, don't say anything about it.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: So what you're looking for is a blend of mystery. Like, of intrigue, but also...

SALLY: Dominance.

EMILY: Yeah, dominance.

SALLY: And humor. Which are all sort of vaguely connected. One thing that I actually do is, um, I call everybody "boo."

EMILY: Oh, that's nice.

SALLY: And "babe" and I think they just – like that, for some reason, is endearing to people.

[Tybalt meows in the background]

SALLY: Like a language of love. So. I usually do "boo boo."

EMILY: You do "boo boo" a lot.

SALLY: And I don't know why.

EMILY: It works for you.

SALLY: Thank you.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Yeah, so find your – it's also really good when you forget people's names.

EMILY: That's true! Yeah.

SALLY: That's a trick I learned from my dad. Not to call you out, Dad.

EMILY: Bill.

SALLY: But my dad had so many patients – he's a physician – that he's like sometimes – he'd run into them in public and be like, "I don't remember this person's name," so he'd be like, "Hey, boo." And they know like, "Oh, Dr. Goodger just calls people boo. It's a Southern thing."

EMILY: Cute.

SALLY: [clicks tongue] There's a trick.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Because the best way to bond with coworkers is not asking them what their name is [laughing] four times.

EMILY: Yeah that will really turn people off to you!

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah.

EMILY: Which, I'm on that road because there are a million of them. And has anyone given them, like, actual introductions? Absolutely not.

SALLY: The Aviary has so many interns that come in and out who kind of sometimes end up talking to me because I'm in a fundraising position.

EMILY: Right.

SALLY: And I'll be like [whispers], "I don't know who you are." And they're like, "Hey, Sally." And I'm like, "...hey boo!" Like see?

EMILY: Yeah, you do. You make it work.

SALLY: Thank you.

EMILY: Okay. Next question.

SALLY: Next question.

EMILY: Gaslighting will probably not be the answer to this [laughs].

SALLY: Gaslighting is one suggestion, just be prepared that it's not going to be as successful as the face tattoo or the plague doctor mask.

EMILY: Yeah [laughs].

SALLY: So. Okay, the next question comes Ethan Ford: "I'm hungry but I only have two eggs. How to solve please?"

EMILY: How to solve please? [laughs]. Ethan I hope you've solved this problem already.

SALLY: [laughs] She still only has two eggs!

EMILY: On your own. She still only has two eggs. I don't know. Do you know any recipes that only call for eggs?

SALLY: Scrambled eggs!

EMILY: Yeah, that's about –

SALLY: Actually, no. You should always put, like, milk and cheese in your scrambled eggs. Makes them, like, fluffier.

EMILY: Oh yeah. I know that. I don't put cheese in there –

SALLY: Also, please put spices in your scrambled eggs. If you're just eating –

EMILY: UGH BLAND EGGS?

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: Here's the thing about eggs...they're an abomination.

SALLY: Okay. Thank you! [laughs]

EMILY: Like, I can fuck with eggs in terms of cooking other things.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like I fry food all the time and I always put a little egg batter on there to, like, get those breadcrumbs sticking on there.

SALLY: Sticking 'em.

EMILY: And that's, like, fine and everything. But eggs? On their own are a sin against God.

SALLY: Correct.

EMILY: Like, God put eggs on earth to tempt us. To find out who the real evil ones were.

SALLY: God put eggs on earth to hatch baby birds and then he was like, "What the fuck? These abominations are eating my unborn birds."

EMILY: Yeah. The humans were like, "Chomp?" And God was like, "NO!"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: It's exactly that vine. What do you have?

SALLY: An egg!

EMILY: A knife!

SALLY: NOOO.

EMILY: An egg! NOOOO.

SALLY: [laughs] So, my advice is to throw the eggs in the garbage, get in your car, and go buy a fucking bagel.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] Like, what are you doing? This is such an easy problem to solve.

EMILY: Just fucking get rid of those eggs.

SALLY: Yeah, I assume it's a breakfast question. Didn't she say –

EMILY: It was. It was a breakfast question.

SALLY: So then you immediately – you find a bagel shop. You know that bagel shop owners don't care what you look like, because they serve food to people at six in the morning.

EMILY: Oh yeah.

SALLY: So, you roll in there, you get yourself a bagel, and you go home and eat food that actually tastes good.

EMILY: Alternately, if you – here's some actual advice – if you have flour and butter, then crepes are the easiest thing in the world to make.

SALLY: That's true. She said she only had two eggs, though.

EMILY: Yeah, and I was like, "Can you give me more context? Do you literally only have two eggs or do you have some baking items around?"

SALLY: No, just two eggs.

EMILY: Do you have salt and pepper?

SALLY: No. Two eggs.

EMILY: Yeah if you literally have eggs my advice is to throw them away and –

SALLY: [laughs] Go to the grocery store.

EMILY: – wait 'til lunch, when you apparently have lunch foods.

SALLY: [singsong, laughs] Go to the grocery store!

EMILY: [singsong] Go to the grocery store. Yep.

SALLY: Go to Trader Joe's, baby.

EMILY: That was an easy one. Egg – fuck eggs. You know?

SALLY: You ain't shit, Egg!

EMILY: [laughs, in a New York accent] You're just like your father!

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: We can say that as people who regularly call everyone "egghead."

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: Alright.

SALLY: Okay. Let's dooooo.... Give me bad moving advice. Moving in a month and have no clue how it will go. That comes from Allison.

EMILY: [sighs] Well, what you definitely do want to do is get a UHaul.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Give yourself a very strict time limit.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Say, two and a half days?

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: To get across –

SALLY: Most of the continental United States.

EMILY: Forty-eight of the continental United States. Um, and then just, like, fucking go for it, you know?

SALLY: Thirteen and a half hours a day in the car.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: Driving through such god-awful places as Kansas and Wyoming.

EMILY: God. Nothing worse than Wyoming.

SALLY: It's true. Sorry Wyoming, but you suck.

EMILY: Nebraska? Nothing can be worse than this. Oh wait, it's Wyoming here to remind you of your hubris.

SALLY: [laughs] Wyoming's like, "You flew too close to the sun!"

EMILY: [laughs] "You flew too close to the sun. Now, here it is. The sun's presence on earth. You are driving across the sun's surface. Perish mortal."

SALLY: That's true. We did drive through Flaming Gorge at sunset and I was like, "My eyes are going to burn out of my head."

