



Episode 33 - **“Smell Like Bullets”**

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Emily: Are you ready?

Sally: Yeah -- I mean, philosophically, arguable, but --

Emily: We're both in a really weird space right now. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. It was my first full week raising money for birds. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: So I'm a little wacked out.

Emily: Do you want me to leave that in?

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: OK. (laugh)

Sally: It's my favorite thing to say now, when people are like, "What do you do?" I can be like, (simultaneously with Emily), "I raise money for birds." (laugh) Leave me alone.

Emily: Oh my God. Anyway, we just opened my laptop, and they had, like, the stock image, and

--

Sally: Shut up.

Emily: (wheeze) I do think it was a fake moon! It was like, this big-ass moon, you know, on, like, a water horizon, and Sally was like, "That looks fake," and I was like, "That looks like a tortilla," and she was like, (mimicking the vine) "Hurricane tortilla!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) And then I laughed about that for about five minutes.

Emily: We're both just really, really tired. I -- ugh. I can't believe that I have to say that I'm still watching -- still reading the Count of Monte Cristo.

Sally: That's OK. It's a big fucking book. Nobody expected you to read it in a week.

Emily: I know, but, like, I haven't even made any progress since the last time.

Sally: Do you remember the last six times I've read a Wheel of Time book?

Emily: OK, that's true.

Sally: I'm bad at reading. And the Count of Monte Cristo is dense and long, and you've had to do family stuff. So you are off the chart. Off --

Emily: Yeah, I'm, like, at the carnival part where it randomly switches point of view to some dude named Franz.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, "Oh, and here's my friend who's getting kidnapped," y'know, by the Count of Monte Cristo, and I'm like, is this Albert? As in, the son of Mercedes and Fernand? And if so, how is he, like, 18 or however old he is? Because --

Sally: (whisper) I know, it's confusing.

Emily: The timelines don't match up. I'm very confused.

Sally: The timelines in that book are very hard to follow.

Emily: Has it literally been years since he --

Sally: I think --

Emily: Became the Count of Monte Cristo?

Sally: I can't --

Emily: Who knows?

Sally: Remember. Yeah, because, like Wheel of Time -- like, with time -- like Robert Jordan, Edmund Dantes -- Edmund Dantes, oh my God -- Alexandre Dumas --

Emily: What the fuck just happened? What was that sentence?

Sally: (laugh) I -- I don't know. I just stroked out there a little bit, guys.

Emily: (laugh) What the fuck. I can't wait for you to do the transcript for this episode.

Sally: Oh my gosh, no.

Emily: Oh, sorry. I can do 'em.

Sally: No. I will conquer that mountain. Um.

Emily: It's your Everest.

Sally: It -- it is. I'm -- I'm trying so hard, you guys. They are coming. I just am a useless member of society.

Emily: That's OK. I haven't written a blog in a month because (whisper) I'm terrible.

Sally: I'll write a blog.

Emily: You can write a blog if you want to.

Sally: It'll be the story of how one of the birds flew away from the bird show. (laugh)

Emily: (cackle) A vulture.

Sally: Yeah, a vulture flew --

Emily: A big-ass bird.

Sally: Flew away. She's not that big. She's very pretty. Um, speaking of birds, I've been reading the -- re-reading the Raven Cycle.

Emily: Which is a delightful series.

Sally: Which is a wonderful series. I love it. Um, this is only the second time I've read it. Not that that makes a difference, but it very much is just so comforting. It's one of those series that feels like coming home.

Emily: Ohh.

Sally: Like, you read it, and you're just like -- at least, I read it, and I'm like, "Oh, yes."

Emily: No, yeah, it really is just, like --

Sally: Adam Parrish is such a delightful point of view.

Emily: That, like, good --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Queer content that's like -- like -- queer or straight, if I get oversaturated with romantic content -- romantic content, I'm, like, not interested --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, the Raven Cycle has the ideal --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Amount of -- at least with the queer pairing, the ideal amount of romance-to-plot.

Sally: Yeah. Ugh.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Then there's the straight pairing, which I don't --

Emily: Yeah. Just whatever.

Sally: Which I don't really care about.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, but it's so good and perfect, and I wish I could love the way that Roman -- Roman? -- Ronan does. Roman. Christ.

Emily: Don't we all? He's so --

Sally: He's such a good boy.

Emily: So perfect.

Sally: Anyway, I love those books. They are this -- they're beautiful and lyrical and fantasy-adjacent.

Emily: Ten out of ten, would recommend.

Sally: Yeah, like, fifteen out of ten, would recommend.

Emily: Yeah, good -- good point.

Sally: I love them. So that's what I've been reading. I also haven't done much reading. I read the first Raven Boys book in, like, one sitting last week, and then I stopped reading, I guess.

Emily: Well, you had work. What's the name of that dinosaur on your bookshelf?

(clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba plays)

Emily: OK, I'm back. We're back. This is Everybody Hates Rand. Sorry that we sound a little drunken. It's just 'cause we're tired.

Sally: It's 'cause we are! Whoo, get lit!

Emily: Ohhhhhh my God.

Sally: It's Friday when we're recording, but it's Monday when you -- Veronica's going to the Florence Welch concert?! What a bitch, she didn't invite me. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze) I'm leaving that in.

Sally: (laugh) So rude.

Emily: There's a Florence concert here?

Sally: Yeah, there's a Florence and the Machine concert, and Lizzo is opening. And I'm really mad that I'm poor because I can't go.

Emily: What the fuck. I'll pay for your -- mmm, uh, I'm poor too.

Sally: I think it's, like, tonight.

Emily: What? (laugh)

Sally: Um, speaking of being poor, please donate to our Patreon. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, can we get through -- we're -- this is already turning into an episode where we can't stay on-topic, made -- made worse by the fact that neither of us has actually read the chapters. I'm just confessing that right off the bat --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We both read the Wikipedia summaries, and I, like, remember what happens, but am I gonna offer any detailed analysis based on, y'know, diction, specific word choice? Absolutely not.

Sally: Nah. I mean, I read, like, the first three pages of the first one, where Lan is like, "Eugh, commit ritual suicide."

Emily: Oh, yeah. (laugh) Sheath the sword?

Sally: (laugh) Sword in the sheath.

Emily: He's like -- fucking -- (laugh)

Sally: And that -- (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "Just commit seppuku on this bitch."

Sally: Yeah. That's -- (inaudible)

Emily: Like, what the fuck?

Sally: That was very strange. Um.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Yeah, seems legit."

