



Episode 37 – “**Moon Blood**”

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Emily: OK. OK. OK, OK, OK. What’s happening?

Sally: Cool. Cool cool cool cool cool cool cool.

Emily: Cool.

Sally: Um.

Emily: We’re both wrapped in blankets right now.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because we’re making the necessary sacrifice of having our heater turned off.

Sally: For you!

Emily: Because this is the type of frozen hellscape we live in. Utah.

Sally: I love it.

Emily: Oh --

Sally: Oh my God. I walked around my place of employ today --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And was like, “Freeze me to death! I’m gonna die here by my spectacled owl.” That’s my favorite bird. So far. She’s got some fucking attitude.

Emily: How do birds stay warm?

Sally: Umm.

Emily: They fly south.

Sally: That's true, they do fly south.

Emily: OK. Are --

Sally: Um, a lot of them are cold weather birds, so, like, we have some alpine parrots and an Andean condor who lives in the Andes mountains --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Well, I mean, he lives in Salt Lake City, but he lives --

Emily: Normally.

Sally: Yeah. The platonic ideal of the Andean condor lives in the Andean mountains.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um. (laugh) Um, but that's a good question. I'm gonna ask our agriculture experts, Kate and Fred, both of whom I would die for. I would die upon my cross for Kate.

Emily: I just worry about birds.

Sally: I do too.

Emily: A lot.

Sally: Constantly.

Emily: Yeah, it's just sort of like an omnipresent anxiety of mine.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, what are you reading?

Sally: I can't say 'cause it's embarrassing.

Emily: What?

Sally: 'Cause I'm still reading the Raven Cycle. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Yeah, well, guess who finished the Count of Monte Cristo?

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: I know you all thought I couldn't do it.

Sally: Nobody thought that. You are the part of this podcast that's committed.

Emily: Beg pardon?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I've never been committed in my life.

Sally: We all knew you could do it.

Emily: I didn't know I could do it.

Sally: We all believed in you.

Emily: I had some --

Sally: Tweet us if you believed in Emily. I'm gonna put up a Twitter poll.

Emily: I had some serious doubts about midway through, when people just started dropping dead of poisoning, left and right, and I didn't really understand why, because it turned out I was reading the abridged version, and -- which wasn't abridged very well, let's be honest.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, now I'm reading *Cloud Atlas*, which, shockingly enough, is, uh, less intellectually troubling for me, uh, than *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Sally: That's good.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I love *Cloud Atlas*.

Emily: It's good.

Sally: I love it with the fire of a thousand suns.

Emily: Yeah, I just got through the least interesting segment of the book, so.

Sally: Do you think Sloosha's Crossing is the least interesting segment --

Emily: No, um, I just read the -- what's his name? The British guy who ends up in the nursing home --

Sally: Oh! *The Ghastly Ordeal of Timothy Cavendish*?

Emily: Yeah, which is funny in bits, but I just hated him so much.

Sally: Oh, no, he's a -- he's a garbage can person.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, it's -- I'm really excited to watch the movie with you. I know the movie Cloud Atlas has its problems, I -- I understand. But I -- it does hold a dear place to my -- in my heart. And it's much funnier, I think, in the movie, 'cause it's just played out with more -- like, it's -- it's something that should've been filmed.

Emily: Well, I mean it -- then it's nice that it turns into a movie --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In the text.

Sally: Which is funny.

Emily: Yeah. OK.

Sally: Anyway, I'm sorry. We don't have to talk about Cloud Atlas. (whisper) I just love it so much.

Emily: We can talk about Cloud Atlas whenever. We can have a whole side podcast about Cloud Atlas. We can do that.

(clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba plays)

Sally: Theme song played! OK, welcome, kids, to your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast, Everybody Hates Rand.

Emily: I'm glad you took the introduction, because I was, in my head, thinking, "Jesus, take the wheel." (laugh) Like, I -- I couldn't handle it.

Sally: I think Emily's having a stroke.

Emily: I think I am.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger. I'm not having a stroke. I do have a migraine, though.

Emily: Great.

Sally: And I'm reaching my point of migraine mania, which is good timing for this.

Emily: Migraine mania?

Sally: Yeah. I don't know if it's due to the amount of caffeine I drink when I have mi--or, like, Excedrin has a lot of my, like, caffeine in it --

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: But whenever I have, like, a really bad headache, I, like, go apeshit a little bit.

Emily: OK. Well, that's exciting as we get into these two chapters --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Of the Great Hunt.

Sally: Anyway, this is Emily. I don't think she introduced herself, but you know.

Emily: No, I don't care. I don't care anymore.

Sally: We've gotta fix the energy for this podcast.

Emily: I am real fucked up right now.

Sally: What's wrong?

Emily: Oh, nothing's wrong, I'm just, like -- can't focus. Or talk. Or form words.

Sally: OK, let's talk -- we can cut it out, but let's talk about something other than Wheel of Time for a second.

Emily: No, we have to talk about Wheel of Time, that's the only thing I can think about right now. It's 'cause I was just writing in that book, and now I'm like --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Twitchy. Um, OK. Here's what happened in the two chapters of the Great Hunt that we read. First, Egwene and Nynaeve finally got to the White Tower. It was a little bit anticlimactic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, then Rand and Loial -- Loial with the assist, coming in hot --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, retook the Horn of Valere from the bad guys.

Sally: Yeah, this is our, like, weird, small heist chapter.

Emily: Yeah. Also, there was, like, an entire two pages where Rand had to describe Lanfear standing in his shirt, and it was the single most heterosexual, disgusting mess --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That I've ever read in my entire life.

Sally: It's ... (laugh) It's so much.

Emily: What I wanted in that moment was for Rand's dick to explode, killing him instantly. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Well, and it's so funny, because it's like -- in a book with very little nudity --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Or even just, like, very little discussion of, like, people's skin --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I know that was a weird sentence -- but it goes on at length about Lanfear's legs. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: And it's like -- he's like, "The shirt comes down, like, most of her thighs," so it's like, knee, calf situation, but it's just -- like in the Victorian era, so repressed that, like, an ankle makes people go batty.

Emily: Well, it's like --

Sally: It's so funny.

Emily: It's so weird to think about how Wheel of Time is, like, very Victorian in the idea of, like, women can't be at all unclothed around men, even though they emphasize that constantly, but I kinda, like, I don't know, I get, like, off that train of thought so often because, like, we get a lot of female point of views, and so, like, that's a good thing in a way, like, I'm not -- like, the women don't think of themselves, necessarily, in terms of their bodies --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So it's just, like, when I get, actually, a reaction or, y'know, a male and female character interacting over something like nudity, it's, like, sort of jarring.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like that scene in book four where they're talking to, um, Nynaeve and Elayne, like, Thom and Juilin, at the inn, and Nynaeve is, like, just wearing her night dress, basically --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And then, like, freaks out 'cause, you know, it's like thin and kind of sheer, you know --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Thom is like, “I’m 90 years old. I don’t give a single fuck.”

