



Episode 42 - “**Urien on Sand**”

Release Date: November 18, 2018

Running Time: 47 Minutes

Emily: Ah, no, don't mention Crankdat.

Sally: In the Air by Crankdat featuring T-Pain.

Emily: No. I've heard enough about that single. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I love that song.

Emily: (sing-song) Uhhhh ... (normal voice) hopefully this sounds better. We're using a microphone, uh, hopefully correctly for the first time. We actually have two microphones because we have so much money from Patreon, but, uh, I can't figure out how to make them record at the same levels and we only have, like, an hour. I just checked my wrist that doesn't have a watch. We only have, like, an hour to record, so. I'll figure it out for next time.

Sally: Yeah, but now, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand: an ASMR podcast. (laugh)

Emily: (very close to the mic) Ollo.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I cannot do the ASMR thing. I can't. I refuse.

Sally: It's --

Emily: The McElroys went through that phase, and it was, like, painful for me.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I cannot listen to someone whispering in my ear anymore. Yeah, we do have to, like, lean forward. I don't know if I -- maybe I can switch it? No, I'm not gonna mess with it now.

Sally: That's OK.

Emily: I will not mess with it anymore.

Sally: The audio levels already look higher. Like, they're catching our voices better. So that's good.

Emily: Yeah, that's the goal, I hope. We'll find out. Let us know -- let me know if you have any feedback. (laugh)

Sally: Ha ha. Feedback. Get it?

Emily: Yeah. 'Cause it took --

Sally: It's an audio joke.

Emily: It took me a while to figure out that Tubthumping was, like, blasting people's eardrums, and it didn't -- like, it didn't occur to me until somebody complained, so yeah, you do need to give me feedback. I won't be mad, I promise. You can tweet me directly @EmilyJuchau. (laugh) Thank you. Have a nice day.

Sally: (laugh) OK. Um, this episode is coming out on November 19th. Is that Monday?

Emily: Yeah. (close to the mic) Becky's birthday.

Sally: Oh, so wish her a happy birthday to Emily's mom.

Emily: You can tweet me directly. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) She'll relay the message.

Emily: Mom!

Sally: Guess what all these -- Becky -- then you'd have to explain to her that you have a podcast.

Emily: Yeah, then I'd have to explain to her that I have a podcast, which I think she's peripherally aware of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, like, hasn't -- doesn't really know what a podcast is.

Sally: Becky's also pretty good at staying in her lane.

Emily: Yeah, she's pretty good at, like, um -- yeah, ignoring me when I'm like, "Don't listen to this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Cause I -- I say the fuck word a lot."

Sally: Mm-hmm. (mimicking Emily's mom) "Emily! Don't swear!"

Emily: Yeah, my mom says -- told me not to swear when I say "dang" or "heck." (laugh) So.

Sally: (laugh) Dang, fetch, oh my heck.

Emily: Everyone should watch Sons of Provo.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That's your Thanksgiving challenge this year. Find Sons of Provo. It's a Mormon film.

Sally: Yeah. But you can only watch if you watch it with Emily's mom, because it's the most --

Emily: Yeah, that's true.

Sally: Hilarious experience of all time.

Emily: She thinks it's so funny. OK, anyway.

Sally: OK, anyway. Getting down to business. A -- you are listening to this -- well, I hope you're listening on Monday -- but you're listening to this the week of November 19th, which, if you are in the United States of America, is the week of Thanksgiving. And Thanksgiving celebrates America's three great sins: colonialism, gluttony, and capitalism. But. (laugh)

Emily: (singing) Genocide.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. But it is also a time to reflect on the things for which you are grateful, and so we wanted to take a few minutes and tell you guys how grateful we are for you and for all the support that you have given us, particularly as we speak into this beautiful Yeti microphone.

Emily: Yeti Nano.

Sally: Oooh.

Emily: It's beautiful.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Retail price 99 dollars.

Sally: Dang!

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 99 dollars.

Emily: I could've got one that was, like, 160 dollars, but I was afraid of it.

Sally: Well, yeah, and also --

Emily: I was like, "I better start out small." (laugh) With the Nano.

Sally: Take the steps you're prepared to take, teens.

Emily: Um, one year ago, approximately, we were just starting talking about doing this podcast, and so I started messing around with Audacity, and so this is a fun time for me --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To remember how little I knew about Audacity and how little I still know. I basically just know, uh, the delete and the mute button. So. That's where we're at. Now I have a microphone. Thanks!

Sally: Now we have a microphone. Um, and like Emily said, it was about this time last year I must have been reading the Dragon Reborn, which as I've mentioned a hundred times, is the book that got me really into Wheel of Time, and therefore I spoke to Emily about it ad nauseum because I was so excited about everything happening on every page and our good friend and then-roommate Lee McIntyre was like, "Maybe you guys should just not talk about this but talk about it in a productive, um, format, and make a podcast."

Emily: (close to the mic) "Maybe you guys should stop interrupting my TV time."

Sally: Yeah, exactly. Was, I think, the subliminal messaging there. (laugh) Um. But we are forever grateful to her for her, um, not-so-gentle nudging into this experiment, so Lee, if you're listening, thank you. But. You know, it's that old boring story about how you never expected that anything would take off the way it did, and of course we wanted it to be successful, but we had never imagined that we would have met so many amazing people and that so many of you would be interested in joining in and tuning in to our silly conversations about the Wheel of Time and fairy tales and literary theory and the Raven Boys and whatever else we talk about every week --

Emily: My family.

Sally: Yeah, Emily's family.

Emily: Tolkien.

Sally: Tolkien. Our weird cat who's currently wearing a yellow corduroy vest.

Emily: (whisper) Oh my God.

Sally: And hating it. But we're really just so grateful and so happy that you guys are part of our friendly Wheel of Time digital neighborhood, and we just wanted to say thank you, and I wanted to say thank you particularly to the people who support us on Patreon because I know, as a person who is chronically impoverished (laugh) that, um, money is tight for a lot of people and so the fact that you give us any of your money, every month, is just an absolutely incredible thing that you do, and we're so grateful for your generosity and your support and so here is a list of our lovely patrons, and just know that this Thanksgiving, I will be sitting around my family's table telling everybody that I'm thankful for the 15 of you, and they will go, "Who are these people?" and I will say, "I love them more than you, family," so.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Thank you to Cambria. Thank you to Galen. Thank you to Matt. Thank you to Cindy. Thank you to Sarah. Thank you to Brie. Thank you to Stephanie. Thank you to Courtney. Thank you to Judith. Thank you to Ferg. Thank you to Chase. Thank you to Regina. Thank you to Jay. Thank you to Abigail. Thank you to Adrian. And, special shout-out, thank you to Joe on Instagram who donated his, um, Dragon Loves Public Transit money to our microphone fund instead of taking it for his public transit, which is a true sacrifice because New York City is not cheap. So, thank you, Joe.