Sally: Rand's like, "Totally. That seems emo enough for me."

Emily: Like, can we talk about how Robert Jordan was like, "I've gotta give Rand this thing that he does at the end, and I need him to have, like, it on his mind, so I'm gonna have Lan, completely unprompted --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Just say it to him as his weird goodbye."

Sally: So weird.

Emily: Robert Jordan. Sometimes ...

Sally: What the hell?

Emily: OK.

Sally: 'Kay, introduction.

Emily: Yeah, what the fuck. (laugh)

Sally: This is your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast, Everybody Hates Rand. Welcome. I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: I'm Emily Juchau. Wow. This is, like, opposite day.

Sally: I know. Isn't it fun?

Emily: OK, well, I'll do the spoiler alert, then. Spoiler alert.

Sally: Nice. Killed it. (laugh) I've never done it so good.

Emily: (laugh) If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK.

Sally: OK. Um, the -- today we're talking about, like, 70 chapters. (laugh) We're gonna finish the Great Hunt and move onto a book we actually like. What you need to know about this book is that it's gross.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um. Egwene gets tortured. Mat's dying. And Rand becomes a fancy boy who is an emo idiot. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: Um, he wants to fuck Lanfear, and he sees a bunch of his past lives. And then he gets stabbed. That's the book.

Emily: Wow, that was really good.

Sally: Thank you!

Emily: Yeah, that pretty much was the book.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. (laugh)

Sally: We're finished. (laugh) So the Dragon Reborn opens -- (laugh)

Emily: My God. OK, the three chapters we read -- and by --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I use the term "read" loosely --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Can we -- keep it together, man! Come on, we can get through this.

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: The three chapters we read are the chapters between them leaving Fal Dara and then Rand getting, y'know, teleported against their will to some alternate dimension -- which, like, by the way, what kind of fuckery --

Sally: (laugh) I know.

Emily: I can't believe Robert Jordan just threw that at us. Book two.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "And by the way, there's other dimensions. Here. Enjoy." Like, what a thing --

Sally: What does that mean, Robert?

Emily: What a thing to throw at someone. Like, we should've had the World of Dreams first, is what I'm saying.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (sigh) Anyway. Yeah, so this is like the actual -- these are the chapters that actually feel like the Great Hunt. Y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, we're actually this group of --

Sally: Hunting.

Emily: Soldier-men who are hunting, tracking the Horn of Valere and the dagger, although that's kind of an afterthought.

Sally: Like Mat usually is.

Emily: Like Mat is for the first two books.

Sally: R.I.P.

Emily: Ha ha ha ha ha!

Sally: My good bitch.

Emily: OK. OK, so they're getting ready to leave. Lan has his seppuku rant.

Sally: (snort) It's so weird.

Emily: It's so fucking wild. I repeat, Lan as a mentor is just, like --

Sally: (inaudible) -- Useless.

Emily: Like, have you ever had a teacher that you're like, you should not be a teacher. That's like Lan.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I, like, don't want Lan to be near teenagers ever because of the way he influences them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To do horrible, self-destructive things.



Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, what the fuck?

Sally: Lan is literally like a walking, talking bullhorn for toxic masculinity.

Emily: Ugggh.

Sally: Where he just yells out things like, “You can’t -- you -- you gotta use a body wash that’s literally called Sword!”

Emily: (snort)

Sally: “You -- you can’t have pets except a horse that’s big and can break down walls.”

Emily: Let’s think of some other things Lan could’ve said to Rand before they leave that, um, would’ve had pretty much the same effect. Um, number one, he could say, “If you don’t smell like bullets constantly, you’re not a man. Your dick is small.”

Sally: Yeah. Um, number two. (laugh) “If you don’t smell like bullets.” That was funny. Um --

Emily: (laugh) That --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Sally just touched me gently on the shoulder and said, “That was funny.”

Sally: It was.

Emily: (laugh) You seriously -- (doing an impersonation of a drunk girl) “Shh ... shh ... I’ve have a ... I’ve got a secret.”

Sally: (laugh) I don’t have any secrets. I’m an open fucking book.

Emily: (laugh) You literally ... (inaudible through laughter) Were like, “I don’t tell anyone anything.”

Sally: Yeah, that’s true. It’s not a healthy coping mechanism. (laugh)

Emily: My God.

Sally: Um. Number two. (laugh)

Emily: “If you shop at a place that also sells women’s clothes, you’re a bitch.”

Sally: Oh, um, “If you use lotion, then you’re -- completely been castrated.” (laugh)

Emily: "If you ever hear someone talk bad about your mother, you have to kill them point-blank." (laugh)

Sally: "All your feelings have to reside in the physical body of your mom so that when she dies, you --"

Emily: "You, too, in a way, will die."

Sally: "You too will die." Yeah.

Emily: "You can write the great American novel."

Sally: Ohh! Gross, stop telling men that lie.

Emily: Exactly!

Sally: Let's see. Um.

Emily: These are all lies men hear constantly. "Your opinion? Matters." (wheeze)

Sally: It -- "Your opinion is the most important."

Emily: Yeah, that's better.

Sally: "It's -- it's OK to address a group of professional women as 'ladies.'" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) My dad, one time, had a serious email conversation with me about that. He was like, "I genuinely don't know -- like, what is the politically correct thing to do when you're literally speaking to a group of women." I was like, "Just address them as 'guys.' It's a gender-neutral term."

Sally: I had the same conversation with Perry yesterday. 'Cause he had a meeting where he addressed a group of women as "guys," or he just said, like, "Hey, guys," you know --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And an old white lady came up and was like --

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: "I prefer --" That's what I said. I was like, "Don't listen. Old white ladies are a generally useless demographic. Don't listen to them."

Emily: They'll be dead soon. So.

Sally: And I was like, "You can use 'guys,' but, like, if you want to be more professional, just say 'everyone.'"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Hey, everyone." Anyway.

Emily: OK, anyway. After the whole seppuku thing --

Sally: Can we talk about how Rand -- the ginger guy, the white guy, has a lot of weird samurai coding? Or tries --

Emily: Ohh --

Sally: To adopt a lot of weird samurai coding?

Emily: Man. It's, um, it's one of those things that I feel like I'm, like -- like, I can talk about it, but I'm not best-suited to talk about it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We aren't, because we're both white as well. But yeah, there's a ton of Asian coding assigned to Rand specifically.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The sword he, um, carries is sort of, uh, a katana, or at least that's the way it's described. Obviously, because it's a fantasy, that word isn't used.