EMILY: We did?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: You didn't tell me.

SALLY: What?

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: You were awake [laughs].

EMILY: I know I was awake but, like, I feel like that's noteworthy. Like, "this is Flaming Gorge."

SALLY: [laughing] There were signs *everywhere*.

EMILY: There were?

SALLY: Yes! And I'm pretty sure we talked about it. I'm pretty sure I was like, "Look, I've never seen Flaming Gorge before."

EMILY: I might have completely dissociated at that point.

SALLY: Emily was like, "I hate this bitch. Get me out of the fucking car with her."

EMILY: Not you! Just day three I was like, "Everything looks the same. I'm dead inside."

SALLY: That's true. Especially in Wyoming.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Um, you should definitely check out this new technology called MapQuest. That will definitely help you not get lost.

EMILY: Map*Quest*.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: Is quest spelled the normal way or with a 'w'?

SALLY: I think it's spelled with a 'w'.<sup>1</sup> When Emily and I were driving across the country my mom was like, "I MapQuested your journey" [laughs].

EMILY: She did not.

SALLY: She did [laughs].

EMILY: Remember when my dad called us at like 10pm?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: When we were driving through the canyon? It was, like, nonsensical. I was like, "Why are you calling me right now?"

SALLY: Yeah. And he was just, like, ready to shoot the shit [laughs].

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<sup>1</sup> It's not



EMILY: Yeah. He was like, “Just here to talk.” And I was like, “Wh-why? I’ll be there soon.”

SALLY: Like in an hour, Christopher.

EMILY: I’m focusing on not dying in the canyon.

SALLY: Yeah, in Parley’s Canyon which is.... [sighs].

EMILY: I know. I’ve now driver Parley’s Canyon approximately nine thousand times and it doesn’t get better with time. It’s just the worst always.

SALLY: Um, other bad moving advice. When you first get to new your city just spend a lot of days inside by yourself.

EMILY: Or, immediately go on vacation. Like Sally did.

SALLY: [laughs, snorts]

EMILY: [laughing] I mean, she did grow up in Utah so it’s not like...

SALLY: But it was still really, like, disorienting to get here and then go somewhere else and then come back.

EMILY: It was disorienting for me, too. I was like, “Hello?”

SALLY: Question mark?

EMILY: Where is she? Now I just have to – all I have are my parents to hang out with?

SALLY: NOOO. Yeah.

EMILY: That was the worst.

SALLY: That was cruel of me.

EMILY: Just kidding, my nephew was there, too.

SALLY: ‘kay. We’re supposed to be giving advice. Not talking about our move.

EMILY: UGH. UGH.

SALLY: Ummmm.

EMILY: Advice, advice, advice.

SALLY: The most important part about the actual act of moving is what type of snacks you bring with you.

EMILY: That's – to clarify, we don't know if you're actually moving across, like, a significant distance? Or are you just, like, moving apartments across cities?

SALLY: I think she – I think they're moving Louisiana to Connecticut.

EMILY: What the hell?

SALLY: I don't want to feel like the creepiest person alive, but I am very interested in your guys' lives, so I think Allison is moving from Louisiana to Connecticut. And I believe that Allison uses the pronoun she. I don't know why I said they. So, I'm sorry, Allison, that I'm being a dipshit.

EMILY: Um, moving from across...wow that is a big move.

SALLY: At least I think. Again, I'm sorry if I'm sounding like the creepiest person in the fucking world. Um, Connecticut. East coast, baby.

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: I was about to say, "Prepare yourself for humidity," but that's not –

EMILY: Yeah, if you're from Louisiana then you have mastered that I assume.

SALLY: Um, bring some hot sauce with you.

EMILY: Oh, okay.

SALLY: I don't know if the white people in Connecticut have hot sauce.

EMILY: What?

SALLY: Isn't Connecticut full of white people?

EMILY: I mean, yeah, it is.

SALLY: [laughs loudly]

EMILY: It's the hot sauce part that I was confused about. I didn't really hear you. When I said "what" it wasn't a clarify what you were saying it was a repeat what you are saying.

SALLY: Oh, okay [laughs].

EMILY: The human language needs bet – needs some improvements.

SALLY: Why don't we say "wot?!" [laughing] if you need to repeat yourself.

EMILY: WOT?!

SALLY: Wot the fuck?

EMILY: [laughs] Why would you tell me that? Now I'm literally going to start doing that. "Wot?"

SALLY: [laughing] Wot?

EMILY: WAT? When I need you to clarify. Wot?

SALLY: If I didn't hear what you said. Wot?

EMILY: Wot?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Fucking Nicholas Nickelby over here. Wot?

SALLY: Wot? Why is that your new thing? [laughing] Why is it Nicholas Nickelby?

EMILY: [laughing] I just bought *Nicholas Nickelby*. Okay, anyway. Back to moving. The most important thing is to bribe a team of people. You don't want to actually have to pay for a team of movers.

SALLY: Mmm.

EMILY: Because that would be too efficient.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: What you want to do is get a ragtag group of people like you're forming Ocean's 11.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And you have to figure out a way to get them to do manual labor without actually paying them. And usually it's emotional manipulation is the way to go with that.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

EMILY: What about the time I was there for you?

SALLY: What about the time I didn't comment on your new face tattoo?

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Huh, Janice?

EMILY: Janice! What about that time you came into work wearing a bird – a plague doctor mask?

SALLY: And I accepted it in due course.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: For you to – to put some shorts on and move my goddamn IKEA couch, Janice.

EMILY: Come on! Janice! Damn, Janice.

SALLY: I'm not gonna pay for a UHaul. I want you to carry it from [laughing] Louisiana to Connecticut.

EMILY: Can you imagine?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: A group of friends that dedicated?

SALLY: No [laughs].

EMILY: Anyway – yeah, of course. Because they don't exist! Anyway, really the ideal thing is pizza, here. Buy people pizza. Help me move.

SALLY: Except, I, personally, think I've decided that I don't like pizza.

EMILY: Okay. That's an interesting new development. Okay.

SALLY: Like, I'll eat it, but you should have options that are, like, [laughing] not pizza.

EMILY: Oh my god.

SALLY: Especially for people who are gluten-free or lactose intolerant.

EMILY: Right.

SALLY: Because I just – I don't think I like normal pizza, imagine pizza with fake cheese and gluten free bread.