Sally: Well, in this book, he has, like, a 12-year-old girlfriend.

Emily: I know. We haven’t got there yet. We can talk about it later.

Sally: But -- yeah, it’s -- (laugh) Thank you for letting me go on that, it’s very nice.

Emily: You’re welcome. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Uh, I just don’t -- I dunno. Yeah, like you said, it’s very Victorian, and we have, like, strict codes of honor, particularly around women’s bodies, which is annoying, mostly --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: That, um -- there’s this concept -- and I’m probably gonna slaughter this, so, um, feel free, anybody who knows more about this, to correct me, but I took a class in college, um, where we read a lot of memoirs coming out of the Middle East, and we studied a concept called “fitna,” which means, like, sexual chaos.

Emily: OK.

Sally: And so there’s this idea coming out a lot of Arabic countries that there is, like, the force of sexual chaos, like, in the world and, like, women are more susceptible to it than men because men are more logical and women are more illogical and emotional --

Emily: Right.

Sally: So, like, men are better able to control themselves and therefore are responsible for policing women and policing their bodies and policing their sexual behaviors in order to control the sexual chaos that will then affect society.

Emily: Yeah, this scene is a great example --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of how men are real put-together on the sexuality front. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, it’s what my professor talked about all the time. She’s like, “Sure.”

Emily: Sure, Jan.

Sally: This professor is such an icon. One time, we were talking about Rocky Horror, and she just stood up and did the Time Warp in the middle of class.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: She was so fucking awesome.

Emily: (sigh) I wish I had good professors. I had, like, three good professors.

Sally: Yeah. This is also the class where -- Veronica and I took this class -- my friend Veronica -
- and we -- she did a report on, um, birth control --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Across the world, and she said “pull-out method” in the middle of class --

Emily: Oh my ...

Sally: And she got interrupted to say -- I think, it -- our professor was like, “It’s withdrawal. It’s called the withdrawal method. Please be academic.” (laugh)

Emily: The withdrawal method?!

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Literally never in my life have I heard --

Sally: I think it was withdrawal.

Emily: I don’t -- no, I hate it.

Sally: So funny. Veronica was so embarrassed. (laugh) OK, anyway. Back on the subject of --

Emily: Poor Veronica.

Sally: Sexual chaos. Um, yeah, and so you have -- that’s what’s frustrating about scenes about --
in Wheel of Time, in a culture where, like, bodies are covered up --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Is that the responsibility then falls on women -- and admittedly, like, a lot of our boys are,
like, also concerned with, like, being properly clothed around women, so --

Emily: Yeah, we actually have, like, an extended sequence later in the series where Rand is
being dressed by --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, his abuser, like, to be sexually appealing, and that’s super uncomfortable for him,
like --

Sally: Rand?

Emily: No, Mat.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Did I say Rand?

Sally: Yeah, you did, and I was like, "What?"

Emily: God, sorry, no, no. I mean, Rand is dressed by a woman earlier in this book --

Sally: I know.

Emily: And that's also super uncomfortable for him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But for different reasons.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But -- less to do, uh, with sex and body.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But yeah, that's, um, troubling. Something to think about.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I guess. Anyway, back to chronological order of this book --

Sally: Yeah, sorry.

Emily: No, I don't -- I just wanted to talk about the Lanfear shirt scene because it's, like --

Sally: (sigh)

Emily: How will I ever forget it, you know?

Sally: And it's also so weird because Rand wakes up -- or he's not even asleep --

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: He's like, "What the hell? There's Selene."

Emily: I could've -- I could've reached into the book and slapped his --

Sally: Yeah. He's -- (laugh)

Emily: Goddamn stupid head --

Sally: And she's -- (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "She's just rummaging in my saddlebags, do you need something?" She's like, "Oh, yeah, brush for my dress," and he's like, "That sounds legit, pretty woman says."

Sally: Well -- well, no, she's like -- (laugh) Yeah, no, but really, she's like, "Oh, my dress is getting dirty, so, like, if I could just have one of your shirts to wear, I could brush mine out," and I'm like, "That's not like an OK thing to ask someone you just met."

Emily: "Hey, stranger. Could I wear your clothes for a minute?"

Sally: Just --

Emily: "While I disrobe?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Could I have your clothes on my naked-ass --"

Sally: Yeah, "Could I have your clothes on my naked body?"

Emily: "I'm not wearing underwear because I'm Like That."

Sally: "I'm not wearing underwear because I'm Lanfear."

Emily: Yeah, Lanfear -- mm -- well.

Sally: Maybe. Who knows?

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: We could -- we should have a whole episode --

Emily: What if she was wearing granny panties?

Sally: That's fine.

Emily: I know, that'd be great.

Sally: That'd be awesome.

Emily: And, like, then -- because she's, like, you know, this iconoclast of sexual energy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We'd have to be forced to realize how sexy granny panties are. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'm really confused -- (laugh) this is something I'm constantly confused about in fantasy, is just the entire underwear front.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What's the situation? Will someone explain it to me? Sarah, I know you know.

Sally: Yeah. Sarah, what are --

Emily: Tell me what's going on.

Sally: You putting your Wheel of Time people in in their underwears?

Emily: Boxers or briefs?

Sally: Will you do a Wheel of Time lingerie line? I would die.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: What is happening, lingerie-side, in --

Emily: But, like, what are shirtsleeves? Help.

Sally: I thought shirtsleeves was just, like, your T-shirt.

Emily: I know, but sometimes the way they describe it doesn't --

Sally: It's like --

Emily: Make sense to me.

Sally: When you have a little shirt on, and then you have, like, an overshirt on --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And then you have, like, a jacket.

Emily: Is everyone just going around, like --

Sally: In Hanes white tees, baby, yeah.

Emily: No, I -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's Hanes white tees.

Emily: Is everyone just going commando? And if that is the case, then why isn't everyone super diseased?

Sally: Or chafed.

Emily: Yeah. Is what I want to know.

Sally: Bigger question.

Emily: What do women do during their periods? I just have a lot --

Sally: They have to have some type of underwear sich so that they can do -- so they can have some type of, like, menstrual product.

Emily: Can you imagine if the women in Wheel of Time were just, like, free bleeding everywhere?

Sally: That is literally my nightmare.