Emily: Does he live in New York?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Damn, Joe.

Sally: Yeah. I know, I --

Emily: DAMN, JOE. I'm sorry.

Sally: An absolute unit. So. Thank you to all of you, um, just for being so wonderful and supporting us on Patreon. As you know, we have this beautiful new microphone and a microphone, um, on stand-by -- that's another audio joke, I think --

Emily: Stand-by?

Sally: Maybe.

Emily: Yeah, like -- yeah.

Sally: Um. My cat's trying to eat my computer. But this is just a long-winded way of saying thank you, and that we love you, and your money will continue to be put to good use keeping this podcast up and running every month, and we're gonna do a few other large projects in the future. I mentioned wanting to make a better website. Um. For you guys, so that's just a better resource for everybody and, y'know, I'm a big believer in transparency if you're giving us money, so, um, I will keep you updated whatever we use your money for. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out. OK. Long-winded as I am, I'm finally gonna bring this to an end. Just know that we love you and we are so grateful. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

[clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba plays]

Emily: Heeeey!

Sally: We're back!

Emily: We're back! Welcome to Everybody Hates Rand --

Sally: Go ahead.

Emily: No, you go --

Sally: Go ahead! (laugh)

Emily: Your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. We've been fighting over that phrase, apparently. I didn't know we were fighting about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Until last week. Anyway, I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger!

Emily: Um, here's your spoiler alert. (background noise) Oh, God, you demon --

Sally: He's got an empty Diet Coke bottle.

Emily: (distant) AUGH! My son!

Sally: (singing) Look at my son.

Emily: (singing in a falsetto) There is a castle on a cloud ...

Sally: (laugh) Look at him in his little vest. I'm gonna die. Guys, I'm gonna take a picture and put it on Twitter right now. Just so you know what we're looking at.

Emily: Recording EHR. Big mood. He hates us. (laugh)

Sally: Look at this photo. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: OK. Um, this is your requisite spoiler alert. As you guys know, if you've made it 42 episodes, wow, we play pretty fast and loose with the events of all books up until book 14, 'cause I have not read that one, and Emily does not want to spoil the, um, all the excitement of the Last Battle.

Emily: And also I can't remember.

Sally: That too.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: It's a lot. Fourteen is a lot of books.

Emily: It is. OK, the chapters we read this time are our last, kind of, two, uh, random chapters before we get into the main characters' points of view heading up to climax. So after this we're gonna get a really long Rand sequence and then kind of interspersed with some Egwene until everyone meets up at Falme. But first we have, um -- oh, God, I already forgot. What's the first chapter? Or did we just read the one chapter?

Sally: No, we read -- the first chapter is, like, a weird Perrin point of view when he's with Ingtar.

Emily: Oh! Right right right right right Yeah, so a Perrin point of view. Uh, they're just -- uh, they're wandering around the mountains. Perrin updates us on the progress of the search. The wolves informed him, uh, when Rand stole the Horn back from the Darkfriends, and they were like, "That's Shadow-killer." Which is, like, the most metal name I've ever heard --

Sally: I know.

Emily: And Rand --

Sally: Shadow-killer!

Emily: Doesn't deserve it.

Sally: I know. Give it to ME.

Emily: Yeah. (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Give it to Verin.

Sally: YEAH!! Maybe that's who the wolves are talking about this whole time. "Rand? Who's Rand?"

Emily: "Rand? We're talking about --"

Sally: "We're talking about that cool Aes Sedai lady."

Emily: "We're talking about that cool lady." Who tried to heal Mat once and was like, "Mmm."

Sally: "Mm. Too poison."

Emily: "Too poison. Can't do it." (laugh)

Sally: "Too poison. Too death." (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway. Ingtar's kinda like, "Hey, homie, uh, where -- what -- tell me again, what the wolves told you." And Perrin's like, "Here's what the wolves told me. *Shadow-killer* came into the Darkfriend camp and killed a bunch of Trollocs and then peaced out again, and now they're chasing him." And Ingtar's like, "That doesn't make sense," and Perrin's like, "I know this. The *wolves* told it to me. You think that makes sense, Ingtar?" And Ingtar's like, "Um, well, I guess it doesn't make sense, but I'm just really desperate to have the Horn of Valere back because I'm a Darkfriend and I have to deliver it to my lord and savior, the Dark One." And Perrin's like, "Right-o, sir." Um, and then they run a -- they happen to cross paths with an Aielman, whose name is Urien? Urien? (trying out different pronunciations)

Sally: Uh, Urien?

Emily: Urien, Urien?

Sally: I would say Urien, 'cause there's also --

Emily: I'm just gonna call him --

Sally: Yurian Stonebow, right, and he's got a "y" in front of his name.

Emily: Ohhhh. But I wanna call this guy Urien on Ice. (laugh) Urien Sand.

Sally: (laugh) I hate you.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Ugghh. OK. Urien on Sand rolls up. (laugh) And a bunch of people throw spears at him, and he's like, "Lit as hell. Let's fight." (laugh)

Emily: They -- (laugh) What's his name -- Masema just, like, charges out at him, and Ingtar's like, "Please stop," and so Masema's like, "OK, fine, I'll stop," but Urien, this entire time, is like, "I don't give a single fuck." He just stands there. Waiting.



Sally: Yeah, he's ragin' internally. He's like, "Fuck, yeah!"

Emily: (singing) "I love fighting!"

Sally: "I love doing death and murder!"

Emily: Yeah. And they're like, "Oh, well, he doesn't have his veil on, so he's probably not gonna kill us," which is our first introduction, uh, besides the random phrasing every once in a while, that if an Aiel person wears a black veil across their face then they are prepared to battle.

Sally: Prepared to do murder.

Emily: Yeah, prepared to shed blood. Do you think that's, like, the real, practical use of the veil? So they don't get blood in their mouths?

Sally: No, I think it's just so they look goth.

Emily: Yeah, that's probably true.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: We've talked about how the Cairhienin are emo --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: There is definitely some goth vibes to the Aiel.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: K, but seriously, if you had --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: In, like, the heat of battle, I feel like a genuine concern of mine would be getting random people's blood in my mouth.

Sally: I'm sure that exactly is, like, what it's for is, like, a practical purpose.

Emily: But they -- no one ever talks about that. Getting blood in your mouth?

Sally: Yeah, it's just the aesthetic. And I also thought -- like, what do you think the fabric is made out of?

Emily: Oh. I dunno.

Sally: 'Cause whenever I see people draw them, it's always, like, sheer.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Like it's tulle. And I'm like, "No."

Emily: No ...

Sally: First of all --

Emily: I think it would just be, like, cotton, 'cause that's all they fucking wear. Is the --

Sally: Denim?