EMILY: Hello, moving team. Here is your free Pizza Hut pizza, or a salad bar [laughing] that I have created for you.

SALLY: Yeah. It's a gourmet salad bar. It's like those pizza buffets, actually, where you can get various types of pizza, cinnamon bread, salad, or pasta.

EMILY: You mean like The Brick Oven?

SALLY: I don't know what that is, but sure.

EMILY: [mumbles] Oh you've never been to The Brick Oven. It's a restaurant in Provo. It is about – it's, like, the peak of mediocrity. So, of course, Collins loves it.

SALLY: [laughs loudly]

EMILY: Collins would be happy just eating fettuccini alfredo every day for the rest of his life.

SALLY: I don't understand him.

EMILY: He's so – I don't – there's no – there's no explaining Collins. This is my brother-in-law [laughs] we're talking about.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He's probably received a shout out more than any other member of our families. Okay, what? I feel like we've talked about moving for nine years.

SALLY: Just – moving is bad. I'm sorry.

EMILY: Moving is bad.

SALLY: We love you, though.

EMILY: Just take Xanax and hope it works.

SALLY: Drink. Heavily.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Um. Oh, here, should we do one – I don't know. Oh, here's one from Emily's dear friend Hannah, who I hope one day I can call my dear friend Hannah.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: Hannah asks, "Can I call people bitch all the time?" [laughs]

EMILY: This is an interesting question.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: This is. This is a really deep one. I, too, have mediated on this.

SALLY: Me too.

EMILY: Because I love calling people ‘bitch.’

SALLY: I know! It is the best word!

EMILY: It is a very satisfying word to say.

SALLY: Just the way that it sounds. It’s, like, so sharp.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Bitch.

EMILY: *Bitch*. It’s just so good.

SALLY: I love the way that ‘ch’ lingers just a little bit. So you have to meditate on it for a moment before any other word comes after it. Mm.

EMILY: Yeah. It’s, like, so...good.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: It’s almost – like, ranks really close to when Edward Elric says “bastard.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He’s the only person who can deliver that word appropriately.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um. But, like, from a feminist standpoint call I call people ‘bitch?’ I don’t know. Maybe just read *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay, because I feel like she would argue that you can. But I also don’t want to be a stereotype of white feminism.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Where it’s just, like, I’m co-opting other people’s, like, vernaculars to just say ‘bitch’ all the time, because I like the way the word sounds.

SALLY: Yeah. I also, like, obviously everyone knows this, but, like, context is key.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, and it, like, really matters, like – I genuinely try very not to ever use the word ‘bitch’ negatively.

EMILY: Mm. Yeah.

SALLY: Like in the context that it is often utilized to designate –

EMILY: Refer to a woman.

SALLY: Whose behavior you’re unhappy with. Like, I always try to say – like have you guys seen that video where she’s like, “all the different ways you can say bitch.”

EMILY: Yeah! I love that one.

SALLY: That’s a good one. Yeah, and she’s always like – she uses it to be, like, surprised or excited or, like –

EMILY: BIIITCH!

SALLY: Yeah! I try to use it – we should post that video, because there are acceptable ways to use the word ‘bitch.’

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: But yeah. You should never – I just, like, don’t use it to be derogatory, but if you want to use it to sprinkle through your swear words.

EMILY: Yeah, and this question becomes so much more difficult if you’re a man.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Or a male-identifying person, because it’s just, like, the rules change significantly.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it’s tough. Just gender is so tough, you guys. But as someone who can, more or less, present as a gender ambiguous person, I’m not particularly in one gender camp or another. Not that there should be gender camps. Um, it’s just like, “Can I use the word ‘bitch’ as, like, fluidly and frequently as some of my more feminine presenting friends do?” I feel like I can’t. Or I shouldn’t.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: It's one of those things. That's, like, women are reclaiming the word.

SALLY: Yeah, it's – this is kind of a weird way to think about it, but I don't know if – if someone was, like, yelling at you on the street or work whatever, I don't know if 'bitch' is necessarily the first word they would reach for, considering your gender presentation.

EMILY: Mm. Oh yeah. Dyke. That's the word.

SALLY: Yeah, well.

EMILY: [chuckles]

SALLY: That's also a horrible one. I don't – but the thing is. I have a completely opposite relationship to that, where I know people are reclaiming the word 'dyke,' and I just don't like the word 'dyke.'

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I just feel like it's a lot more violent than the word bitch is.

EMILY: Yeah, no. When it's directed at me, it's a violent thing. So.

SALLY: Yeah. And so it's, like, yeah. And see, I would never think to use the word, like, 'dyke' casually.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Because that's not something I ever get called, because I'm a very feminine presenting person.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: So if people call me something they do call me 'bitch.'

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: So, yeah. In a way it does feel like a word I can reclaim to my own satisfaction because that's something that's been hurled against me.

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: But whenever I hear a particular – it's really bad for me when white gay men use it.

EMILY: Oh, it's bad. Yeah.



SALLY: Like it's really – like of course it's the worse when any man or male presenting person or male identifying person uses it as a form of aggression. That's the worst. Obviously.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: But the way that white gay men use it to be like, “Yes, I can insult you and inhabit your space at the same time.” And it's, like, no I don't know why you think you can straddle this weird line, but you can't.

EMILY: White gay men have traditionally been trying to, like, create a Venn diagram of themselves and women. Straight women, generally. With, like [hands slap], “Here's the overlap of things that we can both touch.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it's, like, they think ‘bitch’ is in that overlap, and, hate to break it to you guys, it's not. It mostly makes women really uncomfortable when you say that.

SALLY: It makes me really uncomfortable!

EMILY: Yeah. Like, cause –

SALLY: It's still just, like, it's, like, a gender issue not so much a sexual orientation issue.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Um.

EMILY: The answer to the question – sorry to get really deep with this, Hannah. Hannah, I'm seeing you literally tomorrow.

SALLY: [gasps] Hannah happy birthday!

EMILY: Happy birthday!!

SALLY: You're beautiful and I love you.

EMILY: You beautiful bitch [laughs].

SALLY: Yes, see? Perfect.

EMILY: Yeah. Yeah, the problem is you have to put so much thought into it, because it is very different. But of course what you want to do, like with every swear word, is just let it roll off your tongue when it feels right. You know ‘fuck?’ Sometimes ‘fuck’ just feels right.