Emily: I know, like, it's a nightmare, but also, like, what a stance for Robert Jordan to take, y'know? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Once again, we come up against this incredible erasure of menstruation from society. We have, like, a bajillion female point of view characters, and you wanna tell me --

Emily: Yeah. Robert Jordan --

Sally: Nobody's bleeding throughout this?

Emily: Crushes the glass ceiling by mentioning menstruation, what, twice?

Sally: Stupid.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Idiot. At least it's not, like, George R.R. Martin, who calls it, like, her moon blood or whatever the fuck he calls it --

Emily: (laugh) Her what now?!

Sally: I might've made that up, but I feel like it happens -- like, her moon blood.

Emily: Her moon blood?! (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, something crazy. (laugh)

Emily: Catch me telling you when my next moon blood is.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Catch me putting up a calendar to track my moon blood.

Sally: (laugh) We're gonna sell the official EHR moon blood calendar -- (laugh) for you to track your period.

Emily: (laugh) I'm gonna choke.

Sally: I have to Google this, I don't know if --

Emily: This is also the title of this episode.

Sally: (laugh) Moon blood calendar.

Emily: And everyone will be like, "Oh, it's something deep," because, you know, Selene is like - is like moon some stuff, and she's white like the moon, blah blah blah blah --

Sally: No, I don't want to Google "moon blood Wheel of Time," I wanted to Google "moon blood Game of Thrones." (sigh) Moon blood.

Emily: This is breaking news. Coming at you live from EHR headquarters, Sally Googles Game of Thrones. (laugh)

Sally: "Flowering." Gross.

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: Another term I hate.

Emily: I hate that. He means that for, like --

Sally: "Menstruation. The red flower is blooming --"

Emily: Oh ...

Sally: "Or a woman having her blood." Maybe I made up moon blood. Or maybe it's 'cause I drank, like, a moon tea. (sigh) Son of a bitch. I swear --

Emily: I mean, it does sound very George R.R. Martin --

Sally: I swear it happened. Dany and her moon blood.

Emily: (gagging noise) The adventures of Dany and her animal sidekick, Moon Blood.

Sally: (laugh) It's her warrior cat.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'm gonna die.

Sally: Ew, gross. No, I don't wanna end up on this Reddit. I've been -- oh, here's a Reddit: "I've been calling my girlfriend's monthly visits her moon blood."

Emily: What the fuck?

Sally: Maybe George R.R. Martin got it from Reddit. Maybe I got it from Reddit. Anyway, we're gonna sell the EHR official moon blood tracker.

Emily: No, wait, I wanna go back to this Reddit user who just proclaimed to the whole wide world that he calls his girlfriend's period her (simultaneously with Sally) "moon blood."

Sally: Yeah, and then he's like, "My girlfriend loves it. We should all start using it." And it was like --

Emily: How do people like that have ... love?

Sally: (snort)

Emily: (laugh) In their lives?

Sally: How do people like that -- yeah, it's like, damn.

Emily: What happened?

Sally: So many good people out there can't get a bae. Then moon blood over here --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Warrior cat fedora man has a girlfriend -- or, allegedly.

Emily: Yeah. Probably made it up. "She loves it." (laugh) She's lying to you.

Sally: Yeah. She's lying to you, boy.

Emily: OK, we need to move on. Back -- away -- OK, we're -- we're backtracking from --

Sally: We're gonna go back from moon blood to periods to women to clothing to fitna to Lanfear in Rand's shirt inexplicably.

Emily: Yeah, and then we're gonna go back from that to the actual beginning --

Sally: Kay --

Emily: Of the chapters that we read.

Sally: OK. We did it! We did it. Rewind the Wheel of Time.

Emily: Counterclock -- do you think the Wheel of Time turns clockwise or counterclockwise?

Sally: Depends. Northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere of this planet?

Emily: Jesus. I guess it has to be the northern --

Sally: We all know time runs backwards in Australia.

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: (laugh) It would have to be -- does it stretch hemispheres? Does it sit on the equator?

Emily: Well -- OK, so it gets colder the farther north you go, so you'd think that would be the northern hemisphere.

Sally: Yeah. That's fair. That's totally valid.

Emily: Yeah, plus it's, you know, Westernized, so has to be --

Sally: It's Europe, basically, I think.

Emily: Yeah. Um, plus there's, like, a serious lack of tropical rainforests. I want fantasy set in tropical rainforests. Like, South America. And just, like, deal with that, y'know?

Sally: Um, today I was standing in our rainforest exhibit, watching one of our birds fly, and it's called the violaceous turaco --

Emily: The what now?

Sally: And he's beautiful. He has arthritis. He's got little birdy arthritis. So he has to take his arthritis gel cap every morning. But the keepers are like, "He doesn't let that shit stop him. He pops that gel cap like a champion, and then he is off."

Emily: Again, you're not helping my omnipresent bird worry.

Sally: He's fine, though! He takes his little arthritis gel cap, and then he's like, "Zoom, zoom, zip, zip. I'm in a free flight zone." Flips off the people. Probably poops on people. It's great.

Emily: Probably does.

Sally: We're gonna stay on topic so that we stop getting reviews that we don't stay on topic. (laugh)

Emily: I don't care about those reviews. (laugh) I think they're hilarious.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, OK, so Egwene and Nynaeve on the boat. The ship. Is it the boat? 'Cause it's on the river? Or a ship?

Sally: I think it is a boat.

Emily: OK, I'm gonna call it a boat.

Sally: A vessel.

Emily: It's a boat, and they're nearing Tar Valon, and Nynaeve is, as usual, boat-sick --

Sally: Puking, yeah.

Emily: Yeah. I mean -- yeah, this is a first of many Nynaeve-puking-on-a-boat scenes that we get.

Sally: No wonder she's so mad all the time.

Emily: I know, right?

Sally: They keep putting her on boats.

Emily: Yeah. She's just constantly, constantly seasick. She's like, "I'm never getting on a boat again," and I, like, count on my fingers the amount of times Nynaeve ends up back on a boat, and I'm like, "Bitch -- you wish."

Sally: You thought.

Emily: Yeah, you thought. Fate conspired against you, though. Anyway, um, they have a little chat about Egwene's dreams. She's still having them. Um, and no one's giving her any clear answers on what the fuck's going on, and she keeps seeing Ba'alzamon in them, and he's like, "Fuck you," and she's like, "Fuck YOU, I'm the young pope."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "What the hell?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You condescend to ME?"

Sally: Yeah. "Me, no less?"

Emily: "To me, no less?!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "You're gonna be fried to a crisp in two books. Look at me, I'm the young pope."

Sally: In two books? When does Ba'alzamon --

Emily: Two -- OK, Ba'alzamon dies at the end of book three.

Sally: Right. Right right right.