Sally: Yeah. They say, like, a double-edged --

Emily: Yeah, and the way that the dragon is described is also a very Asian dragon --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know, the way the body curves up and down, like, that's just a very traditionally Asian image. And so, yeah, it's just, like -- the whole seppuku thing, we're talking about that, but of course that's a Japanese --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Cultural --

Emily: Idea.

Sally: Pillar.

Emily: Yeah. And, yeah, a lot of, uh ... not a lot of -- because a lot of the -- a lot of Rand's ideas about masculinity come from all ideas about masculinity, all cultures, but a lot of it does have this sort of -- a lot of it, especially when it comes from Lan -- has this very Asian feel.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Yeah. And so, like Emily said, we're not the best qualified to talk about it because we don't exist in that culture, and so we don't know it in all of its ins and outs, and I'm also not qualified enough academically to, like, talk about why that's weird as opposed to it being, like, a -- like a celebration of culture, the fact that they want to put all of this, instead of having, like, really good representation of, like, a fantasy world that is not totally Westernized, they instead put --

Emily: (cough)

Sally: Any non-Western elements onto a Western-looking body, which is just more erasure.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, which is gross and stupid.

Emily: Yeah, you can't say you wanna celebrate, um, Eastern, as it were, ideologies and ideas and cultural practices and then kind of, yeah, assign them specifically, like you said, to bodies that look --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Really traditionally Western. Like -- it just feels like -- it's -- begins to feel like all those shows where, y'know, a white man comes into an Asian country and has to save them.

Sally: (laugh) And joins the yakuza or whatever --

Emily: Yeah, and fucking joins the yakuza --

Sally: That fucking Jared Leto movie is?

Emily: Or joins the samurai or, like --

Sally: Um, yeah, and it's really frustrating. I was -- this is not relevant, surprise -- (laugh) um, but I was having a conversation with my friends the other day about straight women turning to gay porn --

Emily: Mm. Yeah.

Sally: Because straight porn is abhorrent. (laugh)

Emily: Right.

Sally: Um, and, like, the -- the article that a -- like, a friend was -- we were talking about because I'm a loser who talks about articles with my friends -- (laugh) in our group chat --

Emily: (laugh) So charming.

Sally: Um, like, wasn't really addressing the fact that it was, like, fetishizing gay sex --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Which straight women tend to do all the time. Just look at fandom. And I was, like, talking about, like, why this was really frustrating because I was like, whenever the dominant culture is lacking, which is often, because the dominant culture is so rigid, like, white people, straight people, Western culture, like, there's not a lot going on there. It's boring. And so to, like, fill these gaps, they turn to other cultures and just, like, take what doesn't belong to them, which is super frustrating. This is the basic theory behind cultural appropriation, which you didn't need, which is a really long rant to get there, but --

Emily: Well, and it gets into this really weird territory of them, like, OK, well, can you never write about other cultures, or can you never, like, address other identities, and of course that's not true, it's just that, like, we have sensitivity readers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's an entire job for a reason.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I think in Robert Jordan's time, it wasn't as much of a thing, but Robert Jordan was a clever man, and I think when we talk about authors, we shouldn't do them the disservice of pretending like they were too stupid to --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To, um, think about the things that they were doing seriously. So. What we're saying is it's bad.

Sally: It's just very strange. It's just such a weird thing.

Emily: And off-putting and, I imagine, um, probably -- probably upsetting for Asian readers.

Sally: Yeah, to just be, like --

Emily: Who have to deal with this a lot.

Sally: Yeah. Like, why can't it have been -- why does it have to be, like, a white boy with red hair? Like, why can't it be me? If you're an Asian reader.

Emily: Right. Right.

Sally: I'm a white person with blonde hair, like, don't make them look like me, we've had enough of that too, but. Probably had more of that than the red hair, but you get what I'm saying.

Emily: I don't know. Every --

Sally: It's weird.

Emily: It feels like every fantasy protagonist has red hair.

Sally: Yeah, because they wanna be, like, plucky and quirky or whatever.

Emily: Yeah, or, like, "Look at me."

Sally: "Look at me. I'm different."

Emily: "I'm different."

Sally: It's like, we get it.

Emily: "I'm ginger."

Sally: We get it. You have red hair. It's not that exciting. My entire family has red hair.

Emily: (laugh) OK, anyway, we'll come back to that more as it crops up, I'm sure.

Sally: Anyway, it's just -- it's just weird. And if any of you have, like, any really interesting articles or thoughts, please let me know, because I want to, like, learn more about it. So please Tweet them at us --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or email us, whatever.

Emily: Um, then someone tries to assassinate Rand, I guess.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And tragically, they fail.

Sally: Yeah, unfortunate.

Emily: They hit Sivan instead, is that right?

Sally: In the -- yeah, they hit her on, like, the arm, and everyone's like, "Oh, no, the Amyrlin," and Sivan's like, "Meh, whatever."

Emily: Ohhh. Anyway --

Sally: Then they leave.

Emily: Well, that's, like, supposed to be a *ta'veren* thing, kind of, that, like, Rand, like, is -- like, bends down on his horse or something so it misses him --

Sally: Yeah, right when the arrow comes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or some bullshit like that.

Emily: Anyway. Yeah. It's one of those things where it's like, Robert Jordan wanted to throw an exciting plot point in here but didn't want anyone to actually get hurt, so he used *ta'veren* as an excuse.

Sally: Yeah, it's -- yeah. It's -- (laugh) yeah.

Emily: Anyway, then they get going, and thus -- thus begins this hilarious dance where Rand and -- I mean, Mat and Perrin aren't speaking to Rand -- I think when he tries to apologize, they basically, like, flip him off --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And are like, "Fuck you." (laugh)

Sally: "Fuck you."

Emily: "Get lost." So whenever he tries to ride up to them, they, like, fall back --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So either he's riding at the head of the column with, like, Ingtar and all the dudes who are leading the column, or he's, like, in the back --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Awkwardly.

Sally: So funny.

Emily: Anyway, then they pick up Hurin. Hurin? Who knows. Who has the distinct --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Honor of being a character, like Min, with a completely wacked-out set of superpowers.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We are given no context for these things that Min and Hurin can do. They -- it's literally just, like -- the convenience of the plot.

Sally: Yeah. Broken reference, academically, is what -- I mean --

Emily: Yeah, Robert Jordan was like, "I need someone who can find --" Like, consider this, it could have just been Mat.

Sally: Yeah, because he's got a link to the dagger. But instead Robert Jordan's like, "Make Mat do something in the plot? No."