SALLY: The best.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Yeah. That's another good one.

EMILY: Anyway, my advice is to just get really into the word bastard, because anyone can use that.

SALLY: Yeah, I've been trying to do that, too.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Especially because bastard is just, like, your parents weren't married.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Who cares?

EMILY: Who gives a fuck, Jon Snow?

SALLY: Bastard of the – I mean he is a bastard in every –

EMILY: Yeah, he is a bastard in every sense of the word [laughs].

SALLY: But I've been trying to get into bass-word. Bass-word [laughs].

EMILY: Bass-word [laughs].

SALLY: Trying to get into bastard. As like a – we're trying all for more gender neutral vocabular and I feel like bastard –

EMILY: Bastard is very gender neutral.

SALLY: Is a good one.

EMILY: It's very fun.

SALLY: It's a fun word. But I do just love the word 'bitch' so much. I use 'bitch' a lot.

EMILY: You have to use it. Yeah. Yeah. To be careful.

SALLY: I am trying to be careful.

EMILY: No, you're great at it, I think.

SALLY: I'm on a journey to be a better feminist.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: So. Okay, um, what is – Oh, Sammy. This comes from Kelsey Hand-Cunningham. Advice for getting a good job with an English degree.

EMILY: Oh, fuck me.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Well, we can't give you any advice here.

SALLY: [continues laughing]

EMILY: Jesus Christ. Why'd you choose that one? [laughs]

SALLY: I just thought it would be funny.

EMILY: We both have English degrees.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And have not successfully had great jobs.

SALLY: I feel, like, objectively my job is fine, because it can objectively be read as a quote unquote career path.

EMILY: Yeah, like what's your definition of a good job, you know? I just got a job that is not going to do anything for me in a personally fulfilling way.

SALLY: Yep.

EMILY: I'm not going to, like, leave each day feeling like I've sucked the marrow out of life, you know? But I do have a reasonable salary. I have benefits. I have vacation days. I looked at our company calendar and it's like, "You have the entire week between Christmas and New Year's off, bitch."

SALLY: Oh, that's awesome!

EMILY: And I was like I'm willing to put up with a lot for those little things.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Especially because I've worked literally every customer service field imaginable.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Except waitressing. Haven't done that. And to all the waitresses out there [blows a kiss] bless you.

SALLY: Yeah, waitressing sounds really hard.

EMILY: God above, you are perfect angels.

SALLY: You're doing the Lord's work.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I wish I could tip every one of you a hundred dollars every time I ate.

EMILY: Honestly.

SALLY: But yeah, cause it's, like, I feel like I'm in the same boat. Because objectively – I mean, I work at a non-profit so my salary isn't great, but for a person who's 24 and doesn't have a lot of bills. Get –

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Gets the job done so to speak. And I really like my coworkers and I – I, who have, like, a difficult martyr complex that I struggle with, like, it is good for my, like, peace of mind to work at a non-profit and know that, like, I'm part of a cog in a machine that is working towards a general social good. Like, that makes me happy. Especially when I'm directly involved in the making of the happening.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: By being the fundraiser. So that is valuable to me. I don't know if non-profit work is necessarily sustainable for me a long time, so I imagine, like, a career switch at some point, but, like, I also have vacation days, again I really like my coworkers and that's something that I've learned that you really cannot...undervalue.

EMILY: Mmm-hmm. Yeah.

SALLY: So, I guess. Okay, think about the question. Advice for getting a good job with an English degree. My advice is to just be really open, because I would have never thought, getting my English degree, that I was gonna end up writing grants. That wasn't even a career path that I was open to me.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: It just sort of, like, happened, but taking a series of intentional steps, but also kind of steps on blind faith to be like, "Oh, I'll try this internship, oh I need this job, oh, like, I'll try this

other job.” So just, like, be...open to opportunity because then surprising things will come across your path. And also don’t put pressure on your job. Your job is just your job, like.

EMILY: Yeah, my advice is you either have to be – I mean, you have to be open, generally, you also either have to be coming from a position of enough privilege that you can accept unpaid internships.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Or you have to be willing to work your ass off to both sustain your life and, um, have an unpaid internship. Because that’s what you’re going to be getting.

SALLY: Yep.

EMILY: And I – unpaid internships are a crime. They shouldn’t exist, but this is the world we live in and internships might be how you figure out what you want to do, and they’re basically the only really path into a lot of fields that are open to people with English degrees.

SALLY: That is legitimately – I would not be where I am without the internship that I had, which was unpaid. And I was lucky enough to be in a position of privilege where I was able to financially support myself for the – my internship was only, like, eight weeks – like the eight weeks I was in that internship. And then that internship, through a recommendation of a person I worked with there, directly got me my next job. And the experience I got in that job directly got me this job. And so on and so forth. And so yeah, it really sucks, but also eight weeks – or I think my internship was actually 6 weeks? Which is, like, a more reasonable expectation than someone who wants you to intern unpaid for 6 *months*.

EMILY: Yes, that’s terrible.

SALLY: So maybe be a little selective? Like, do an unpaid internship, but also respect your time and don’t work for anybody unpaid for six months because, yeah, that is a crime. If you’re not getting – I also hate this – where it’s either unpaid – it’s unpaid or you’re getting college credit for it.

EMILY: Oh yeah.

SALLY: Which is stupid. But, um, if you’re about to graduate that’s not an option for you. So.

EMILY: Yeah. Yeah. Um.

SALLY: And again, seriously, I was so stressed about work my first year out of college, where I put so much of my identity into, like – because I was unemployed for a really long time and then my job was really stressful. And I was like, “My job, this is my life,” and I still struggle with that because I am a workaholic.

EMILY: Right.

SALLY: It's, like, really a bad personality trait of mine. I don't know how to strike work-life balance. So just, like, your job – it's just a job. Like, unless you are literally, like, the president of the United States, like, it's okay to just be like, "It's not – it's not everything but that's okay because it's just my job and there are other aspects of my life that fulfill me creatively or personally or all these other things."

EMILY: Yeah, the world we live in means you have to make – be willing to make, like, really hard choices in terms of how you're going to pursue happiness.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And, like, for a lot of people, maybe not a lot of people. For some people it's their privilege to be able to pursue happiness in a field. Like, "I'm going to do something that I'm passionate about that genuinely makes me happy, and that – for that I'm willing to put up with a lot of other shit."