Emily: But then he's reincarnated later in the series because Robert Jordan can't let his dumb villains go.

Sally: Yeah. Can't keep a bad bitch down.

Emily: So annoying.

Sally: Ishamael, 2018.

Emily: (laugh) Hashtag.

Sally: (laugh) Hashtag Can't Keep a Bad Bitch Down.

Emily: Ishamael, 2018. We should sell shirts.

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, we -- our next thing is gonna be EHR merch.

Emily: No.

Sally: Yeah, I'll make it with my bare hands. It'll be, like -- it'll be Hanes white tees, baby!

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: And, like, iron-on appliques and/or glitter pens.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: You get to pick.

Emily: OK. Um --

Sally: Not you. The listener.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: You don't have any input.

Emily: Yeah, obviously. No --

Sally: You have removed your stock in EHR --

Emily: Oh, have I?

Sally: Inc. -- yeah, through your --

Emily: OK.

Sally: Lack of interest.

Emily: My general apathy? (laugh)

Sally: For your general apathy, you've been kicked off the board.

Emily: That's how I feel about life in general. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) You've been voted off.

Emily: God was like, "For your general apathy, you've been voted off the island."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Enjoy your meaningless life." (laugh) OK. Gotta be less emo. We're not even in a Rand chapter yet. OK, so --

Sally: He just gets in your soul.

Emily: I know, he really does.

Sally: Just injects his evil.

Emily: Plus I was just reading book four Rand, and I was like, "Ugh."

Sally: OK, at the beginning of this chapter, Nynaeve is puking on a boat and then Egwene's like, "Bad dream! Ah!" And then Siuan comes in.

Emily: Siuan's like, "Ha, I'm a walking bad dream. Here I am, to teach you how to channel --"

Sally: (laugh) "I'm a nightmare dressed like a daydream." No, don't say that, Taylor Swift's gonna sue us.

Emily: What?

Sally: Taylor Swift tried to, like, copyright Shake It -- like, something.

Emily: Well, not that one.

Sally: No, like, a word. Yeah, she's gonna sue us. Ahh!

Emily: OK.

Sally: I'm gonna get sued by Taylor Swift.

Emily: Well, then we'd die. Um. Um, yeah, so Sivan just tries to teach them how to channel, um, to mixed results. Egwene does fine, Nynaeve, of course, has to be thrown around a little bit before she'll start cooperating, which has to do -- which, to me, like, just enforces the block -- are you OK?

Sally: My -- yeah, it just helps --

Emily: Headache?

Sally: If I close my eyes.

Emily: Ah, God. Sorry.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, Nynaeve's block is sort of enforced in this chapter, like, the block she's about to, y'know, have -- be an active part of her channeling, which is that she can't channel unless she's angry, and I don't wanna, like, blame Sivan for that, because obviously it's, like, an inset of, um -- God, I can't fucking talk -- it's an inherent set of skills that, like, Nynaeve has just sort of cultivated along with learning how to channel, but then it doesn't help that you have Sivan coming in here being like, "I know that you have to be angry to channel, and I'm -- so I'm just gonna make you angry so you can channel."

Sally: Yeah, there's, like -- obviously a lot of different forms of mentorship --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And, like, later there are people, like -- Nynaeve has -- because, like -- the Aes Sedai ladies have, like, a variety of mentors, I don't think that any particular one of them has, like, one lady, but -- like, Nynaeve will have, like, mentor figures later who try to help her come over that block, which is, like, a more productive form of membership, like, helping you grow and expand past your crutches, whereas, like, Sivan comes in and is, like, just makes her, like, reinforces her crutch as, like, a weird way to get her to move forward, which is very strange.

Emily: Yeah, it's not a very wholesome scene.

Sally: It's very --

Emily: It's just kind of troubling.

Sally: Yeah. Well, and it's also like -- we, we talk a big game for Sivan Sanche on this podcast, but she's, like, got her -- her faults. She's a fairly abusive character.

Emily: Oh, yeah, no, she's totally, um, um -- and I mean, it doesn't -- this -- as with much, um, bad behavior, this explains her but doesn't excuse her: she herself was used at a very young age and was kind of forced into these really hard positions --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At a really young age, so in her mind, y'know, young women are capable of doing whatever, and you can set them any task, and they do it. Um, and they have to do it. But that's not a great stance to take. Egwene and Elayne, especially, are, what? Sixteen and eighteen?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- and they're being asked to go hunt down literal serial killers? It's just, like, yeah, not a great vibe going on.

Sally: Yeah, it's like -- the -- a lot of people who have, like, hard lives --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Offer up, like, you know, "I don't have any sympathy for you because, like, I did -- like, I didn't have anybody to, like, cuddle me or whatever --"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Kiss me on the forehead," and it's like, well, I don't think you should spoil anyone, Elayne, even in particular, anymore than they are already spoiled, but also, Egwene is sixteen.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Please don't --

Emily: And Egwene just came out of a really abusive situation when she gets set to hunt the Black Ajah --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's really weird.

Sally: Like, Egwene is -- yeah. It -- so it's just kind of like, Siuan, I don't -- it's one of those instances -- like, Wheel of Time kind of slips out of this particular fantasy trope because a lot of the characters are older, like --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Rand and Mat and Perrin are, like, what, nineteen and 20?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which is more into adulthood, and Nynaeve's, like, 25 or 27 or whatever --

Emily: God, Nynaeve's my age.

Sally: Uggghh, I don't wanna talk about that, that's really scary.

Emily: Ew. Oof.

Sally: Do you have to get angry in order to channel?

Emily: No. I don't get angry.

Sally: That's my secret? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I'm never angry.

Sally: Um --

Emily: (laugh) I'm never anything. Just constant, unyielding apathy.

Sally: Stop. (laugh) That's not true! Maybe it is, I don't know.

Emily: Yeah, you don't know me.

Sally: Maybe I should just stop trying to project emotions onto you.

Emily: (snort)

Sally: Um, but fantasy has a chronic -- like, fantasy in particular has a chronic problem of, like, pushing garbage onto children too young to handle it --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Which is like, I don't know what in our society has led us to this particular cultural moment in which so -- like, we don't let children be children --

Emily: Right.

Sally: But whatever. Um. (laugh) Um, but Siuan is, like, particularly bad about that. Like, even Moiraine, at points, will be like, "These are babies."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Maybe I should step in and give them a rest."

Emily: It's just troubling because the only character who you really get defending the girls in -- and, like, calling Siuan out for doing something that's really bad in this instance -- is Gawyn?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like -- I just don't, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whenever Gawyn speaks, I just stop caring --

Sally: (laugh) Breathing.