Emily: Yeah, seems hard to believe.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, it only ever comes up, like -- they lose Hurin eventually and then Perrin has to step up and, like, do the wolf thing --

Sally: Yeah, and do the sniff-sniff.

Emily: But it's like, consider this: You could've just had, like, Mat out of commission for a little while. Like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Have him get injured or some shit, I don't care -- like, I don't -- it's just annoying.

Sally: Or just let Perrin -- it doesn't always have to be about Perrin's wolf sense.

Emily: Right.

Sally: Jesus Christ.

Emily: Ugh!

Sally: The first couple books are so heavy on Perrin being a wolf-boy, and it is exhausting.

Emily: Well, it's like his primary identity, and it becomes exhausting because it's a cliché.

Sally: Well, then it's annoying because it's his primary identity until he gets married.

Emily: Yeah, and then that's --

Sally: And then his wife becomes --

Emily: His primary identity.

Sally: Part of it. And it's like, Jesus Christ, straight people. Please chill. (laugh) Ugh!



Emily: Anyway, uh, but ... yeah, Hurin -- Hurin -- god, I'm gonna say his name twice every time because I have fucking no idea how it's pronounced and I refuse to look at the pronunciation guide --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, he is literally only here for this book --

Sally: Which is sad.

Emily: And then I believe he shows up again in book 13.

Sally: What the hell? Where he been?

Emily: Literally, who knows.

Sally: He's just chillin'. Did he go to college? Oh, was it long enough for him to go to college?

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: 'Cause this happens in six weeks.

Emily: Also, how old is he? I always got the impression he was, like, 50.

Sally: Yeah. I mean, you can be a non-traditional student.

Emily: OK, yeah, I know --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I'm -- I was just saying. He's like, "You know --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He gets back from the Great Hunt for the Horn -- he's like, "You know, I'm gonna get my master's degree."

Sally: Yeah. "I've decided it's time for me to go back to school."

Emily: To his wife.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "I'd like to get a master's degree in psychology. I just spent a year with some of the craziest people --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I've ever met. And I just wanna put that on my resume."

Sally: "I just need to figure that out."

Emily: And she was like, "Great, honey, I support you," and got back to actually carrying the family. 'Cause, like, is Hurin making money off this?

Sally: Yeah. One wonders. Does he rent himself out? Is he a Rent-a-Sniffer?

Emily: Is there a commission? Like, what's the --

Sally: Yeah, what --

Emily: For every murderer he catches, he gets --

Sally: Yeah, like, and is, like --

Emily: Twenty percent?

Sally: Is he freelance? Or does he, like, work for, like, a police organization?

Emily: Is there like a stable of sniffers?

Sally: (laugh) They just are like, "Release them!"

Emily: "Release the hounds!"

Sally: Yeah, and it's --

Emily: It's a bunch of 50-year-old men.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Who are sort of hesitant. Who are --

Sally: They're like, "I don't really want --" And they're like, "Go!"

Emily: And refuse to take leadership.

Sally: "Sniff the bad!"

Emily: Yeah, anyway, Hurin --

Sally: It is -- go ahead.

Emily: Sorry. Hurin's, like, primary -- secondary identity, after the sniffing thing --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Which is, by the way, like, an interesting superpower. And it would be interesting if it wasn't so misplaced. Anyway, his secondary identity is that he keeps calling Rand "My Lord."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because he cannot accept the fact -- like, he's a member of the peasant class, and he cannot accept the fact that if Rand is dressed Like That --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then he, too, is a peasant.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's just not how Hurin's worldview works. Which, by the way, I think, is stupid. It's so stupid to have the ignorant peasant character.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who sort of reinforces all the stereotypes. Like, wouldn't it be so cool if you met someone who you're like, "I thought you were super rich --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "You're super rich, right? I have to defer to you?" And then they, like, open their mouth, and come out with "y'all'd've," you know?

Sally: (laugh) Or they're just Rand.

Emily: Yeah, or they're Rand, and you're like, "Oh, they don't know anything. They're a dumbass. Wow, maybe all nobility are dumbasses."

Sally: Yeah ...

Emily: "Maybe I should rise up against the powers that be and guillotine the rich."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is what I'm saying.

Sally: Eat the rich. As -- as we've discussed, the Eye of the World is pretty, um, communist --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: A communist text, but this one veers to being more capitalist.

Emily: Right.

Sally: Just in its inherent putting Rand on an upward track. Instead of allowing him to be the -- the everyman hero, he has to be the prince. Ba da ba da.

Emily: Which, Mat then gets to be --

Sally: Yeah. Mat then gets to be our Robin Hood, and Perrin gets to be our resident bitch.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: Um. (laugh) Um, but Hurin's power -- Hurin? Hurin? (pronouncing it differently each time) Hurin?

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: (laugh) Whoooo -- Doctor Hurin? Doctor Who?

Emily: Fucking -- (laugh)

Sally: Um, his power is really interesting because it sort of, like, makes, um, manifest -- or, like, makes real in literature what we see on the textual level, which is that oftentimes, like, evil is, like, written as a presence, or, like, the metaphor of evil is that it's got a scent --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Or a feel or, like, you can taste it in the air or whatever, it's always like you're in a bad spot and the evil is palpable, and, like, Hurin -- his ability, like, pulls that, like, language-level trope -- I don't know if you can call it a trope if it happens at the language level -- but it pulls that facet of it out and makes it --

Emily: Yeah, I think it's a -- I think it's a trope. That -- those particular turns of phrase --

Sally: Yeah. There we go.

Emily: Are such a trope in fantasy.

Sally: Turns of phrase. Yeah, and, like, makes it into a person made flesh --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which I find really interesting.

Emily: No, it is really interesting, and it's -- I think it's especially interesting to think about how Hurin is this character who, um, who smells violence and almost because Robert Jordan was like, "Oh, well, then I need to have really violent things happening --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Like, really absurdly violent things happening to, like, continue -- for this to happen, for this to be a plot device," and it just becomes, like, this thing that's feeding on itself --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is -- increasingly, these terrible things happen, at least in these three chapters -- I mean, it kinda cools down a little bit after that 'cause the real plot takes over -- (laugh) but, like, there are these increasingly horrible things happening that Hurin has to find, and it's, like, pretty average violent stuff could happen, y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You could find a dude who's stabbed. You don't need to find dudes who have been literally skinned alive. Like -- like, y'know, I get it.