Emily: Yeah, the fantasy --

Sally: Black denim? (laugh)

Emily: God.

Sally: Latex?

Emily: As we know, the Aiel are just running around in the fantasy version of cotton, so.

Sally: Yeah. I'm sure it is just cotton.

Emily: Yeah, let us know, Sarah McClintock, what your plans are for the black veil of the Aiel.

Sally: Oooh. She did rhyme.

Emily: (sing-song) I did a rhyme.

Sally: She's a poet.

Emily: Uh, so this guy kinda chats with them for a minute. He's just like, "Are you gonna kill me?" And they're like, "No." And he's kinda, like, disappointed.

Sally: He's like, "Aw, damn."

Emily: He's like, "Damn it, I've been preparing for this all day."

Sally: "I've been wanting to die for YEARS."

Emily: "I've been --"

Sally: "Like a true Aielman, all I want to do is die." (laugh) Born to die!

Emily: Like a true millennial.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, he's like, "What are you all doing?" And they're like, "Uh, we're just running around chasing some --" I don't even know if they tell him what they're doing.

Sally: Yeah. And he's like, "Neat! I'm looking for my lord and savior, He Who Comes With the Dawn."

Emily: And they're like, "Whomst?" And he's like, "Exactly."

Sally: He's like, "Good point! Good question!"

Emily: Uh, we get a couple things from this conversation, y'know, besides Aiel culture, which, uh -- this is our first introduction to it, but it comes up with such frequency later on that it almost is like -- it's hard for me to remember not understanding Aiel culture.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So it's like, "Oh, yeah. I know exactly where this guy's coming from and what his deal is." Um, but this is where Verin is the first Aes Sedai to, uh, hear that the Aiel have channeling women among them?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And that there's, like, a group of them and an infrastructure for the Wise Ones. Uh, 'cause Urien's like, "Oh, you're a Wise One." And she's like, "No, I'm not that." And he's like, "OK, well, you look like them. You look like -- you're not aging."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Stuff like that. And she's like, "Oh, interesting. Tell me more." And he's like, "Will not."

Sally: He's like, "I can't!"

Emily: "I cannot." This is where -- this is also Perrin and Mat's first meeting with an actual Aiel person, and now they're, like, finally getting it that Rand does look --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like an Aielman, and they're like, "Ohh. OK."

Sally: Mat's like, "Oh, shit."

Emily: Yeah, Mat's like, "Oh, shit!" And Perrin's like, "Oh, shit."

Sally: Yeah, again, this is where the theme "London Bridge" by Fergie would come into such good use in this -- (inaudible)

Emily: Can you imagine, all the horses charging?

Sally: Yeah. (simultaneously with Emily) Oh, shit! And Urien's just like --

Emily: "Take me."

Sally: "Take me to DEATH."

Emily: Yeah. He's like a true goth.

Sally: Lil emo.

Emily: I know. Bless his heart. Do we ever meet him again?

Sally: I don't think so.

Emily: Darn.

Sally: I also -- like, this scene obviously is important for exposition's sake, and it's, like, kind of -- ooh, I keep bumping the table, sorry, table --

Emily: No, you're good.

Sally: Kind of one of those hinge scenes that will take us really neatly into the Dragon Reborn.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Like, Wheel of Time's really good about -- though it's kind of annoying when you're reading it for the first time -- when you reread the series, you're like, "Oh, these are the scenes that, like, link the books together." Is we get --

Emily: Yeah, this will link Perrin really neatly to his, uh, introduction to Gaul --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In book three. Which will also link the girls to meeting Aviendha --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To Mat running into all the Aiel on the roofs of the Stone of Tear. It'll all just, like, combine really neatly so that when the Aiel do show up at the Stone of Tear, you're not totally like --

Sally: Like, "What the shit?"

Emily: "What the hell is going on?"

Sally: Remember how Perrin breaks Gaul out of a cage and they don't have sex afterwards immediately --

Emily: Yeah, and it's --

Sally: And it's pretty upsetting. (laugh)

Emily: Really upsetting. (laugh)

Sally: 'Cause, like, that scene is charged with sexual tension.

Emily: (laugh) There's a lot going on in that scene.

Sally: (laugh) Anyway. That was --

Emily: Especially because I think Gaul's just, like, monkey-barring --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On the cage and he just, like, swings out of there and is like, "Peace out, bro."

Sally: Like, if I was Perrin, I'd be like, "Hold on. We have to have sex."

Emily: "Excuse me? But we need to fuck."

Sally: "You can't just not have sex with me."

Emily: Gaul would be like, "OK. Yeah, you're hot."

Sally: Yeah. And this is right after Faile, like, basically --

Emily: Undressed him with her eyes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Moiraine was like, "It's not evil. It's just sex."

Sally: "She just wants to fuck you." And Perrin's like, "Me?"

Emily: "ME?"

Sally: "I'm the most Victorian of all our main characters."

Emily: "Me, no less. I faint at the sight of ankle." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Fucking loser. Anyway.

Emily: Um. So, yeah, those are kinda the two major things. Like, the Aiel are now like, "Oh, and we have this prophecy about this guy," and they, uh, mention very specific -- he mentions very specifically what's going to be the main plot in book four --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is that, like, secrets are revealed in Rhuidean. The Aiel have this big sin that none of them are really aware of except for the Wise Ones and the clan chiefs, but they're not talking 'cause they know it would be such a big deal. And of course Rand is going to reveal to them what the big deal is in book four, and that will, uh, dramatically change the Aiel, um, culture and their understanding of themselves. Which is an interesting form of cultural trauma, by the way. And we'll talk about it at greater length in book four.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But that's just -- it's all just sort of foreshadowing.

Sally: But it is also hilarious that, like, what? Twenty-something years ago, they had this major war with the Aiel, and all of a sudden an Aielman just pops out, and they have this --

Emily: And they, like --

Sally: Quasi-friendly conversation.

Emily: Yeah. It's seriously, like, no big deal.

Sally: Yeah. Everyone's just like -- I mean, I know a few of the Shienarans are upset, but everyone else is like, "Oh, hello."

Emily: Yeah, Ingtar and Verin and Perrin and Mat are just, like, chatting to this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Guy, and he's just like, "Yeah, duh duh duh duh duh. I'm just the only one here." And they're like, "Surely there are more of you around," and he's like, "Meh."

Sally: "I'll never tell."

Emily: "I'll never tell." (laugh) It's just super funny.

Sally: I know, it's a -- honestly hilarious scene. (laugh) And also when Perrin and Mat are like, "Oh, he does look -- Rand does look like an Aielman," and Perrin's like, "Well, that doesn't change anything," and Mat's like, "You're RIGHT," with the implication being like, Perrin's like, "He's still Rand," and Mat's like, "Nah, he's still a bitch." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Mat's like, "Nah, he's still gonna go crazy --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And kill us all. I don't care what his cultural heritage is." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. So it's a really hilarious moment too.