Emily: Or -- yeah, I mean, I leave the planet --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Briefly. So that's really frustrating, 'cause, like, if more characters -- I would really love it if Egwene, later in the series, could be like, "Hey, what you did was fucked up." Like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Especially because Sivan then becomes her mentor in a more, um, productive way.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In terms of, like, Amyrlin mentorship. Which she does a lot better than whatever her brand of mentorship is here.

Sally: Yeah. Well, and it's like -- I also wish that -- like, yeah, I never wanna be on Gawyn's side, I remember that being so frustrating --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, Gawyn's right, and I hate it.

Emily: He's just so damn paternalistic about it.

Sally: Yeah. I know. And if he was, like, right in a less obnoxious way, I'd be --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, good for you, Gawyn, but he's right in a like, "You have no right to send my girlfriend-person and my sister and also Nynaeve I guess off on this adventure." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um, but I also -- like, there are a lot of, like, parent figures -- like, I wish that, like, Thom would go off on Sivan about it, or, like --

Emily: Do Thom and Sivan even ever interact?

Sally: I don't think so. I think they just pass like ships in the night, like --

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: I feel like it would be too much energy for the universe. (laugh)

Emily: Can you fucking imagine, though?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, like, crazy aunt and crazy uncle collide.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: God.

Sally: Wild. (laugh) It'd be, like, too much. That is actually Tarmon Gai'don.

Emily: Especially because their particular mentees are Egwene and Mat --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And just, like, Mat and Egwene would be like, in the background, eating popcorn --

Sally: Yeah. Lit.

Emily: Like, fucking delighted.

Sally: Mat -- yeah. Hell yeah.

Emily: Taking bets.

Sally: (laugh) So anyway, yeah, I wish that, like, Thom or, I dunno, Rhuarc or somebody --

Emily: Rhuarc! God! (inaudible)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Can you imagine?!

Sally: Or one of the Wise ladies. All of the Wise Ones.

Emily: (sigh) Let's all --

Sally: I love the Wise Ones.

Emily: Let's all give credit where credit's due, the reason Egwene is the young pope and turned out as great as she did is because of the Wise Ones.

Sally: Yeah. The Wise Ones are, I think -- the Wise Ones remind me a lot of my thesis mentor. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, yeah. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Who was, like, so good in so many ways, but she did, like, not accept a single ounce of my bullshit, of which I have much. So.

Emily: Well, a great thing the, uh, Wise Ones do is, uh, engage in tough love mentorship without actually causing any physical --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or psychological harm.

Sally: It's like, "Go run laps."

Emily: Yeah, they're like --

Sally: "Go do suicides." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, but, like, "Go do this nonsense task --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That might drive you a little crazy but ultimately isn't hurting you at all."

Sally: Mm-mm.

Emily: "It's just forcing you to think about what you've done." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It's basically like, "Go count grains of sand."

Emily: Whereas Siuan's like, "I'm gonna threaten you with paddling."

Sally: Yeah. I'm gonna ...

Emily: And I'm like, "Cool."

Sally: She's -- in this chapter, she literally, like, shoves bad-tasting plants down Nynaeve's throat.

Emily: Yeah, gross.

Sally: And, like, holds her breath so she has to swallow them, like --

Emily: Which, like, Nynaeve herself is guilty of doing --

Sally: Yeah. So --

Emily: To people, but it's also --

Sally: And it's like -- it's like a made-real version of "taste of your own medicine." But.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, made literal, but it's, like, not great. Anyway.

Emily: And it's just troubling, sometimes, 'cause these scenes are meant to be funny to us.

Sally: Yeah. And they're, like, not. Like, I was reading -- even when -- the first time I read this, I was like, "Ugh."

Emily: I know, I was like, OK, I don't care.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, there are scenes when, uh -- later in the series, I think the scenes where Nynaeve is being mentored by -- what's her name? The delightful girl in Salidar?

Sally: Yeah. I know who you're talking about.

Emily: Who, like, also is raised to Accepted along with -- er, to Aes Sedai along with the rest of them? But she's, like, trying to help Nynaeve get over her block, and those scenes are really funny.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, those are cute.

Sally: Yeah. Where she, like, has Nynaeve--

Emily: In a weird way. 'Cause they're just, like, throwing water at each other.

Sally: Do a bunch of weird shit. Yeah. (laugh) She's really funny, yeah.

Emily: Theodrin, I think her name is.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I thought -- or is Theodrin the one that, like, hates them?

Emily: No, Theodrin's the nice one.

Sally: OK.

Emily: The mean one starts with an "F." I can't remember what her name is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it starts with an “F.” OK. Anyway, then they, uh, get to Tar Valon. The Aes Sedai immediately ditch them, which is --

Sally: Which is also iconic. (laugh)

Emily: Hysterical.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they’re like, “OK,” get their bags and go into the city and, like, gape around like a bunch of tourists, and then Sheriam is like, “Hello, here I am to escort you to the White Tower.”

Sally: How does she find them?

Emily: I don’t fucking know.

Sally: I’m -- Aes Sedai powers?

Emily: Sivan’s like, “They’re gonna be back by the boat. They’re two dipshit-looking motherfuckers.” (laugh)

Sally: Sheriam’s like, “Got it.”

Emily: Sivan’s like, “They’re the ones who’ve never seen a building before. Apparently.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) “Wow.”

Sally: “Ooh! Aah!”

Emily: “So tall! So pretty!”

Sally: Yeah. They’re me, basically.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, they’re all of us.

Sally: Not you.

Emily: Yes, me.

Sally: Not impressed by big cities, this one.

Emily: I was when I was little, the first time I saw big cities.

Sally: (laugh) Anyway --

Emily: I was exposed to New York at too young of an age. OK. Um. And that’s basically it for them, I think ...

Sally: Yeah. Sheriam has some, like, boring monologue about how hard life as a novice is gonna be for Egwene --

Emily: Yeah, she's like, "Ah, novice is hard, but it's even harder to be an Accepted --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "For a little while." And Nynaeve's like, "Cool, great. Love this."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and delightfully, we move on to a Rand chapter -- or should I say, not delightfully.

Sally: Yeah, we move on to the -- oh my God, I was looking up -- after I read this scene and I was like, cackling hysterically on our living room floor --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: I was looking at TV Tropes dot com about, like, tropes about, like, women wearing men's shirts, and their names are so funny. It's like, "Sexy Shirt Switch."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: And, like, "Sex Clothes." (laugh) And, like, it was hilarious.

Emily: That's so true, though.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The only time you ever see a woman wearing a man's shirt is, like, imme--is like, post -- post-coital --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When she's, y'know, wandering around being domestic with her crazy hair going down her back.

Sally: Yeah, her sex hair.