Sally: Yeah, no, it's very -- it's very strange about, like, what then is our saturation -- like, this book, I can't get over the, like, relationship to violence in this book, because it feels so out of place in the series and just in general, especially since it's really front-loaded. Like, we get a type of different violence in the back half of the book, where we get --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: More into, like, what it means to --

Emily: The violence of captivity.

Sally: Yeah. What it means to, like, torture someone psychologically. And physically, like -- but the, um --

Emily: And, like, I wonder how much Egwene's captivity would affect us in the same level that this is affecting us if we didn't have to first -- if this wasn't first, um, y'know, desensitizing us.

Sally: Yeah. Exactly. And it's almost like -- I -- yeah, it's very interesting that we have to, like, pass these different thresholds of violence in this book.

Emily: Anyway, a bunch of -- while they're on the hunt, they find a bunch of gross stuff, basically because Padan Fain's in charge, and I'm not even gonna dignify it with talking about it --

Sally: You know what it is.

Emily: There -- the one interesting thing is that they come to this kind of, like, village and it's, like -- it's sort of like -- uh, it feels like a bubble of evil because at one point Rand goes into this house, where everything's bene kind of set for dinner, y'know, and he kind of experiences this vision -- this repeat, almost this gif -- of the last moments of this family before, I dunno, it's implied, like, the Trollocs got there?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And took them away? Like, all these people get taken, basically. And it's just, like, this weird thing of, like -- textually, it sets up the Portal Stone sequence --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because, uh, Robert Jordan just, like, writes it exactly the same and does it on a loop.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And that kind of sets us up for what comes later with the Portal Stones. But -- yeah, it feels like a bubble of evil, I dunno. Like ...

Sally: Yeah, I was reading -- I ended up on a different site than I usually read the summaries, and somebody mentioned that as, like, a trap that Padan Fain set for Rand.

Emily: Oh. Interesting.

Sally: But -- yeah, I don't know enough -- uh, 'cause Padan Fain is another one of these figures where I'm never entirely sure, like, what his abilities are.

Emily: Yeah. And he has a few points of view, including in these --

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: In one of -- in these chapters, I think at the end of these chapters, and yeah, you have, like -- it's so unclear --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What he can and can't do. Because on the one hand, he's doing these crazy things -- like, you see him in total control of Myrddraal, which as we already know from the text of the books is, like, so impossible, and the only thing that can control Myrddraal is really powerful Darkfriends like the Forsaken, so in this way, Padan Fain's almost become this new Forsaken, but in this really warped way, and I wish we explored that more instead of bringing back --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The original Forsaken. Just having these new ones, like Mazrim Taim and Padan Fain.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, um -- I dunno, there's probably some evil ladies out there that I'm not thinking of.

Sally: Yeah. Liandrin.

Emily: Yeah. Exactly. Like -- kind of -- what we do with the modern Darkfriends is kind of have them constantly be, like, debased and devalued by the --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The powers that be that exist already instead of having any of them really rise to actual positions of power.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which I think would be interesting. Like, I'd really like to watch -- not Liandrin, necessarily, but someone -- like, get the moves on Semirhage or something and actually, like, be like, "OK, I'm the bitch now." Like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That would be cool.

Sally: Yeah. The hierarchy of evil is really interesting because it's presented, weirdly, as more static than, um, the hierarchy in, like, our -- the side of the Light. Like, we see a lot of social mobility --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Between, like, Rand moving up and Perrin moving up, and Mat just kind of goes wherever he wants.

Emily: Vacillating -- yeah.

Sally: Vacillating and, like -- being in a position of military leadership, like, allows him to do that 'cause military is, like, a little bit outside of the social order in a weird way. Um, so we see a lot of that happening, and, like, Elayne goes down to be a novice alongside Egwene and Nynaeve, who were raised in a farming village. And so we see a lot of that happening, but in the few points of view that we get from the baddies, we don't -- it's like the Forsaken are not both, like, on high, they are also, like, ancient and on high and therefore untouchable. And, like, I don't know if we really have any ancient good guys. I haven't gotten that far in the series, so, like --

Emily: No. There's just Lews Therin, and he's -- y'know, the voice in the head.

Sally: Yeah. And so it's like that -- like, there's a time frame there that's kind of interesting, but we also -- like, that's it, and so therefore, then, their ancientness becomes their, like, nobility, and therefore it's, like, impenetrable, like, we don't see any of -- I guess we see -- what's her face? The one that they have -- the girls have --

Emily: Moghedien.

Sally: Moghedien. She gets brought down a little bit, but not for long, and she doesn't -- anyway, it's just interesting.

Emily: Yeah, she still retains a position of power.

Sally: Yeah. Over --

Emily: At least, within the plot. Y'know.

Sally: Yeah. And, like, over other Darkfriends, kind of.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So it's, like, really interesting that -- 'cause I don't -- it's interesting because typically we see, like, things that are evil, um, evil, quote unquote, being associated with, like, chaos. Um.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Meaning there's more, like -- y'know, it's not a system in equilibrium, it's a system that's being disturbed. And that's usually what's threatening an order -- a system in equilibrium, a system that's in order, whether that means, like, a high, like, a strict social order or, like, everything in its place. Not -- like, they wouldn't use the word "strict," because it's full of propaganda. Um. But, like, a system where everything falls into its place and chaos is coming in to disrupt it, so it's interesting that we kind of see these two social orders flip-flopped. Because of course, then, our evil is functioning a little bit more like fascism.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Um, Wheel of Time is a communist text ... but also, yeah, it's interesting because, like, one of the, like, Darkfriend phrases is "Let the Lord of Chaos rule."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So, yeah, they're still trying to associate, like, badness with chaos.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, um -- yeah, the text almost doesn't support it.

Sally: Yeah. Like, it does not support chaos as, like, what chaos actually is, which is, you know, a disruption, disequilibrium -- I don't think that's a word --

Emily: Rand is --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Well, I mean, actually, when they say "Lord of Chaos," I'm never sure if they're -- and I think that's supposed to be the point -- is they could be referring to the Dark One, but they could also be referring to the Dragon Reborn.

Sally: Yeah. Who is a figure of chaos --



Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Rand ruins everything wherever he goes, on, like, a mythological, social, personal level.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: My personal reading experience is ruined wherever he goes.

Emily: Disrupted. Anyway.

Sally: So. Anyway. That is one of my many tangents this episode. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, on a sidebar about Padan Fain's --

Sally: Being a piece of shit.

Emily: Yeah, and, like --

Sally: He's gross.

Emily: The trap thing.