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And I think this is the case for a lot of people with English degrees, you are learning, like, I have a lot of passions outside of work.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: People with English degrees go to college because they're like, "I just love reading."

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Or, "I just love writing or I love poetry or I love whatever. Drama, theater."

SALLY: Yeah. Theory, drama. Yeah, whatever it is.

EMILY: And those are just things that generally aren't going to lead to a quote unquote career. So, if you have an English degree, like, own your English degree.

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Be like, "Yeah." Personally, I worked three dead end jobs for three years after college. And it's, like, that was fine because I did a lot of other development in my personal life.

SALLY: Yeah! Like it really does suck to be like – because the narrative you're fed so often is that, like, you know [whimsical voice] do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life, or whatever.

EMILY: No, that's not true.

SALLY: [laughs] Generation nonsense that comes from people –

EMILY: Yeah, like.

SALLY: – older than us. Like work is not fun. And, like, my brother gave me really good advice once. He's like, "Nobody in the world loves their job 100%. Like, if you can find a job that you love 75%, you're gonna be in pretty good business."

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Even that – even 50% might be a little more reasonable. There are so many things about my job that I absolutely fucking loathe, but, again, it's bearable because there are things about it that are really important to me and I, like, supplement those things with other areas of your life. One book – also from my brother Perry, who the only reason I'm like a functioning fucking adult is because my brother Perry has invested a lot of time in my personal professional development.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: But he gave me this book. I can't remember the author but the title is called *I Could Do Anything If Only I Knew What It Was*, and it's a book about finding your career path. But the most valuable chapter, I think, is just talking about how, like, yeah, everyone puts so much pressure on your job being the most fulfilling part of your life, but if it's not? Like, volunteer. Like, volunteer for a political campaign or a non-profit. Or make sure that you're writing or spending time with your family. It's *okay*.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: If your job isn't the 100%. I feel like that got a little real, but.

EMILY: Yeah, I feel like we actually gave good advice at the end there, which isn't the point.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: So give me another one where I don't know anything and can exclusively give bad advice.

SALLY: Okay. Um. How do I relate to teens? But not too much. I don't want to be weird. This is from my brother Perry who is a middle-school vice principle.

EMILY: Well, you throw the textbook in the garbage. That's the first thing.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Very publicly.

SALLY: Sit backwards on a chair.

EMILY: Sit backwards on a chair. Sit on your desk. Oh, wait Perry's like – oh, no. He's a vice-principle.

SALLY: Yeah, he's an administrator.

EMILY: I was gonna be like, "He's a coach he doesn't – he don't –"

SALLY: He does also do coaching. But, yeah, he does have a desk.

EMILY: He does have a desk.

SALLY: That's generally very messy. I don't know if he could – in true Goodger family fashion it's a little chaotic in his office.

EMILY: Right. Hmmm.

SALLY: So, another power move is just put your feet on your desk.

EMILY: Yeah. Just be casual.

SALLY: Or wear sandals. [pause] Because then they're like, "Oh." It's, like, business on top, party on the bottom.

EMILY: Right, right, right, right, right.

SALLY: Or grow a mullet [laughs].

EMILY: Eh – [unsure noise].

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Unless you want to be bullied by teens and relate to the in that way.

SALLY: I feel like there are so many ways to be bullied by teens.

EMILY: Yeah, that's true. Yeah, the first step is accepting that no matter what teens are going to b – find a way to bully you.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, that's just what they do.

SALLY: [laughs] What are teens really into?

EMILY: And better –



SALLY: Bullying me on Tumblr.

EMILY: [laughs] Better they bully *you*, a functioning adult, than one of their own. So, like, just become a target.

SALLY: Yeah, that's a good one.

EMILY: Paint a target on your back for bullying.

SALLY: A literal target that says, "Bully me!"

EMILY: Bully me. Yeah, just run around with one of those note paper signs that usually says, 'kick me,' but just 'bully me.' 'Verbally abuse me,' [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah, and that will also be a great anti-bullying campaign for your school. Instead, these children full of rage and hormones just are mean to adults. Which they're gonna be doing anyway!

EMILY: Yeah, so just, like, bring it, you know?

SALLY: You're really just getting on top of the curve.

EMILY: Yeah. Um. Um. Let's seen. What fucking else?

SALLY: I think you should start drinking kombucha.

EMILY: No – what?

SALLY: Because I think teens are –

EMILY: Are teens really into that?

SALLY: Or you should start vaping!

EMILY: Ooh.

SALLY: [laughing] It will kill your lungs, but.

EMILY: [gagging] You really gotta get into meme culture.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: I guess. So, get a Tumblr.

SALLY: Perry is the one who taught me how to floss, so I feel like he does okay.

EMILY: Oh, yeah!

SALLY: With the meme culture.

EMILY: But did the teens teach him how to floss?

SALLY: Yeah, the teens did teach him how to floss.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: It's not like he sat in front of YouTube University and was like, "Teach me how to floss."

EMILY: [laughing] That's how I would teach myself how to floss. Teach me how to dougie. Um.

SALLY: Yeah, is flossing even cool anymore?

EMILY: I don't think it is, to be honest.

SALLY: I was informed by a coworker, whose four years younger than me, that dabbing has come back into style.

EMILY: Is it Gethin?

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah, it's Gethin.

EMILY: Finally! I outwaited it!

SALLY: Because I dabbled and I was like, "Oh dabbing isn't cool anymore." And he was like, "No it's making a comeback." And I was like, "Oh, my god. *Thank you*, Gethin. This is all that I have!

EMILY: FINALLY!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, you've gotta find a teen informant.

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: Who really just can, like, keep you up to date on what – you gotta find a narc [laughs].

SALLY: You do have to find a narc! Find a teen narc.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And I think –

EMILY: And be willing to pay them the FBI pays informants.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: You've gotta fork over something that's valuable to them.

SALLY: Yeah. Give them, like, twenty dollars. When you're a teen twenty dollars is like –

EMILY: Teens will do anything for twenty dollars.

SALLY: – a thousand dollars.

EMILY: You know what I would have done as a teen for twenty dollars? A lot of things.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: That I'm ashamed to admit now.

SALLY: No, but I fucking – when you're a teen and you have twenty dollars you're like, "Oh my god the world is my *fucking* oyster."

EMILY: Twenty dollars? That's like ten and a half Diet Cokes!