Emily: Yeah, her sex hair, and somehow, strategically, the shirt always hides the important bits, but --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gives us lots of leg. Ugh. Boring.

Sally: OK, moving on from Lanfear -- (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: If only we could.

Emily: Except we can't. Anyway, Rand, as usual, is kept awake by indecision --

Sally: (snort)

Emily: He's like -- he just is. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) That was just a really funny sentence.

Emily: He's all, "I don't know what I'm doing, I'll fuck it up," and we're all like, "Yeah. Agreed."

Sally: "You're not wrong."

Emily: "Yeah. As usual. You're a fuck-up. God bless." Um, he's like, "Ah, we should move on 'cause we're not getting anything -- like, the Trollocs aren't coming this way, who fucking knows -- it's been days."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, but he's also like, "But every time Selene looks at me, I just forget to breathe or think, and, um -- because, I don't know, my dick controls me, because I'm a stupid asshole."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and that's when he wakes up and sees Selene rummaging in his saddlebags and, for some reason, doesn't find that suspicious at all. Because none of Selene's behavior is suspicious to him. Oh my God. I just, like, can't even comprehend. What's it like?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What's it like, being that --

Sally: Obtuse?

Emily: Driven.

Sally: Driven --

Emily: By sex.

Sally: By the dick.

Emily: Yeah. Dunno. Um, so then they have a fun conversation about her dress and nakedness -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, she basically just, like, whips her dress off in front of him --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And she's like, "Would you -- would you help me with these buttons?"

Emily: Yeah, she's like, "You should help me with the buttons," and he's like, "Um, I'd rather not."

Sally: "We're not engaged," is what he says, 'cause he's a fucking loser. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Remember when he and Aviendha fuck, and he's like --

Sally: "I guess we have to get married." (laugh)

Emily: "I guess we have to get married now."

Sally: She's like, "Beg pardon?"

Emily: She's like, "I'd rather not --"

Sally: Yeah, good for you, Aviendha.

Emily: "Attach myself legally to you."

Sally: Good choice.

Emily: (laugh) Um. "You can be my baby daddy, but --- mm. Hmm. Rather not."

Sally: (snort)

Emily: Um. I forgot where I was going with that. Uh, then -- y'know, the whole time Lanfear is like, "And you should go get the Horn 'cause you'll be powerful and legendary and I just love legendary men, I just want to give them all blowjobs," and I'm like, "Oh my God. It's like ..."

Sally: I know. She's literally insufferable.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: Like, reading her causes me pain.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In my heart. In my eyes.

Emily: The -- the signature of the femme fatale is that it's a woman who was clearly written by a man.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which -- uh, credit to Robert Jordan, he does have a lot of really well-rounded and intriguing female characters who don't necessarily read like they were written by a man. They just read like characters in this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Same kind of weird, gender-oriented series. But Lanfear very much reads like a straight man --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Trying to appeal to straight men.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: (sigh) It's like how video game avatars are constructed.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Big titties.

Emily: Big titties -- big --

Sally: Tiny waists.

Emily: Yep. Just weird proportions all around.

Sally: Mmmmm.

Emily: And then Hurin comes bounding up the hill and is like, "Guys, I saw a fire."

Sally: "Guys, I saw a fire!"

Emily: (laugh) "Oh, Lord Jesus, there's a fire."

Sally: "Oh Lord Jesus, there's a BIG fire."

Emily: He's like, "Big fire, guys," and they're like, "OK, cool." Um, and Rand --

Sally: OK, but imagine being Hurin and walking up and there's Rand, back turned to Lanfear in Rand's shirt. What would you do?

Emily: Yeah, and then Loial wakes up immediately and sees -- (laugh) the exact same scene --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is like, "What the shit?"

Sally: "What the hell?" Loial has my favorite line of all time in this chapter. We'll get to it.

Emily: Oh, OK. Great.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Looking forward to it.

Sally: It's really funny. Loial is just so fed up at this point, and I want him to just be free. (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, they're like, "It's the Horn!" and Rand's like, "Great, we can follow them," which is like, fucking fantastic --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, you -- you funky little lesbian --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Do that. (laugh) That sounds like a great plan. And Lanfear's like, "That's not very honorable. I need to touch the horn."

Sally: (whisper) "Touch it."

Emily: "We all need to touch it."

Sally: (whisper) "We need to touch it."

Emily: Are horns also phallic? Do you think?

Sally: (sigh)

Emily: I mean, cause you blow them. (laugh)

Sally: I -- ugh. Probably. I feel like most things are phallic.

Emily: Yeah, that's true. I was thinking earlier about how it's interesting that it's the White Tower, which is an inherently --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Phallic symbol. And, like, just wondering about that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Curious. It should've been a system of caverns instead.

Sally: Yeah. It should've been an inverted pyramid. According to an Uber driver I had once in Washington, D.C., the inverted pyramid is the vagina.

Emily: Yeah, I've seen the Davinci Code too.

(pause)

Sally: He was really nice.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: You didn't have to put him on blast like that. He was a really nice guy, and we had a lovely conversation about Washington, D.C.

Emily: I'm sorry. I apologize to the cab driver. That is true.

Sally: He was an Uber driver.

Emily: Uber driver. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Didn't need to be so mean to him. Maybe he did see the Davinci Code. And maybe he thought it was really interesting, and he shared it with his nice passengers.

Emily: I just realized that, actually, the -- Tar Valon -- the island is actually a vagina.

Sally: The island is one hundred percent a vagina.

Emily: Yeah, I dunno why I, like, got --

Sally: But there's also a tower in it, so then is it -- is -- that just, like, negate gender? I don't understand.

Emily: Or is it like, y'know, this actual really patriarchal, like --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Really, you know, power-driven society --

Sally: Yeah. And power is inherently patriarchal.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So. Anyway, it's a penis on a vagina island.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Tar Vagina. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Fuck me. OK, long story --

Sally: That's what they say on the penis too. The vagina island. "Hey!" It's their greeting. "Hey, Tom, fuck me!" "Oh, hey, Bob, fuck ye!" Fuck ye? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Fuck ye.

Sally: "Fuck ye!" Not fuck you, fuck ye, that's the response.

Emily: "Fuck me." "Fuck YE."

Sally: Yeah, it's like, "How's the kids?"

Emily: "Fuck THEE."

Sally: (laugh) "Fuck thou." (laugh)

Emily: What if I die right here and now? Um -- (laugh) to cut a really long story short, Selene successfully convinces Rand, with Loial in tow, to go after the Horn. So they creep down the hill, um, and Rand, sort of as a natural instinct, embraces the void, and so this -- all this next part is sort of influenced by him being in this weird zen place, which is slowly becoming a little bit of an unsafe place because of saidin.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and that's signalled to us, uh, multiple times by Rand thinking to himself, kind of outside his mind, kind of, like, "This is stupid-crazy." Which it is.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, this is the most reckless bullshit I've ever seen --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm mad it worked.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I think they should've died here. (laugh)

Sally: At least Rand.