Sally: Yeah. So I dunno what that is. But it's interesting, 'cause, yeah, it does set up, on a textual level, this weird fuzzing of logic that we then begin to get through the rest of the series, through the Portal Stones, the World of Dreams --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: When Mat and Rand go meet the weird guys through those weird doors.

Emily: Right. Ugh. Um.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (shuddering noise) Um, let's see. What else happens? I'll get back to Bayle Domon in a little bit --

Sally: Oh, they're also seeing --

Emily: We can talk to him -- about him later --

Sally: Um, Lanfear stalking them, popping in and out of windows, the woman in white --

Emily: Oh, is she? Yeah, I see -- remember, I only read the Wikipedia, so --

Sally: That's what my summary said. That the -- like, someone -- Masema, maybe? -- keeps seeing a woman in white.

Emily: Ohhh.

Sally: It's implied that it's Lanfear.

Emily: Yeah, this is our first exposure by -- not our first exposure, but our, um -- gonna be our primary introduction to many of the important, uh, Shienaran soldiers, such as Masema --

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Who, of course, is gonna play a huge role, and Uno, who's going to play not quite a, uh, socially huge role, but still, like, a lovely role --

Sally: Big role in my heart. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Yeah. Biggest role in my heart. But he's, like, a solid side character.

Sally: Yeah. I love Uno. (laugh)

Emily: Uno -- God, I love Uno.

Sally: My favorite scene in the entire book is when Nynaeve tells him he can't swear as much.

Emily: And he is counting his swear words?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God, that's such -- that, like, scene is comic perfection.

Sally: I know.

Emily: How did Robert Jordan do that?

Sally: I know, it's so funny.

Emily: Anyway. Our other Shienaran soldiers -- Ingтар, obviously, who is sort of this other, um, very similar but slightly different, like, paragon of masculinity that Rand is now looking to because he's pursuing this with, um, this really wild intensity because he's, like, hinging his honor on it in a way -- or, at least, that's what he's saying, that's, like, the lie he's telling --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of course, we know he's a Darkfriend, so ... really his motivations are, like, a little bit unclear.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, um --

Sally: Do you know I completely forgot that Ingтар existed until you mentioned him in, like, the first episode of this season?

Emily: No -- I mean, yes, I do believe that, because he's literally so irrelevant.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, I --

Emily: Rand never thinks of him again. No one ever thinks of him again.

Sally: (laugh) Why would you? He's useless.

Emily: Yeah. Like -- and that's the thing. If he's this paragon of masculinity, but, like, he disrupts that at the end by doing something -- like, he's evil, right?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But at the end, he sort of is like, "I'm gonna try and fix that and turn to good in my last moments."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And sort of the implication is that's what he got from the Portal Stones. Like, imagine being this Darkfriend, and you have to see the consequences of your actions, actually?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Played out? Presumably, that would be enough to turn him back to the Light, which --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We guess is what happens. Anyway, what I'm saying is that I wish Ingтар did more, textually, to disrupt Rand's notions of masculinity.

Sally: Yeah. Instead of just underpinning what Lan told him.

Emily: Yeah, 'cause, like, Ingтар does this super self-sacrificing but manly thing at the end --

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "Oh, I'm going to sacrifice myself so that you guys can get away," and, y'know, it's the honorable thing to do. It's just like -- ugh.

Sally: It would be interesting if Rand was following a woman on this hunt.

Emily: God. You're right. It would be interesting if more women --

Sally: If women existed.

Emily: If --

Sally: What if Siuan Sanche was leading the hunt?

Emily: (laugh) What if Verin was leading them?

Sally: Ah! Could you imagine?

Emily: Yeah, I can.

Sally: Verin, the most academic librarian-esque badass.

Emily: She's like, "Do whatever you want."

Sally: Verin is like, "Who are you?"

Emily: Anyway, at some point, Ingtar is like, "Oh, Rand, and if I die, you're in charge"??

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is like -- fucking what?

Sally: What?

Emily: I can't remember, does he make this decision, or is Moiraine like, "And Rand's in charge."

Sally: I think Moiraine does. And, like, Agelmar is in on it too.

Emily: Yeah, and they're like --

Sally: Probably because Moiraine told him to do it, but.

Emily: "You're in charge." And Rand's like, "OK, well, fuck this." At one point, he's just, like, looking at the Dragon banner, which is such a dumbass thing to do, by the way -- I don't care if you're in the woods; people can see you --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And, of course, Perrin and --

Sally: The woods have eyes! (laugh)

Emily: Pfft. Perrin and Mat are like, "What the fuck is that?" And Mat's like, "Oh, you've got a FLAG now?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "You don't just have silk shirts, now you've got a FLAG?"

Sally: "You've got a fucking FLAG?"

Emily: And then he's like, "What's that on that?" And then he's like, "Oh. Shit."

Sally: "Well, fuck me."

Emily: And Rand's like, "Yeah, they wanna use me as a false Dragon," and they're like, "Well, does that mean you can channel, bitch?" And he's like, "...Yeah." So that's how that comes out.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "Well, I guess I'll die then. Bye."

Sally: Yeah, Mat's like, "Oooh. Remember how I'm afraid of witchcraft?"

Emily: Mat's like, "Remember how I'm a survivalist and self-preservation is my primary goal?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm just gonna go to the other side of the camp. Now."

Sally: "I'm gonna go to the other side of the planet."

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Here's a question: does Wheel of Time exist on a spherical planet?

Emily: I mean, it's got to if there's oceans and tides, right?

Sally: I don't know how physics works.

Emily: I don't either.

Sally: It's just a question.

Emily: I don't know. Are you a Wheel of Time flat-Earther? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Oh my God.

Emily: Tell us more. Actually, don't tell me more. I don't want to know if you're a flat-Earther even -- even on a fantastical level.

Sally: (laugh) Even for Wheel of Time. Do you know, um, Lord of the Rings had, um -- oh, I can't remember now, this is one of my favorite things about the mythology of Lord of the Rings -- it has to do with how the Earth used to be flat --

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Um, like -- uh, Middle Earth. It's called something.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Not the -- just -- Middle Earth is the continent, but there's a name for the planet -- used to be flat, but then they, like, bent it? It has something to do with, like -- it's like a Eden story, like, being separated from Eden -- so that there's, like, the land in the West that they're going to at the end is, like, a specific place --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Where they, like, bent the planet so that when they sail, the ship is actually, like, sailing off the edge of the Earth and flying over, like, a curved planet.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: Pretty cool. Lord of the Rings is so cool, you guys. That's what I should reread next.