Emily: Oh, Mat.

Sally: I know. Psycho.

Emily: Insane little survivalist.

Sally: What a loser.

Emily: Um, anyway, then we bounce over to Bayle Domon and --

Sally: Well, first we have the Whitecloaks.

Emily: Oh, do we? Oh, yeah, I totally forgot.

Sally: We have --

Emily: Uh, yeah, we have to go hang out with Bornhald.

Sally: Some really abysmal scenes.

Emily: Ugh. Ugh. This is, like, catch-up with what the Whitecloaks have been doing on the Almoth Plain, which is, uh, under the Questioners' orders, which we know is, uh, the Dark One's orders, they're just basically going around killing people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is like -- cool. Cool. And Bornhald is just barely being like, "Um, I think maybe this is a moral grey area."

Sally: "I think maybe killing children is, like, not good."

Emily: He's like, "We don't usually kill children. I feel like this might be an issue." And everyone else is like, "Yeah, maybe."

Sally: Yeah, fucking -- ya think?

Emily: Fucking -- you -- ugh. Psychopath.

Sally: I know.

Emily: He's like, "Wow, these people have been treated so cruelly," in the same breath that he's like, "I want you to terrify the fuck out of a dude so he's more pliant when I question him."

Sally: Yeah. So that he thinks I'm gonna torture him, and we're like --

Emily: And it's like ... dude.

Sally: That type of fear is already a form of torture.

Emily: Anyway, Bornhald .. I'm not sad that he dies later in this book.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And then we have to have the young Bornhald, right?

Emily: Yeah, who is like -- I dunno, less set in his ways, I guess. He'll have a coming-of-age narrative. Um. Anyway, so R.I.P. my good bitch. Die painfully, I hope.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But that is also kind of the introduction -- like, it sort of what's going on with the Whitecloaks, but it's also introducing us to the fact of the Seanchan.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which have previously been hinted at but here's, like, our first, uh, kind of canonical, like, oh, there really are people here that we're hearing about that are legitimate, because it's coming from so many different sources.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And we're hearing, oh, they come in, they just kind of kill people to get them compliant, then they make everyone swear the oaths, and then they just take off again.

Sally: Yeah.



Emily: And, uh, Bornhald is kinda like, “That seems ... uh, terrible and like something big is gonna go down,” and everyone’s like, “No! We just gotta keep killing children.”

Sally: And he’s like, “Actually, we’re not.”

Emily: He’s like, “Great. Love this. Love my job. Every day I wake up -- can’t wait to go to work. Can’t wait to clock in.”

Sally: Clock in to the Inquisition.

Emily: Wheee!

Sally: (laugh) He’s disgusting.

Emily: I know, I hate him.

Sally: Meanwhile, Byar’s following him around just like, whatever.

Emily: Just, like, moping.

Sally: Yeah, like, “Blaaaah. I didn’t get to kill the children. Blaaaah.”

Emily: “I’ve never done that before.”

Sally: “BLAAAH.”

Emily: Bornhald’s like, “Yeah, because --”

Sally: “My resume is lacking.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Fuck me.

Sally: I hate them so much.

Emily: I know. Just, like, seriously -- fuck them. Ugh. OK, then we bounce over --

Sally: THEN we bounce to my good dad.

Emily: Yeah, Bayle Domon, who I literally picture as Captain Shakespeare in Stardust, just, like, Robert de Niro? You know, before he, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Has his --

Sally: Oh, see, I get more like Captain Flint from Black Sails vibes.

Emily: Oooh. That’s also a good one.

Sally: Yeah. Like, the perfect merging of Captain Shakespeare and Captain Flint is Bayle Domon.

Emily: Yeah, you have to, like, take out the gay energy from both of those, and then what you're left with is Bayle Domon.

Sally: (simultaneously) Is Bayle Domon. You're right. You are so right. Where do we put that gay energy, though, is the question.

Emily: Why are there so many gay pirates? Like, I fully support it, but I love --

Sally: You know what, I --

Emily: I love the trope of gay pirates.

Sally: Guys, we haven't done this in a while: stop this podcast and go listen to the song Gay Pirates by Cosmo Jarvis.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You won't regret it.

Emily: You're gonna want to YouTube Yo Ho Sebastian, it's --

Sally: Yeah, (singing) Yo ho Sebastian, let's go far away!

Emily: For some reason, that was the only song I could think of when my nephew was really little -- he's about six months old now -- but when he was, like, one or two months old, I would just sing to him to calm him down --

Sally: (laugh) And you would sing Gay Pirates?

Emily: For some reason that's all I could think of, was Yo Ho Sebastian! I also did a lot of Hozier.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Work Song really calmed him down.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but I'd be singing "yo ho Sebastian, let's go far away, somewhere where the captain won't be mad."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And my sister would be like, "What are you singing?" And I'm like, "Nothing."

Sally: "Don't worry, I made it up."

Emily: "I'm just inundating your child with gay thoughts. Sorry." Anyway.

Sally: Anyway, but like I said -- like, you know, matter and energy, you can't destroy gay energy, so where does it go? If you take the gay energy out of Captain Shakespeare and Captain Flint, you are left with Bayle Domon. Where does the gay energy go?

Emily: Ummmm. Mat Cauthon?

Sally: I knew you were gonna say this.

Emily: I just don't know. It is swirling around --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Kind of in the Wheel of Time atmosphere.

Sally: Yeah. Waiting.

Emily: This gay -- this unrelenting, unsatisfied gay energy, just like --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Waiting for a victim to lightning strike at -- Mat, Galad --

Sally: Yeah. To be the gayest.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) That's who it's chosen.

Sally: Yeah, Mat gets Captain Shakespeare's gay, and Galad gets Captain Flint's gay.

Emily: Yeah. Mm -- maybe I'd reverse it.

Sally: OK. That's fair.

Emily: Galad's kinda got the --

Sally: The whoopsie? (laugh) I know that's offensive, I'm sorry.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: It's from the movie, though.

Emily: But it's also the funniest line in the entire movie.

Sally: "Oh, captain."

Emily: "We always knew you was a whoopsie."

Sally: Ah, that movie's fun.

Emily: Yeah, Mat has more of the angry gay energy. I dunno.

Sally: Galad's got more of the cross-dressing gay energy?

Emily: Yeah, I dunno. Anyway. Uhh.

Sally: Bayle Domon, my dad.

Emily: Bayle Domon, *our* dad --

Sally: You're right, I'm sorry.

Emily: The world's dad --

Sally: The world's collective father.

Emily: He's currently sailing along, uh, the west coast, uh, being followed by a Seanchan --

Sally: California.