Emily: Not Loial. Yeah, Rand should've died here.

Sally: Right?

Emily: And here's my thesis explaining why.

Sally: It's crazy -- it is some batshit --

Emily: Not a single person woke up to the six-and-a-half foot tall ginger man in their camp?

Sally: Probably just, like, stomping through. We know Rand isn't quiet.

Emily: I mean, he's like, "Yeah, I learned from Tam," who is very quiet, and I'm like, yes, I believe that about Tam, but I have yet to see any woodcraft skills from you, Rand Al'Thor.

Sally: Yeah, and it's just like, at some point, being six-foot-eleven or however the fuck tall he is, you're just -- you've got a heavy step and a lot of body.

Emily: Yeah, the only one of the boys that I can -- OK, I can believe Perrin moves quietly after his whole wolf magic thing -- but, like, Mat is a slight boy.

Sally: Mat is a reasonably sized man --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Who can move through the forest quietly.

Emily: Yeah. Rand, I'm like --

Sally: Perrin is pure shoulders. Rand is pure vert.

Emily: I just had a -- a really, um, vivid mental image of Perrin trying to walk through two trees and getting stuck -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And just sort of backing up and reapproaching it --

Sally: Yeah. Like, from the side. I imagine Perrin is shaped like Johnny Bravo.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, really wide and then he just gets really small at the bottom. (laugh)

Emily: Just -- a Dorito.

Sally: An exaggerated --

Emily: Whereas I imagine Rand is shaped like Slenderman.

Sally: (laugh) Oh, God. Johnny Bravo and Slenderman and --

Emily: A stork. (laugh) Canonically speaking.

Sally: The stork from -- uh, is it Robin Hood that has the stork figure?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: With the -- the -- the Disney Robin Hood.

Emily: OK, I do picture Mat as the Disney Robin Hood, I want to retract my earlier statement.

Sally: The fox? No, I like the stork in Robin Hood.

Emily: OK.

Sally: I'm gonna show you a photo.

Emily: No, I know who it is.

Sally: OK, he can be the fox.

Emily: He can be either. He has bird --

Sally: Talmanes can be his Little John.

Emily: He has bird and fox symbolism. Mat, flighty little trickster god.

Sally: Flighty little motherfucker.

Emily: OK.

Sally: So Rand inexplicably accomplishes the task at hand.

Emily: Steals the Horn -- well, he's like, "Loial -- Loial, pick this up," and Loial's like, "OK, copy that."

Sally: Loial's like 40 feet behind him, like --

Emily: Loial's like, "I'm already gone."

Sally: Peeking out from behind a tree.

Emily: Loial's like, "What's he doing here?"

Sally: "What the fuck are you doing?"

Emily: "What's happening? This isn't a cartoon."

Sally: No.

Emily: "You can't tiptoe, and it just does that little --"

Sally: (taps on the table) Can you hear that on our glass table?

Emily: Yeah, they can.

Sally: I'm really sorry if you can.

Emily: Um, yeah, that was unpleasant. Sonically unpleasant. Um, so then they get about ten feet away before everyone wakes up and is like, "After them!" and Rand kills a bunch of Trollocs, and then they run up the hill, which seems fake. Never run up a hill in my entire life. And then

they get back to Selene, and she's like, "God, gotta touch it," and Rand's like, "Yeah, let's all touch it," and then they crowd around and touch it, and then -- (laugh) they're like, "Cool." And they leave.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm not gonna deign Fain's point of view with a --

Sally: Yeah, but we have to read my favorite point -- my favorite line from Loial --

Emily: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry.

Sally: To date. Let me find it. Beep boo bee boo bee doo beep ... (this goes on) So Rand says, "I think I'm going mad," and Loial says, "Sometimes I do not understand half of what you say. If you must go mad, could it at least wait until we are back with the Lady Selene and Hurin?" (laugh) "Sometimes I do not understand half of what you say."

Emily: (laugh) Loial-- (inaudible)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I don't give a fuck."

Sally: "Rand --" That's basically --

Emily: "Can you keep it together for another five minutes?"

Sally: "Jesus Christ, Rand."

Emily: "Jesus."

Sally: Also, Loial is, like, full-out sprinting at this point.

Emily: Yeah, Loial's like, "Yeah, I'll run, the horse can carry the Horn of Valere, and I'll just run," and everyone's like --

Sally: Everyone's like --

Emily: "Great." And then -- yeah, the end of this chapter does -- I know you all were wondering -- recreate the iconic cover scene. Except Hurin's absent, and there's a Trolloc in the background.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, Larry's here for some reason.

Emily: And Lanfear's back in her dress.

Sally: Yeah I --

Emily: I imagine it's her dress and not Rand's shirt. Can you imagine if Rand's shirt --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Was like -- emphasize the titties.

Sally: Rand was like, "I just like to feel very pretty."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "I just like to feel sexy sometimes."

Emily: And I dunno how they got that -- oh, a lantern is what it's supposed to be.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Spotlighting it. Lanterns don't -- like, why is that -- the horizon is also white.

Sally: It's like this happened at three in the afternoon.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Maybe it did. For all we know.

Emily: I --

Sally: Maybe Trollocs are nocturnal.

Emily: Could be.

Sally: Or maybe they just have an -- an afternoon nappy time.

Emily: Except that would make me even more angry that Rand successfully snuck into the camp.

Sally: (laugh) We just have three p.m. nappy time.

Emily: Ah, don't we all?

Sally: Yeah, where's Hurin? I'm really sorry that you got excluded from the cover, my man.

Emily: He got edited out.

Sally: For -- clarity?

Emily: Space reasons?

Sally: Um.

Emily: Rule of three?

Sally: Oh. Three plus Trolloc.

Emily: Yeah, he's --

Sally: That's not the rule of three.

Emily: He's the exception.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He's Larry, he's always the exception.

Sally: Larry ...

Emily: Aw, Larry.

Sally: (singing) You ... are ... the only exception. That's a Paramore song.

Emily: I'm gonna die. Are they gonna sue us?

Sally: Um -- I hope not. Hope we don't get sued twice. That'd be -- that'd be -- hoo.

Emily: For the same episode.

Sally: That'd be rough. I don't have that much money.

Emily: Finally, "Tubthumping" is gonna come back to haunt us. (laugh) Chumbawamba's like --

Sally: Chumbawamba's gonna be like, "Wait."