SALLY: [laughs loudly] I can see *one movie!*

EMILY: [yells]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: With popcorn!

SALLY: Yeah, so you've gotta find a narc. A kid that's cool enough to be in the know, but also kind of...

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Chill enough to...

EMILY: The problem with being a teacher is that you'll have to cycle through narcs every three to four years.

SALLY: That's true. So you've gotta have like a narc lineage. Like, find a family with like –

EMILY: Get a narc training system in place [laughs].

SALLY: Yes. A mentor system. So that your narc enters his senior year, or ninth grade, whatever.

EMILY: And has a mentee.

SALLY: Has a protégé. A protégé narc, who's, like, a first grader [laughs].

EMILY: [laughs] This is your job – [laughing] this is your mission, should you choose to accept it, you have to keep *this* middle-aged man completely up to date on what is cool amongst us, the teens.

SALLY: The teens. And then you could have a little training montage.

EMILY: But yeah, you're right that you also don't want to be too cool or relatable, because that's just like...

SALLY: [laughs] Hello, fellow teens.

EMILY: Yeah. Hello, fellow teens. It makes you look like a narc.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Makes you look like *21 Jump Street*. And / or kind of, like, creepy.

SALLY: Yeah, you wanna –

EMILY: Like you spend too much time consuming teen stuff, which is how you get a narc. Because then you're not actually doing it.

SALLY: Yeah. But also, yeah, you want to be aloof enough, still, that teens can respect you.

EMILY: Uh-huh.

SALLY: Because you are in a position of authority, and I think it's important for teens to be surrounded by adults that they trust and respect.

EMILY: Yeah, I would recommend taking the Joe Buck Atwood route. Joe Buck Atwood was the teacher at our high school who, did he know everyone in my friend group was gay? Who's to say? There must have been a reason he took all of us under his wing.

SALLY: I think he looked at them and was like, "Dear god."

EMILY: Yeah, he was like, "Huhgh."

SALLY: [laughs] “If I don’t do it no one will.”

EMILY: He was like, “Ah!”

SALLY: “And these kids will die,” [laughs].

EMILY: Anyway, he once was walking through the school in a full Renaissance outfit.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Like, tights. Shoes with the curly toes.

SALLY: Amazing.

EMILY: Like, he looked like a court jester.

SALLY: [laughing] Amazing.

EMILY: [laughs] In Renaissance Italy. And he was bullied mercilessly, but damn he took it like a champ [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: And he was historically accurate as fuck in his costuming.

SALLY: Good for you, Joe Buck Atwood.

EMILY: Yeah, that’s my recommendation.

SALLY: Yeah. I think that was a good one.

EMILY: ‘kay thanks.

SALLY: The teen – the narc training system is something I think we should patent. Sammyrose64 on Instagram asks, “How would you deal with a coworker who will not stop tapping a pen on a metal mug?”

EMILY: [sighs]

SALLY: I think murder is the only option.

EMILY: I think you need to put into place an intricate Pavlovian system.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: For whenever they tap on the mug something bad will happen to them.

SALLY: [laughing] You blow an airhorn right in their ear.

EMILY: It has to be subtle enough, though, that they don't connect it until it's too late. Until [laughing] they're afraid to tap on any metal surfaces.

SALLY: So what could you do? Like?

EMILY: Umm what – well, what you have to figure out is what *you* do that annoys them. Like, is it the way you yawn? Who's to say?

SALLY: Probably.

EMILY: Sneezing? I don't know. Something that looks discreet.

SALLY: Yeah, there's always something about your coworkers that annoys you.

EMILY: Yeah, you could also try and join in on the pen drumming. Just casually.

SALLY: Oh, yeah. Get a beat going.

EMILY: Get a beat going. They start tapping and you start, badly, trying to do, like, create a rhythm. Like, "I fucking love Rock Band. Damn, Guitar Hero? That was my shit."

SALLY: Be like, "Is this – " [laughing] like what's that meme song? What is it called?

EMILY: What? Despacito?

SALLY: That's a good one. We'll go with that.

EMILY: That's one from a long time ago. Old Town Road? Is that the new one?

SALLY: *No.*

EMILY: What? I don't know. I'm not up with the – I don't have a teen narc.

SALLY: Oh! Wonderwall [snaps].

EMILY: Is that Wonderwall? [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Is that Wonderwall? Every time they start tapping start playing Wonderwall on your own metal mug, that's bigger than theirs.

EMILY: Or just quietly, like no matter what the fucking beat is, start humming the ska parts of, um, Under Pressure.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [vocalizing]

SALLY: Don't hum it. Say it. [laughs] Humming is too subtle.

EMILY: Humming is to subtle, yeah.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Or just start screaming.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: Every time it happens. You're like, "What? Like, I don't fucking know. Just sometimes, sometimes my head just starts hurting really badly. I don't know what it is."

SALLY: Yeah, there's just this constant noise that I can't identify.

EMILY: I can't identify. Start acting as though perhaps, perhaps you're being driven slowly mad.

SALLY: Yeah. But then what if they're like, "Finally, my plan is working."

EMILY: Oh god [laughs].

SALLY: Finally, we're breaking her.

EMILY: [laughs] Okay. I've got it. I've got it. I've got it. [laughing] Show up to work in a plague doctor mask.

SALLY: [laughs] Guys, this is really a catch-all solution [laughs].

EMILY: Damn, I've got to get me a plague doctor mask.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]. Show up in then go over and, like, peck his mug so it – [laughing] get the perfect sized nose so it fits on the end of your nose. And then just steal his mug.

EMILY: And break it.

SALLY: Yeah, with your plague doctor mask. Yeah, and then throw it through one of the windows. Fling it off the tip of your beak so that both the window and the mug shatters.

EMILY: Are you sure he's not trying to communicate to you in Morse code?

SALLY: Oh, that's true. Learn Morse code first. If he isn't, like, trying to help – [crosstalk]

EMILY: [laughing] “Help, I'm trapped here.”

SALLY: “I can never leave.”

EMILY: “I'm prisoner.”

SALLY: “They've held me prisoner, because I know the CEO's embezzling.”

EMILY: “I sold my soul away. I ate the pomegranate seeds.” Like, god. Who's to say?

SALLY: Mmkay. Robby...Alexander asks – this is a true, this is a true drama – “I'm the last single person in my family –”

EMILY: Oh god.