Emily: Ship. Yes, California.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: As it were. (imitating a valley girl) West Coast, best coast!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (singing like Katy Perry) Cal-i-for-nia girls, we're unforgettable --

Sally: (singing) Undeniable, daisy dukes, bikinis on top.

Emily: I can't believe Katy Perry reduced every woman in California to a bikini top.

Sally: And daisy dukes. And --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: She's a freak who rides a jeep and lives on the beach.

Emily: Yeah. Do you think there was some studious gay California girl who was like --

Sally: Who was like, "Beg pardon?"

Emily: "Beg pardon? This is --"

Sally: "I do none of these things."

Emily: "This is not an accurate portrait of the female species in California."

Sally: Yeah, somebody in Berkeley, probably.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's a good song, though. It slaps.

Emily: Yeah, it is a banger.

Sally: Snoop Dogg's in it.

Emily: (laugh) I forgot that.

Sally: He says the great line -- what is it, like, "Zucchini, bikinis, martinis, no weenies" or something? (laugh)

Emily: You're like, "What the hell, Snoop? What's going on?"

Sally: (laugh) I love that song so much. That song is, like -- defined my middle school career.

Emily: Um, I really liked E.T.

Sally: I forgot about that. About fucking aliens?

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) That's a real banger.

Sally: (laugh) That is a good one.

Emily: And also --

Sally: Katy Perry's, like, first few albums were fun, and then she became a little wack.

Emily: Yeah, then she -- well, I mean, she's always been kinda waack. But it was fun-wack in the beginning.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And now it's just, like, wack-wack. Wack squared.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK. Oh, what do I have to say about this scene?

Sally: Bayle Domon's having his meet-cute. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, yeah. Can you believe? Can you fucking believe -- Bayle Domon, the first Seanchan woman he sees -- she literally takes off her helmet, and he's like, "Oh, shit! It's a woman!"

Sally: Yeah. And then she backhands him.

Emily: Yeah, then she slaps him, and two books later, he's like, "That's the love of my life."

Sally: He's like, "That's her. That's my wife."

Emily: Yeah. Uh, which is a little bit problematic. If the gender --

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: The genders were switched, we'd find, like -- we'd be immediately like, "Ooh, that's not a great way to meet someone."

Sally: No, it's not a great way to meet somebody, I would --

Emily: Yeah, just, like, period.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it would be more obvious to us --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If the genders were switched because that's a thing our culture's like --

Sally: 'Cause that's institutionalized domestic abuse.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where we don't see male -- female-on-male violence the same way. The way we should.

Emily: Yeah. Female-on-male violence, we tend to be like, "Aw, cool," like --

Sally: "Look at her. She's a badass."

Emily: "She's taking charge," yeah. "She's a bad bitch." No, it's bad to, uh, take someone's ship and then slap them and then make them go to a place -- like, I dunno, it's just bad --

Sally: To keep them prisoner.

Emily: Yeah. It's bad.

Sally: Maybe --

Emily: He almost dies.

Sally: Yeah, maybe don't do those things.

Emily: Um, yeah, they don't -- they have a really weird relationship, and I'm not totally supportive of it, but, like -- I do like Egeanin. She's an interesting character.

Sally: What if Bayle Domon and Leane got together?

Emily: That would be iconic.

Sally: (laugh) If she was like, "This one. This captain. This riverboat captain."

Emily: I don't think they ever cross paths, which is --

Sally: Wouldn't it be so legendary?

Emily: Unfortunate. Yeah, it would be. It would be cool.

Sally: And not that we need to pair everybody off, which as we've discussed, is Robert Jordan's chronic problem.

Emily: Yeah, the problem of pairing people off can be best be seen with Bayle Domon and Egeanin, who do have an interesting working relationship --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I think that's interesting. I just wish it didn't devolve into a romantic relationship.

Sally: Yeah, why not just, like -- colleagues.

Emily: Yeah, what if they were just friends who were like, "Oh, we're both in a world of trouble. And we're just gonna hang out now."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "In Ebou Dar. And meet Mat Cauthon. World's gayest disaster." (laugh)

Sally: Exactly.

Emily: Um. (clears throat) But this is kind of -- it is interesting, I think, that Bayle Domon is our, uh, first introduction to Seanchan culture, because he's such a -- he's such a survivalist, and he's so pragmatic, he doesn't, like, look at this in a greater world perspective. He's just kinda, like, focused on the here and now, like, "How am I gonna survive this? How am I going to get through this? How am I going to escape?" It's a very Mat Cauthon, y'know, world-view. But it's just kind of a -- an interesting way to go about it because it doesn't feel, in the moment, like this is some big deal.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a way. You're just kinda like, "Oh, this is just another challenge for our pirate captain to overcome," as opposed to, "This is a world-changing, like, massive colonial imperialist -- uh, invaders."

Sally: See, I never felt that, even when I was reading it for the first time.

Emily: What, you never felt -- like --

Sally: I never felt like it wasn't a big deal.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Like, it always feels like a big deal.

Emily: OK. I just remember it crept up on me so much. Which, surely, I guess, isn't everyone's reading experience, I just was was like, "Oh, this is some weird shit going on." And then it becomes this big battle, and then the Seanchan come back, and I was like, "Oh."

Sally: Yeah, I think my -- I mean, my problem in a lot of the series is that I've -- I know a lot about what's happening --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Because you and I have had conversations about it. Um, but also, like, the Seanchan made me so anxious because they do come back, and we're asked to then have point of view characters and characters that we care about who are entrenched in this really violent and disgusting culture, and that's just, like, inherently really hard for me. Like I obviously haven't --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Dealt with any of the Seanchan characters, I haven't met Tuon yet or anything like that, but it is, like, really troubling to me that we are asked to, like, be with and care about and be afraid for the -- the colonialists and the, um, slave-keepers and the, um, perpetrators.

Emily: Yeah, it's just an interesting -- not all -- not necessarily good that Robert Jordan often gives us point of view characters who are kind of side characters, not our main characters, including Bayle Domon, and he's like, "These are people who are not doing things, uh, that are necessarily ethically or morally good."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And we're asked to sympathize with them, and it just goes to this whole new level when you get the Seanchan involved because yeah, here's something that's happening on a mass scale that these people are involved in. Uh, yeah, this is, like, perpetrator point of views in a global, uh --



Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Conflict. And so -- yeah, it just becomes kinda this, like, not very self-aware thing of Robert Jordan asking us to sympathize with Seanchan and, like -- I dunno, eventually not necessarily be on their side but get them involved in the main storyline in a way that isn't comfortable.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But we're kind of asked to feel comfortable about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's really weird.

Sally: Yeah, it's really -- like, it was -- like I said, this chapter, this book gave me a lot of anxiety. The Great Hunt. Obviously, it's one of the, like -- as we've talked about -- it's one of the strangest, most unsettling --

Emily: Yeah, it's a weird book.