Emily: Yeah. I should say.

Sally: No, I need to read the Silmarillion next.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: Like a loser. But back to Wheel of Time. Mat is -- has deserted Rand's friendship.

Emily: Mat is out. Mat is good out here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Perrin's like, "Well, in a way, I feel sorry for you because I too am dealing with a taboo topic and --"

Sally: My virginity.

Emily: "My identity --" Fuck. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Perrin's like, "You're gonna go crazy? I understand. I'm gay."

Sally: (cackle) No, 'cause then that would be --

Emily: Sad?

Sally: Sad, and ...

Emily: Although, I wish gay characters ...

Sally: Wish Perrin was gay.

Emily: Yeah. I want gay characters, but I don't want homophobia to be part of that.

Sally: Yeah, I don't want internalized homophobia to be -- (inaudible)

Emily: I don't want homophobia in my fantasy. That's why it's fantasy.

Sally: It's -- what I want is for Perrin and Gaul to fall in love.

Emily: Aaaaaugh!

Sally: Not that -- not that any of us deserve Gaul. He's a --

Emily: No one deserves Gaul! (laugh)

Sally: Perfect boy. He's a -- (laugh) What if Perrin fell in love with that really hot kid from their hometown? (laugh)

Emily: I just came up with the perfect pairing.

Sally: Kay.

Emily: Gaul. Uno.

Sally: (gasp) Ohhhh my God. (laugh)

Emily: The two best boys.

Sally: I think there's a little bit of an age difference --

Emily: Shh!

Sally: But I --

Emily: OTP! OTP!

Sally: That's the only age difference I could get in on.

Emily: Is there an age difference? It's not really clear how old Uno is.

Sally: I don't know how old -- I don't know how either of them are. I always imagined Uno was kind of, like, 40.

Emily: Oh, yeah. And Gaul is kinda, like --

Sally: But that doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

Emily: 25 or something?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who knows. He could be 30 -- in his thirties. And Uno could be younger.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It could work.

Sally: It -- it definitely works. That would be perfect. Imagine. (whisper) Imagine.

Emily: Oh my God. Yeah --

Sally: You're right. I was wrong. One person deserves Gaul, and it's Uno. (laugh)

Emily: (cackle) OK, OK. We're talking about this for the rest of the episode. I don't care about Bayle Domon. He almost gets killed. Whatever. What the fuck. He's got a seal for the Dark One's prison. He goes off. He's gonna see the Seanchan.

Sally: He's gonna go shipping.

Emily: Whatever the fuck. Rand and people are gonna end up going through the Portal Stone. OK, back to Gaul and Uno. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Back to the topic at hand.

Emily: Back to the important things. OK.

Sally: How would they meet?

Emily: I don't care. But imagine -- (laugh)

Sally: I do care. I love me a good meet-cute.

Emily: OK, OK, fine. How would they meet? Um, Uno's off-screen -- well, it's -- ugh. They come so close, y'know? 'Cause Uno and the other Shienarans are with Perrin at the beginning of book three --

Sally: That's right.

Emily: And then mid-book three is when Perrin, uh, interacts with Gaul.

Sally: Meets Gaul. Oh, that's right.

Emily: So theoretically, if some of the Shienarans stayed with Perrin and Moiraine as, like, an escort, maybe just, like, Uno and another guy --

Sally: Oh my God. Remember how Gaul is in that cage and Perrin breaks him out? What if Uno broke him down.



Emily: Yeah. OK, well, Perrin could still break him out, but Uno could be, like, “I have to break out that boy because I’m in love with him.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Perrin’s like, “You literally just saw him across the village square.” And Uno’s like, “I love him.”

Sally: “But -- But Daddy, I love him!”

Emily: “But Daddy, I love him!”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uno’s like, “He’s the most beautiful ginger boy I’ve ever seen.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “I know girls are obsessed with the dick on that friend of yours. That ginger friend of yours, and I never understood the appeal. But now ...”

Sally: “But now I do.”

Emily: “Now I get it.”

Sally: “Just a different dick.”

Emily: “A tall red-haired boy.”

Sally: “Perfect.”

Emily: “Very stoic.” God, I love Gaul.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Gaul would get the biggest kick out of Uno’s swearing.

Sally: I know. Everything Uno did, Gaul would just be in the background, like, smirking.

Emily: Gaul would be like, “I’m in love.”

Sally: Be like, “Look at my boyfriend.”

Emily: “This is hilarious.”

Sally: “What a mean person.”

Emily: Gaul would see his eyepatch and be like, “Sweet.”

Sally: Yeah. Everyone's like, "Ooh, Uno's eyepatch is so scary." Gaul would be like, "Sick man."

Emily: Gaul would be like, "Yeah! Cool!"

Sally: "I love it."

Emily: "This is a dude who's seen battle."

Sally: Yeah. And that --

Emily: "I fucking love him."

Sally: As an Aiel, that would be a super huge turn-on for Gaul.

Emily: Yeah, dude.

Sally: Immediately -- immediate boner.

Emily: Yeah. Kay, well. And then they'd interact again, of course, at the Stone of Tear. And have their love story there.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then Uno would just have to be part of Perrin's coterie for the rest of the books --

Sally: Which would be --

Emily: So he and Gaul could get married.

Sally: So funny.

Emily: Which would, unfortunately, make it unable for him to see Nynaeve. Maybe he could leave, like, halfway through.

Sally: Well, maybe Gaul could just leave and go with Uno.

Emily: Yeah, we need the best of both worlds. 'Cause -- yeah. Imagine Gaul interacting with Nynaeve.

Sally: Oh my God. He would love her. Because she's also so mean.

Emily: He'd be like, "She's so angry. I love her."

Sally: "I love her. She's like a Wise One."

Emily: "She's so mean." Yeah.

Sally: So, yeah. Gaul would be like, "I like you, Perrin, and you saved my life, but I have to follow my husband to go take care of this mean lady."

Emily: Yeah, they had a shotgun wedding between books --

Sally: A shotgun wedding implies that somebody's pregnant. (laugh)

Emily: Three and four -- what? Is that real?

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, the reason -- it's like, when somebody's pregnant and they need to get married really quickly, the idea is that, like, the dad would be standing behind the daughter with a shotgun, so it's like, "If you didn't marry my daughter and do right by her, you would get shot."

Emily: I've never known why that's a phrase.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I just thought it meant, like, a wedding that takes place really quickly.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: Well, you didn't grow up -- you don't have Southern parents, where this phrase originated.