SALLY: “ – and I catch so much flack. But the idea of finding a boy to date makes me nauseous.” Which is a big mood, first of all. “What is the most creative way to get the fam off my back?”

EMILY: Well, you could do what I did. Which is [laughing].

SALLY: Which is murder every member of your family and replace them with more benevolent Mormons.

EMILY: Heh.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Which is – well. Mine was really a work in progress, you know? Like, it only worked because I committed to it at the age of ten, before I really realized that I would reach a certain age and be uninterested in dating or discussing my dating life with any member of my family.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So I just got really aggressively feminist [laughs] at, like, the age of eleven.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And was like, “Why do I need to be dating someone? Why is that important to you?”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: “Is only – my only worth in my uterus? Why are we talking about this?”



SALLY: Good for you.

EMILY: Yeah, and then I went – moved to New York and shaved my head. And that also I think helped. Um, what do you – what do you feel?

SALLY: Yeah, I feel like you could – like you have to do something like way batshit crazy.

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: That they're definitely going to be talking about instead.

EMILY: Oh!

SALLY: Like you moved to New York.

EMILY: Yeah, yeah.

SALLY: And shaving your head. Or, like, electing to study the genoc – like genocide your senior year of college.

EMILY: Ah.

SALLY: And everyone's like, "Are you fucking crazy?"

EMILY: Are you sure?

SALLY: And I'm like, "Yeah. Would you like to hear about this documentary that I watched?"

EMILY: Yeah, something else they can ask you about.

SALLY: Like, something else that, like, fits their, like, obsession to nitpick and criticize you.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: But that's way less sensitive. Or, like, get a face tattoo.

EMILY: Get bit by a shark.

SALLY: Wear a plague doctor mask to the family reunion [laughing].

EMILY: [laughing] You skipped right over my 'get bit by a shark' and I'm pretty upset about it.

SALLY: Okay, get bit by a shark. And then be like, "Actually, the shark is now my wife" [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] By shark law!

SALLY: [laughing] By shark law.

EMILY: That was, in fact, our marriage.

SALLY: Yeah [laughing]. Be like, “I can’t date anybody. This shark owns me.”

EMILY: I’m just saying, if you have, like, a wicked shark bite everyone’s gonna be like, “Damn, look at that wicked shark bite.” Not like, “Where’s your man beef?” Or whatever the hell.

SALLY: [laughs] Where’s your man ham? [laughs]. Um.

EMILY: Ultimately, though, you cannot be either nice or subtle about it.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because the only way is by treating them like misbehaving dogs and to spray water in their face whenever they –

SALLY: That’s a good one! Carry a squirt bottle, but put, like, saltwater in it.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: So it, like, hurts their eyes a little bit.

EMILY: Like [whooshing sound].

SALLY: I’m trying to think what I do. People still ask me, though, is the problem. I don’t think I’ve, like, won the battle.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Um, I think usually I just don’t answer.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I go the, like, passive aggressive – but I also have a problem with honest communication where I don’t speak. So, yeah. Or you can just, like, really dramatically change the subject. When they’re like, “So, Robby are you dating anyone?” You can be like, “Well, at work I got a promotion, thank you so much for asking.”

EMILY: Like, make solid eye contact with them for a few seconds of silence.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And then, like, look to someone else and be like, “So, at work. Here are my professional accomplishments.”

SALLY: Yeah. Here’s my – you, like, run marathons or something, don’t you, Robby? Just start talking about your mileage.

EMILY: Robby runs marathons? Damn! Why is anyone asking you about fucking...

SALLY: I know.

EMILY: Boys?

SALLY: Seriously. Men? Useless.

EMILY: Literally the least interesting thing on the planet – nothing puts me to sleep faster than thinking about a random dude that someone I know is dating.

SALLY: Honestly? It is so true [laughs].

EMILY: Like, any – literally any person on the planet could be like, “Here’s my boyfriend.” And start to describe him. Catch me hitting the snooze button six hours later, because it’s like what the fuck?

SALLY: Yeah, shout out to everyone who has engaged in listening to one of your friends talk about their boyfriend. Because it can sometimes be a trial.

EMILY: I can even meet the boyfriend, like three months later, and be like, “Ah, that’s a good guy. That’s a good boyfriend. I like him.” Still, whenever you talk about him, I’ll be bored.

SALLY: Yeah, so the fact that people are like, “Meh boys! Meh!” And be like, “Stop being so disgusting.”

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: This is my shark wife.

EMILY: [laughing] This is my shark wife.

SALLY: [laughs]. This is my shark wife. I’m her property. You’re not allowed to speak to me.

EMILY: Yeah [sighs].

SALLY: Yeah, I think those are all pretty solid strategies. The shark wife is probably the best bet.

EMILY: Now I'm just, like, thinking about how no one in my family has asked me about men in a long time, and I'm just like, "Is it because they all just, like," – I haven't come out to my extended family yet – "Are they all just, like, we don't want to know."

SALLY: Mm. It's a possibility.

EMILY: Yeah. Could be. Like, "Oh, then she'll kill grandma by being like, 'I'm gay.'"

SALLY: [groans] [laughing] Grandma has a heart attack at the table.

EMILY: Literally like [groans].

SALLY: Immediately, Grandma has died [laughs]. I, unfortunately, for some reason I get asked these days a lot more when I'm having children.

EMILY: Ooh. Don't like that.

SALLY: Which, I'm, like, missing – first of all, disgusting. But second of all, there's a crucial piece of that puzzle missing. You've just, like, jumped over the man who would apparently make a woman out of me by impregnating me [laughing], into just some like mystery status where I am [laughs] with child.

EMILY: It's, like, they're like [laughs] –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: They're like, "We want to know. We want to invade her personal life, but we also want to, like, discreetly slut shame her while we do it."

SALLY: "When are you having kids?" "Oh, yeah. I am a huge slut, thank you so much for asking. [claps] Last night [laughing] I got fucking so hard [claps]." [laughing]

EMILY: Oh yeah, that's a good one. Whenever they ask about a boy, just give them vivid, graphic made up details if you choose. You know, of the boy you're fucking at that time.

SALLY: Yeah. Be like, "Oh my god, since you're asking. He has a huge –" [laughs]. Anyway, and then your Aunt Janet will be like, "Never mind!"

EMILY: [laughing] Your Aunt Janet will be like, "What?"