Sally: Wheel of Time books. There's a lot of strange violence that just, like, permeates it, including the Seanchan, and the Seanchan just, like, really make me so anxious, especially in these scenes and then, coming up, when they take, um, Egwene.

Emily: Mm-hmm. Which is a really traumatic sequence.

Sally: Yeah. And so it's just -- and then it's really -- yeah. And so, looking forward and knowing that the Seanchan came back, it was always like this was, like, a really difficult sequence. Because, like, while it's fine, and you can't hold Bayle Domon at fault for just trying to survive the situation, like, we're so entrenched -- especially if you're reading an epic fantasy and the concept of, like, heroes -- that, like, the expectation is that, like, oh, Bayle Domon is gonna, like, do something with this. And he's going --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: It's his responsibility, and it's right, and it's only right if he does something that will then deter the Seanchan or whatever. But it's like, you can't expect a person in an everyday situation, threatening their life, to, like, perform at the level of hero.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So it is really interesting to get it from his point of view as opposed to, like, one of our heroes. Y'know, where, like, the narrative would demand that they act not heroically, necessarily, in action, but heroic in, like, the narrative arc, where they would do something --

Emily: Well, look at Egwene, who --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gets caught up in this and then, uh, her and her friends end up, like, blowing up this house --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And really starting, uh, like, sparking a major conflict here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So, yeah. It's --

Sally: So Bayle Domon isn't doing anything like that, but -- and so it's really interesting, as you mentioned, that we get our first introduction to the Seanchan from his point of view because, in a way, it just, like, speaks to the, like, larger, um, idea of, like, what it means to face, like, an -- like, a violent invading force in that, like, people don't really have a whole lot of power if you're on the side of the victims.

Emily: Yeah, I think it's asking us --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I think it's asking us to look at what it actually is like --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: What it actually is like or the people that are getting caught up in this. Like, they're immediately met with such, like, an unstoppable force --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And we're seeing this throughout this chapter. We're seeing all these, like, little micro cultural traumas that are --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Forcing these people to, uh, realign their worldviews with the Seanchan at the center. And we're just seeing, like, how really horrible -- this is just, like, an avalanche and -- yeah, normal people are just getting caught up in it, which is what happens.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So all these different things Bayle Domon sees -- they, like, roll into Falme harbor and there's just, like, a dude in a cage hanging out --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Domon's like, "What the fuck is that?" And his, like, Seanchan guide is like, "Oh, that's, like, the leader of this city. Every time they elect a new one, we just stick them there until they die so that everyone knows, hey, we're in charge." And then, like, on the street, Egeanin's like -- Bayle Domon's like, "Uh, excuse me, like, people are armed, how is that OK? Like, I thought you guys were an invading force," and Egeanin, like, terrifies the shit out of a dude by just, like, stopping him and speaking to him, being like, "What are you -- what's your deal? What's -- what are the oaths? Are you gonna follow the oaths?" And this dude's like, "Ye-es."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because probably he's seen people die.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's just -- it's just bad, yeah. It's a lot going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Umm. The Seanchan are a really weird amalgamation of, uh, Western -- because they're, uh, they have very American vibes in the imperialist --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, notions -- there's a very -- there's a sense of Manifest Destiny going on here. These people are like -- the Seanchan are like, "This is our birthright --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Is to conquer this land," which is a very American notion. Uh, happy Thanksgiving.

Sally: Colonialism.

Emily: Ha, ha. And so there's kinda, like, this Western sense and you get the Seanchan -- but you get the Seanchan, who are not Western in that their culture is very non-individualistic, um, and very hierarchical in a, um -- uh, although there is upward mobility in the hierarchy, which is interesting and that's kind of another Western notion -- and then, just, very much the vibes are, uh, what my grandma would call "Oriental."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Y'know, there's screens, uh -- like, just, we enter this manor house, and there's, uh, screens as walls, and there's, like -- birds and flowers are the motifs, everyone's in robes, kind of, it's just all very -- yeah, silk.

Sally: Yeah, and silk and porcelain and things that you associate with the far -- the Far East.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: As it were.

Emily: But then they're drinking *kaf*, which is like their form of coffee.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So it's all just super weird.

Sally: Yeah, it's a -- like you said, it's a weird amalgamation of, like, of empires, really, is what it is --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Like, you've got parts of the British Empire, you've got parts of like, the -- Imperial China and Imperial Japan --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And you've got, obviously, America, which is an empire in its weird way.

Emily: Yeah, it was like Robert Jordan just threw aspects --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of every, y'know --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Horrible in empire into a blender and pressed "on."

Sally: You've even got, like, weird elephant monsters, which makes me think of, like, Rome and, like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Hannibal and Scipio and --

Emily: No, there's a lot of Rome vibes here.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Actually. Especially -- I was thinking about how, um, they come in here with their Manifest Destiny and this, like, story about it, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We're descended from Artur Hawkwing and stuff. And I think about how, uh, you know, well into Rome's empire, they were like, "Oh, hey, and we've invented this story about how we're really descended from Aeneas."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the Greeks, who've been conquered, were over there, like, "Ummm. Excuse me?"

Sally: "What?"

Emily: "Since when?"

Sally: "Whomst?"

Emily: "You just made -- you just made that up in front of us."

Sally: "Virgil who, bitch?" (laugh)

Emily: "Virgil?" (laugh)

Sally: "You're lying! This is fake news!"

Emily: "This is NOT a thing."

Sally: God, the Greeks.

Emily: Yeah, so they do also give off very Roman Empire vibes.

Sally: Yeah. So, like, you said Robert Jordan was just like, "Empire: blender."

Emily: (makes a blender noise)

Sally: "The Seanchan." (laugh)

Emily: "Here we are! The Seanchan."

Sally: Blegh!

Emily: Crazy motherfuckers.

Sally: Yeah. So a lot is happening there.

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: Which I don't even know how to begin to talk about.

Emily: I know. They do have the most aesthetic power of any culture in this series, besides maybe the Aiel. But the Seanchan roll in with their uber-long nails and their half-shaved heads, and their --

Sally: And their, like, helmets that look like bugs.

Emily: Yeah. Which, by the way, is a very interesting turn of the usual, um, imperial, uh, phraseology where, y'know, the conquered are insects.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But it's also interesting because, uh, the Seanchan come like a swarm of insects, like that's how unstoppable they are --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Just, like --

Sally: Like a plague.

Emily: Yeah, a plague. That's a good -- of locusts.

Sally: Of locusts.

Emily: A plague of locusts is the Seanchan. So that's just kind of an interesting thing.

Sally: So they also have Biblical stuff going on.

Emily: Yeah, there's just a lot going on.