Emily: "We heard you've been stealing our song."

Sally: Sorry, Chumbawamba.

Emily: I think it's public license.

Sally: Yeah, wasn't it a communist song anyway?

Emily: Yeah. Anyway.

Sally: Um, I also love -- the end of this chapter, they put -- so Mat's, kind of, two physical symbols -- we have the dagger --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And the Horn of Valere, which Mat will later blow in this chapt--in this book. And we have the Horn, inside it is the dagger, and it's all just locked away in a box. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, it's -- it's actually really interesting --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That this entire book is a quest for these very Mat symbols --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And these things that will all be very important to Mat's character. Like, both the dagger and the Horn of Valere are seen in Mat's aura by Min.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- it's just really funny.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it becomes especially infuriating that Mat doesn't have a point of view. It's like this really weird external quest for Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which actually kind of makes sense because then we get our first point of view from Mat in book three, and it's like, oh, finally, Mat does make sense. Like, he's finally a settled character.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In a really weird way. We'll talk about this more in book three, I guess.

Sally: Yeah, but I just love the idea that, like, evil is inside this mythic call that he didn't want --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: But it's all locked away in a box of -- as far away from him as he can get it.

Emily: Yeah. He'd love it.

Sally: Mat would be like, "Hell yeah, put my heart in a box."

Emily: Hell yeah.

Sally: "Throw it in the sea."

Emily: (laugh) Chucks it.

Sally: "YEET." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "This bitch empty! Yeet!"

Sally: (laugh) Throws it into the ocean. Yeah, that sounds about right.

Emily: Yeah. OK, anyway. Sorry for the chaos.

Sally: I'm not. Sexual chaos.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Bring it into your life this week.

Emily: Um -- embrace it.

Sally: But also granny panties. Welcome to the sexual chaos. (laugh) There's a lot of sexual chaos in granny panties.

Emily: There was a lot of sexual chaos in this episode in particular. We had the whole penis-vagina discussion, I'm sorry about that --

Sally: I'm not.

Emily: OK.

Sally: It's a penis on a vagina island.

Emily: I'm just very apologetic, and Sally is very unapologetic.

Sally: Only on this podcast.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In real life, it's very opposite.

Emily: That is true. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um ... what do we have, what do we have, what do we have ... next week, we've got a few more chapters. I think it's, uh, Rand and co. getting to Cairhien. I think by the end of the next segment, Selene will have ditched them again --

Sally: Good for us.

Emily: Without explanation. She basically leaves a "Dear John" letter and is like, "Goodbye." Is that a Mormon thing?

Sally: I thought "Dear John" is what you sent to military people when you broke up with them --

Emily: Ohh.

Sally: When they're on duty and you're at home.

Emily: It's also a Mormon thing.

Sally: For missions?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah. Probably they got it from the military.

Emily: I -- yeah.

Sally: Hate to burst your Mormon bubble.

Emily: No, I'm thrilled that they got it from the military. I would've been livid if it was a -- a purely Mormon thing.

Sally: (laugh) What's the song in "Sons of Provo" where they're, like, singing about being on a mission?

Emily: I can't remember.

Sally: Which one -- that one is really funny. (laugh)

Emily: They have a lot --

Sally: Spins on the coffee table. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, yeah. (laugh) They have a lot of really funny songs in "Sons of Provo."

Sally: "Dang. Fetch. Oh my heck." (laugh)

Emily: "Sons of Provo" is a cinematic masterpiece, and I encourage everyone to watch it.

Sally: It's really funny.

Emily: If you can find it.

Sally: It -- I only want you to watch it if you can watch it with Emily's mom, laid out on the couch, blanket pulled up to chin, cackling to herself.

Emily: I'm so mad you didn't get to see it with my sisters, who are similarly --

Sally: Yeah. I'll watch it again. I'll watch it again with all the Juchaus.

Emily: Yeah, Collins hasn't seen it.

Sally: Except for Chris, who hates it.

Emily: Oh, Chris.

Sally: And has never seen the end. Ah, the Juchaus are so funny.

Emily: Uh, housekeeping. Do we have anything? Not that I can think of.

Sally: Nope.

Emily: Nope? OK.

Sally: Please recommend us to a friend this week. That'd be super nice. If you have Wheel of Time listening, reading friends. Yep.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Fucking nailed that string of words.

Emily: And ... yeah, sign us off. Do you have one today?

Sally: Yeah, I do. I --

Emily: Oh.

Sally: The other day, I went to Gamestop to sell a game --

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: Which is completely out of my zeitgeist --

Emily: They -- you can sell games at Gamestop?

Sally: Yeah, you can, like, sell games back to Gamestop and you get, like, credit for it? Depending on, like, how valuable the game is and then you can --

Emily: Jesus, that just opened up a whole new world for me. I don't have any games, I just wanna go -- I just am super intrigued --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: By this bartering system that's taking place at Gamestop.

Sally: Yeah. Well, I went to sell back a Spiderman game for my brother, who had a baby last week, and he's like, "I want you to -- if you would please --" I did a lot of strange things for my brother last week --

Emily: You did.

Sally: Go to Arby's --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Sell this game --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, but I went to sell it to buy him the new Assassin's Creed.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: So I was like, "Whatever. This is totally cas." But I was -- they were like -- at one point, she's like, "Can I see your ID?" And I was like, "Oh, yeah, that's normal," and she's like, "OK, I need your signature on this," and I'm like, "OK, also pretty normal," and she's like -- finally, like, pulls out another piece of paper and a pad of ink and is like, "I need your thumbprint."

Emily: (gasp)

Sally: And I was like, "What the fuck?"

Emily: Why?

Sally: I dunno, but I panicked, so I gave it to her.

Emily: Why -- yeah.

Sally: Now I'm in the system, I guess. Big Brother's coming after me.

Emily: Yeah, don't commit any felonies.

Sally: And I was like, "Ian, what -- did they just -- did they just do this to me?" And he's like, "Oh, no, it's technically a pawn shop."

Emily: What?!

Sally: "They have to fingerprint you."

Emily: ... That makes sense.

Sally: Gamestop is a pawn shop. Anyway, it was really freaky, 'cause I was there, probably in this Aviary hoodie --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Being like, "Here's my thumbprint, Gamestop. I dunno what's happening. Why are you taking my identity? I just wanna sell Spiderman and buy Assassin's Creed for my brother. Who - - so he'll let me see the baby. I have to buy my way into his love."

Emily: Oh, God, that took a turn.

Sally: With my thumbprint.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I cut off my thumb for my nephew. That's the actual point of this story --

Emily: I'm just gonna stop here --

Sally: Goodbye! (laugh)