Emily: Yeah, you're right. OK.

Sally: Because the American South is a hot mess.

Emily: What's the Wheel of Time version of Las Vegas for Gaul and Uno to go get married in?

Sally: What IS the Wheel of Time version of Las Vegas?

Emily: Exactly. We hardly see anyone get married.

Sally: (sigh) What's the sleaziest city?

Emily: Ebou Dar.

Sally: I thought that was New Orleans. I thought Ebou Dar was the New Orleans equivalent.

Emily: Yeah, it's not Las Vegas.

Sally: They could also get married in New Orleans.

Emily: Umm ...

Sally: Where do they gamble? Everywhere.

Emily: Well, Mat gambles everywhere, yeah.

Sally: Mat is an addict.

Emily: Mat is an addict. Maybe it's in, like, one of the cities that we don't spend much time in. Like in Murandy. No one ever goes to Murandy.

Sally: What's in Murandy?

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: They get married in Murandy.

Emily: Nothing. They get married -- (laugh) They're just like, "Excuse us, we have to get married."

Sally: "Excuse me." They have a beautiful wedding.

Emily: (sigh) My God.

Sally: (singing) It's a beautiful wedding ...

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (singing) Said a bridesmaid to a waiter ...

Emily: Mat's the flower girl, 'cause of course he's their biggest fan.

Sally: Yeah. Mat's like, "Great. I love these two boys."

Emily: This is in the timeline where Mat's, um, bi.

Sally: Yeah, obviously.

Emily: Pansexual as hell. Of course.

Sally: Yeah, of course. Mat and his, um, then-boyfriend, Galad --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Mat's like, "Will you be my date to the wedding?"

Emily: Mat would never ask anyone to be his date to his wedding; that would imply commitment. OK --

Sally: Anyway, they have a beautiful --

Emily: We've fixed Wheel of Time.

Sally: A beautiful ceremony ... um, it's described in loving detail because obviously I've written it, and I've planned them a perfect wedding. Um. That involves food trucks so that everybody can get the type of food that they want; they have Murandy food carts.

Emily: What?

Sally: Giving people the food that they want. Gaul and Uno have a wonderful first dance together. It's one of those weddings where, like, one of the -- the bride or the groom does, like, a slutty dance in the middle of the wedding.

Emily: Gaul, obviously. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Wouldn't it be funny if it was Uno, though?

Emily: (laugh) They could take turns.

Sally: Yeah. And everyone was like, "This is really uncomfortable. There are children here."

Emily: All the Aiel would love it, though.

Sally: All the Aiel are like, "Yaaass! Get it!" All the Shienarans are confused --

Emily: Confused.

Sally: But sort of delighted.

Emily: They're like, "OK, well, we didn't expect this, but, knowing Uno --"

Sally: "He's having a great day."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So it'd be beautiful and then they are married and it's really cute.

Emily: (sigh) We fixed Wheel of Time again. Wow.

Sally: We're so good at this.

Emily: I know. OK, well, that's about all we have time for today. Sorry that was the most basic overview of three chapters that we could provide, but also, like, I just don't care about those chapters, 'cause they're gross.

Sally: Mm. Yeah. Also, I think we did a pretty good job.

Emily: OK, thanks. Next week, I think we're reading two chapters ...

Sally: Oh, I think we're reading one chapter.

Emily: Oh, are we?

Sally: I think it's -- isn't the Portal Stones chapter next week?

Emily: ... Boy. Oh, it's just a one, um, chapter, 'cause it's over to an Egwene point of view.

Sally: (gasp) My girl.

Emily: Anyway, so if we think of anything we missed over in this chapter, we'll cover it there --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Since it's just the one chapter with Egwene.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: But she's gonna learn about channeling --

Sally: Nice.

Emily: And Dreaming.

Sally: Lit.

Emily: Yeah, cool.

Sally: So freaking cool.

Emily: And hopefully we're not so tired.

Sally: Um ... housekeeping stuff. Um, I guess we'll keep the Instagram giveaway open another week, in case anybody else wants to participate. So yeah, you can find -- I'll post about the details. But just take a picture of yourself reading, um, any Wheel of Time book on public transit, tag us in it, um, and use the comment or the hashtag The Dragon Loves Public Transit, and please follow us on Instagram, that's also part of the giveaway, and I'll send you Dragonhaven, which is a lovely book. You'll love it. And some money towards your public transit fund.

Emily: It's a free book and free money!

Sally: Yeah. All you have to do is take a picture and follow us on Instagram. So.

Emily: Yeah. Easy. I mean, and take public transit, but you should be doing that anyway.

Sally: Should be doing that anyway. I wish I could.

Emily: Yeah. Ummm.

Sally: Um, other than that, we'd love for you to check out our Patreon, where we have lots of bonus content. You'll be helping us, um, in our quest to get new microphones so that you don't have to hear my air conditioning --

Emily: Microphones, period.

Sally: What?

Emily: Microphones, period. We don't have microphones.

Sally: Oh, yeah, we don't have microphones.

Emily: Sorry.

Sally: We are --

Emily: To interrupt.

Sally: Cheap. And poor.

Emily: And very poor.

Sally: Super poor. Um. That's it.

Emily: Yeah, sign us off, I guess.

Sally: Oh, goodness. I don't know if I have anything traumatizing that happened in my first week of -- first week of work, which is pretty good. Generally speaking. Um. Today -- this is an -- this isn't traumatizing, it's just exciting, that I -- I work at an aviary. I should preface everything I say from now on for the rest of time, that I work at an aviary. I have moved from glass to birds. Which is ...

Emily: You know ...

Sally: Who knows.

Emily: Makes sense.

Sally: Who knows.

Emily: In a way.

Sally: Who knows. But today, um, I was eating lunch, and one of the peacocks that just wandered around came up and started, like, flapping his feathers at me, like he was mad. And I was like, "What the fuck is wrong with you?" And then he jumped up on the table and just stared at me and watched me eat my sandwich. It was really weird. This isn't very exciting, guys. It was just, like, a really fun bird encounter.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um. It's not very exciting. It was just fun. Uh, I don't think I have anything else more exciting. A bird escaped from the bird show yesterday, which was also exciting. But I think they found her.

Emily: I'm gonna --

Sally: I THINK.

Emily: (laugh) She could be out in the wild.

Sally: I really have no idea where she is.

Emily: Terrorizing the citizens ...

Sally: OK, thanks for listening to that boring sign-off and all the other weird shit that I've said today. I love youuuu! (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)