Sally: The Seanchan are a lot to unpack, and I'm sure, as you said, we'll get to it more --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Later in the series, because as with everything in the Great Hunt, it's just a lot of, like, mini episodes that lead to later books.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's a really strange book.

Emily: It is so strange.

Sally: Like, the more we talk about it, the more I'm interested in it -- which is definitely what happened with the Eye of the World --

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Like, I still think that the Eye of the World is (laugh) kind of ridiculous and dumb, but.

Emily: But it does have enough interesting stuff going on.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. But -- so anyway, Bayle Domon gets taken up the hill to the -- the big cat's house.

Emily: Yeah, 'cause they search his ship and find, uh --

Sally: The --

Emily: The cuendillar, I believe it's pronounced.

Sally: Ooh, cuendillar. That's a fun name.

Emily: Uh, the heartstone Aes Sedai seal, which is one of the seals on the Dark One's prison, but no one in this -- no one, uh, in this scene, uh, is aware of that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're just like, "Ooh! Some fancy stone." Uh, and Egeanin knows that the main guy, the lord of this town, the -- Fore of the Forerunners --

Sally: Turak, right?

Emily: Turak, yeah.

Sally: Turak.

Emily: It -- collects this particular type of stone. So she's like, "Here's Bayle Domon and here's his weird stone thing."

Sally: "Here's Bayle Domon and his rock."

Emily: "Here's Bayle Domon and his rock." And Turak's like, "Why is this man necessary?"

Sally: (laugh) "What's happening? Why did you bring me a man? The rock is --"

Emily: "Why did you bring me a man? The rock --"

Sally: "Egeanin, the rock? Great. The man --"

Emily: "The rock is sufficient."

Sally: "The man? Tired. The rock? Wired." (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway, but he's like, "Oh, yeah, this is great, I'll mention you to the Blood." Which is, like, how the Seanchan motivate, uh --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Their interior forces, is just, like, "You too can rise in the hierarchy."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And become this powerful," 'cause wow, they are powerful.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: God. Just lots of bowing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: My favorite scene is when, uh, Egeanin prostrates herself and, um, uh, gets Domon down with her, and she's, like, kissing the ground, and Domon's like, "I'm not doing that."

Sally: Domon's like, "Mm-mm."

Emily: "There's a limit. I'm not into that."

Sally: Also when Bayle Domon -- his internal monologue is like, "I won't even do this for the King of Illian!"

Emily: (laugh) He's like, "Ew. This is terrible."

Sally: "Disgusting! What's wrong with you people?"

Emily: "I hate this."

Sally: "Kiss the floor?!"

Emily: "You all are weird."

Sally: "Nasty."

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: "Y'all nasty."

Emily: Domon gets to see one of the, uh, basically nude servants wandering around, and has the same reaction that literally every character has, which is to be like, "Ah!" and flinch.

Sally: Yeah, "Are you safe?"

Emily: "Help? Help?!"

Sally: Yeah, so: very upsetting.

Emily: Which is yet another form of, uh, cultural aggression that the Seanchan are performing is these aren't necessarily people from within their society --

Sally: Yeah.



Emily: These are often victims -- uh, Mat gets threatened with this --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Every once in a while. They're like, "Oh, you're not really pretty enough to put in the silk robes, but, like, maybe we'll do it anyway." And Mat's like, "First of all, fuck you, I am pretty enough." (laugh)

Sally: "Why do people keep telling me I'm not pretty?"

Emily: Mat's like, "I'm fucking GORGEOUS."

Sally: "I'm gorgeous. Have you seen these features?" His, like, chiseled jaw?

Emily: "Look at me and my scars."

Sally: "Look at my scars. I'm a badass motherfucker."

Emily: "I've been in many knife fights."

Sally: "You can't kill me."

Emily: "For a 21-year-old."

Sally: Yeah, too many for a 21-year-old.

Emily: I know. I worry about him. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, too many knife fights. (laugh)

Emily: Does it ever occur to you that you're older than Mat Cauthon?

Sally: All the time.

Emily: And be like, "Oh, God."

Sally: Like, Mat's leading armies, and I'm like -- this week I couldn't get the printer to print in the right direction. So.

Emily: (wheeze) Mat's leading armies. Perrin's ... married.

Sally: Kay, that's not strange in Utah, though.

Emily: It's not strange in Utah, but it -- yeah, which is, I think, one of the reasons I, like, don't even notice it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But then I'm like, Mat's over here leading armies.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Getting into knife fights on a daily basis.

Sally: Daily -- on an hourly basis.

Emily: Just, like, everyone wants to fucking stab Mat Cauthon. Which, you know.

Sally: It's pent-up sexual energy.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) It's pent-up sexual energy.

Sally: (laugh) We all just wanna fuck Mat Cauthon. And no one will admit it!

Emily: Yep. (laugh)

Sally: Except for the many people he sleeps with throughout the series. (laugh)

Emily: Good for you, Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: My best boy.

Sally: Funky little lesbian. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That's how I feel about Egeanin --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, she's a lesbian. Come on.

Sally: I know, the fact that she ends up with Domon, I'm like, again, what if Egeanin and Leane got together?

Emily: Oh, man!

Sally: The power.

Emily: That would be sweet.

Sally: Fuckin' power couple.

Emily: Power couple, yeah. Damn.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Egeanin's been wasted.

Emily: Egeanin is wasted with her -- y'know.

Sally: Straight romance.

Emily: She does, for a long time, uh, have to pretend to be, uh, engaged to Mat. Oh my God, I haven't even told you --

Sally: EXCUSE ME? WHAT?

Emily: (laugh) To get out of Ebou Dar. Mat ends up with, like, 90 different people who he's whisking out of Ebou Dar. He's like, "This was just supposed to be me and Thom and, like, a few of my soldier boys --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And now I've got, like, people lining up. I've gotta rescue all the Aes Sedai."

Sally: "What do I look like, a shelter?"

Emily: "I've gotta kidnap Tuon, I guess. My wife. And I'm gonna get out with Egeanin and Domon," 'cause Egeanin's like, "I can forge the papers." Like, "I'm a Seanchan, so I can actually get you out." And he's like, "Great." And the story they concoct to the circus that they hide in is that Mat and Egeanin are in love (laugh) and, like, running away 'cause they're having an affair.

Sally: Amazing.

Emily: And it's hilarious because Egeanin's like, "I literally hate you --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Mat's like, "Same. The feeling is returned. The feeling is mutual."

Sally: Amazing.

Emily: "We hate each other. But we have to hold hands all the time."

Sally: Awww.

Emily: I know.

Sally: I'd hold hands with Mat.

Emily: I would too.

Sally: That'd be tender.

Emily: Yeah. And Egeanin's also wearing a wig this entire time, which she hates. And Mat's like, "Big mood."

Sally: I just imagine Egeanin is taller than Mat.

Emily: Yeah, probably.