SALLY: Or your Aunt Janet will be like, "Oh my god that happened to me when I was 20."

EMILY: Yeah, which is actually a valuable conversation to have.

SALLY: And then you can be like, "Alright, Aunt Janet. Teach me how to hoe, you know?"

EMILY: Yeah, come on. You learned something.

SALLY: [laughing] This is a valuable conversation. I wish someone's Aunt Janet would teach me how to hoe productively.

EMILY: [singsong] Teach me how to hoe. Why? Yeah. [singsong] Teach me how to hoe. Teach me how to floss. Teach me how to hoe. A teen narc. They'll do it for you.

SALLY: A teen narc will teach me how to hoe? I certainly hope not.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Teenage narcs should not be engaged in *such* promiscuous sexual activity. They can be engaged in sexual activity just not to the –

EMILY: They don't actually have to be engaged in sexual activity to teach you how to hoe. They could just know.

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: They could just be wise and all knowing.

SALLY: But I would like to know how to hoe productively so.

EMILY: How do I get a teen narc to be, like, my Hero's Journey mentor? Because that's the only [laughs] mentor I would accept.

SALLY: I bet Gethin's little brother would do it [laughs]/

EMILY: I'm just saying old white men are out. Teen narcs are *in*.

SALLY: Only teen narcs. Especially –

EMILY: Imagine –

SALLY: If they look like teenage...negasonic teenage warhead.

EMILY: Yeah, okay. Let's...we've been playing a fun game in *Wheel of Time* where we remove Moiraine and put Gandalf in her place so we can see the sexism. Let's go shot by shot through *Lord of the Rings*, take out Gandalf, and just put Gethin's teen brother –

SALLY: [laughs loudly]

EMILY: Imagine what a good movie it would be.

SALLY: It's true.

EMILY: The gravitas of “you shall not pass” while Aragorn, who’s like six times his age, is like [gasps]

SALLY: [gasps] “Dylan, noooo.”

EMILY: “DYLAN!”

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, with his fanny pack and his, uh.

EMILY: Yeah, he’s very good.

SALLY: What a weird...what a weird set of people I know.

EMILY: Okay, I feel like we’ve given enough advice.

SALLY: I feel like this has gone on very long. Thank you all for – I’m sorry if we didn’t get to your question.

EMILY: Yeah, sorry.

SALLY: We ended up actually giving decent advice about English degrees, which took up a fair amount of time.

EMILY: Yeah. Maybe I’ll just delete it, because I want to keep us on brand and having –

SALLY: No, it’s important. Part of our brand is that I am everybody’s mother.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: It is important for me to give –

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Okay, I’m not going to say mother because some people don’t want to have mothers, which I totally relate to as I wish I did not have a father. So, I’ll be your aunt instead.

EMILY: Okay, well whose brand outranks whose? Because my brand –

SALLY: Ooooh are we gonna fight?

EMILY: This is a fight! [laughs]. We’re fighting.

SALLY: We’re having a fight. Because whose brand is more powerful?

EMILY: My brand is to not give you any person details about my life while somehow oversharing.

SALLY: Mmm.

EMILY: Yeah. You guys don't know shit about me.

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: I don't know shit about me, because [laughing] I'm not introspective.

SALLY: That was literally the funniest comment that Emily has ever made.

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: And I was like, "Oh, really? What?"

EMILY: Yeah, it was pretty brutal that Sally had already considered whether I was introspective [laughing] and had concluded that I'm not.

SALLY: It's pretty obvious, babe [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] I'm the least self-aware individual on the planet. That's me!

SALLY: It's – the only reason I've thought about it is that I'm the most introspective person. This brain, like, never shuts off.

EMILY: And you're like, "Emily's just over here. What's Emily thinking about?" Because it's like... [laughing].

SALLY: And it's just, like, Old Town Road is playing [laughs]. Anyway, your brand can win.

EMILY: No, your brand can win.

SALLY: If our brands are so different, what's the collective EHR brand?

EMILY: [coughs, laughs] I don't know. I'm so tired. I was with my extended family all day today, speaking of extended family. So.

SALLY: Did you introduce them to shark wife?

EMILY: This has been – yeah I did. I was like, "Here's my shark wife."

SALLY: And your sweet sister Sarah was like, "Oh my god! Welcome to the family!"

EMILY: Yeah, Sarah would be so goddamn supportive of any of my shark wives.

SALLY: Ooh, that's a better edition. Multiple shark wives. Because then it looks intentional.

EMILY: Yeah not only am I –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Not only am I married to a shark, [laughs] but I'm a polygamist who married –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Hey! We'll see you, well, we'll talk to you next week about *The Shadow Rising*. We can't promise that we'll have actually cracked the book, but we will have things to say about *The Shadow Rising*.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: And we'll have done Google searches on it and shit.

SALLY: I will have typed into the internet, "Robert Jordan Book..."

BOTH: Four?

SALLY: Question mark.

EMILY: Book four question mark.

SALLY: And then people will be like, "Wrong."

EMILY: The Dragon Rising?

SALLY: The Dragon Rising?

EMILY: Ultimately, a better title.

SALLY: Rand al'Thor.

EMILY: When we talk about *The Shadow Rising*, I can talk about how dumb I think the idea of *shadow* as a, you know, nebulous concept, a stand in for the term evil, is.

SALLY: I don't like it either.

EMILY: It's not great.

SALLY: Also, can shadows even, like, rise?



EMILY: [whispers] The shadow rising.

SALLY: I know it's, like, a metaphor, because the forces of evil are gaining traction or whatever. I did get an English degree I'm not a fucking idiot, but.

EMILY: Do they, like, fucking refer to evil as the Shadow in?

SALLY: I think they do.

EMILY: Do they?

SALLY: I think so.

EMILY: I always just, like, The Dark One and the Forsaken.

SALLY: I'm pretty sure –

EMILY: I'm in a weird spot with – I've lost all my *Wheel of Time* knowledge. It just dumped out of my brain. I can't remember anything. Egg?

SALLY: Egg?

EMILY: Who's that?

SALLY: Who's egg?

EMILY: Huh?

SALLY: Where's egg?

EMILY: Where is egg? Better – I'll do you one better, why is Egg?

SALLY: [laughs] Better yet, why is two egg? [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] We have to go.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: Okay. No that's a good – we don't need to sign off.

SALLY: Okay.

BOTH: Bye!