Sally: And probably just, like, beefier.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Mat's a small, lanky boy.

Emily: Mat's just a slim boy.

Sally: So he's like -- (laugh) like that McElroy brothers episode, "I love my tall wife." Do you remember that one?

Emily: What?!

Sally: (laugh) Oh my God.

Emily: Vaguely? It sounds familiar.

Sally: (laugh) Where the question they get is like, "My wife is three feet taller than me."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) And so they're trying to figure out -- is, like, is he four feet and she's seven feet? Is he three feet and she's six feet? Like, we don't understand.

Emily: (laugh) I love my tall wife.

Sally: (laugh) I love my tall wife.

Emily: Yeah, that's Mat and Egeanin. Um --

Sally: (laugh) I'm sorry we talk about the McElroy brothers so much.

Emily: I'm sorry we talk about Mat so much. When he's barely even on-screen.

Sally: But I love him.

Emily: I know. (inaudible)

Sally: But Daddy, I love him!

Emily: What else do we have to say? Do we have anything else to say?

Sally: Oh, then Bayle Domon gets held captive because he's interesting.

Emily: Yeah. Because he --

Sally: They can have conversation.

Emily: Can tell a story, yeah.

Sally: So then he tries to, um, Scherazade his way out of this motherfucker.

Emily: Yeah. Very compelling, by the way. I wish we could hear what he told --

Sally: I know, right? I'm like, then we have to jump back to, what, Rand? I'm like, nooo. What is Bayle Domon --

Emily: What's Bayle Domon saying?

Sally: Telling the Seanchan nobility? (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, Turak's like, "So where'd you get this?" And Domon, like, takes a deep breath, and then --

Sally: He's like --

Emily: The chapter ends. And we're like, "OK, but how did he find it?"

Sally: How DID he find it?

Emily: And also, what's he say?

Sally: Yeah, what is his TALE?

Emily: Yeah, what is his tale?

Sally: What is his 1,001 nights tale?

Emily: Ugh, I just want an -- yeah, Bayle Domon and Turak as Scheherazade.

Sally: And the evil guy.

Emily: Yeah. That guy.

Sally: Does he have a name?

Emily: Uh --

Sally: Evil guy?

Emily: Yeah, he does, but I can't recall.

Sally: Who cares? Scheherazade's the one that matters. What a great name, Scheherazade.

Emily: (sigh) I freaking love her.

Sally: I know, she's rad as fuck.

Emily: She's my favorite princess.

Sally I need to read your translation of 1,001 nights.

Emily: That was pretty good. Anyway.

Sally: Um, anything else? To say?

Emily: No, it's, like, hard. There's a lot to say about the Seanchan --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But again, it's hard to say it when so much more is coming.

Sally: Yeah, we'll -- we'll have some Seanchan episodes in the coming books.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Probably book seven or whatever.

Emily: For now we remain uncomfortable.

Sally: For now, I remain very anxious --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Constantly, about the Seanchan. I hate them. They make me very uncomfy.

Emily: Ummm, but we're gonna bounce over to Rand.

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: I know. Try and survive. At least -- at least we're now gonna get the, uh, party that they infiltrate in disguise. That's an iconic sequence.

Sally: I know.

Emily: With Mat as a servant.

Sally: Yes! Oh my God.

Emily: And angry about it.

Sally: I know. I think that the only thing Robert Jordan ever did well was the ridiculous scenes he put --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I mean, Robert Jordan does a lot of things, but I should say the best thing he ever did was the ridiculous places he puts Mat. A servant. Engaged to Egeanin.

Emily: (laugh) He's just like, "Mat's gonna be doing all the weirdest shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's iconic.

Sally: (laugh) Watching Moiraine run naked to Rhuidean.

Emily: Yeah, Mat's like, "Excuse me?"

Sally: Rand's like, "Nah."

Emily: "Nah." Mat's like, "I know what I saw."

Sally: (laugh) Rand's like, "Don't be a pervert."

Emily: (laugh) Mat's like, "She was just right there! I'm not the pervert running naked through the desert!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Oh my God.

Sally: Um, so. (laugh) One of the funny -- I was listening to the City of Bones thing, and when you said "nightgown pervert" --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I, like, choked at my desk.

Emily: (laugh) She is a nightgown pervert.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So is Lanfear. Speaking of. (laugh)

Sally: Oh my God! Lanfear is a nightgown pervert. (laugh) So -- if you wanna know what the fuck we're talking about, you can find that podcast on our Patreon.

Emily: Yeah, it's a --

Sally: (laugh) Nightgown pervert.

Emily: This might be what I title this episode.

Sally: (laugh) But it wasn't even from this episode!

Emily: I know!

Sally: It doesn't even make any sense!

Emily: It's to encourage you all to join Patreon.

Sally: Emily, no. This is a thank you episode.

Emily: (sigh) OK.

Sally: Delete that. Delete your encouraging them.

Emily: What -- I can't encourage people to donate money to us? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK. Uh, we're in hysterics over here.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: At EHR headquarters, which is usually how we end up the episode.

Sally: (laughing) Nightgown pervert.

Emily: Do we have any housekeeping?

Sally: Um, I don't think so.

Emily: Just follow us on iTunes. Y'know.

Sally: Yes, please. Rate, review, subscribe.

Emily: The usual.

Sally: Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr. Check out our website.

Emily: Sally does a lot of good social media stuff.

Sally: I -- that's very kind of you to say.

Emily: Yeah, well. I always like the Tumblr feed.

Sally: Oh, thank you.



Emily: It's really nice, yeah.

Sally: I -- Tumblr's the social media I'm most familiar with, so Tumblr's probably where we're best, so.

Emily: Oh, well. That's good.

Sally: Hit us up on Tumblr.

Emily: And there's a lot of fun Wheel of Time content on Tumblr.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And book content.

Sally: Tumblr is hilarious. I love you, Tumblr.

Emily: OK. Uh, sign us off.

Sally: OK, I don't have a traumatic thing prepared about me, but this is traumatic for the other people involved. Um.

Emily: Oh, no. (laugh)

Sally: Sometimes -- we have pelicans at the aviary, and if they don't get fed on time, they get really antsy.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: So we have to feed them at different times during the day, because if they expect food at a certain time and it's not there, they get mad, and they pick up the ducks in the pond --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: In their, like, ballooning beaks? Their, like, ballooning pelican beaks? And just carry the ducks around until they get food. (laugh) And I think it's so funny. Imagine being a duck. You're just swimming along and then -- (makes vacuum noise)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (imitating the Jaws theme) Duh duh ... duh duh ...

Sally: Yeah, and then you know -- it's not a shark, it's a pelican.

Emily: They came not from the sea but from the air!

Sally: (laugh) Goodbye!

Emily: Have a good week!

Sally: Happy Thanksgiving!