



## Episode 44 – “BAR-thanes”

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Emily: OK. Ollo.

Sally: Hi.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Sometimes I forget that they can't see me.

Emily: Yeah. That's a -- easy mistake to make.

Sally: I'm a very visually expressive person.

Emily: You are.

Sally: So to just, like, do things by voice is -- sometimes feels a little bit strange.

Emily: You have to stop me from starting this podcast with an update about our cat. 'Cause we talk about him too much.

Sally: I know, and people are probably like, “We don't give a shit.” But.

Emily: “He's your cat. Just -- leave it alone.”

Sally: “Shut up.”

Emily: “We all have cats. We all both hate and love our cats. It's the universal cat-owning experience.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Speaking of, Loial is very cat-like.

Sally: Oh, you think so?

Emily: Like with his ears?

Sally: Oh, yeah. That's true.

Emily: It's just a very feline thing that he does.

Sally: I know, with his flick-y ears.

Emily: Yeah. It's interesting. I wonder what amalgamation of animals and, like, personality types Robert Jordan was currently obsessed with to create the Ogier.

Sally: I feel like the Ogier are a mix of elves, Ents, and cats.

Emily: I think you're right. Personality-wise --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Seems to be accurate. Loial's a little more clingy than your average cat, but then --

Sally: But just as clingy as your average Ent.

Emily: Yeah. Exactly.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ents are very ... loyal? Wait. (laugh) I didn't even mean to do that.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Don't look at me like that. Um. What are you reading right now? Still Crown of Swords?

Sally: I'm still reading a Crown of Swords.

Emily: But you've made progress.

Sally: I read one chapter last night before I fell asleep. Does that count?

Emily: Yeah, it totally counts.

Sally: I've been in the middle of a few Rand chapters where he's like --

Emily: Yeah, those previously --

Sally: "Min and I had sex." And, like -- blegh.

Emily: "But I don't think it was sex, I think it was rape 'cause I'm -- we --"

Sally: An idiot.

Emily: "Are so passionate."

Sally: And then Min's like, "You don't think that I would have told you? Blah blah blah," and I'm like, this is terrible rape rhetoric from both of you. Shut up.

Emily: Yeah. Meanwhile, in, like, the other side of the world, Mat's also like, "I can't tell anyone."

Sally: Yeah. Cause nobody believes him.

Emily: "Cause no one -- the one time I did tell someone, she laughed at me."

Sally: Yeah, and so then Mat is having, like, a really complicated relationship where he doesn't believe he's being abused, exactly --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's very upsetting.

Emily: There's just a lot going on in A Crown of Swords. As we've mentioned before.

Sally: Anyway.

Emily: And as we'll mention more extensively in seven years, when we get to it. (laugh)

Sally: No, literally. We're doing about two books a year, so ...

Emily: Three ...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: More years?

Sally: Assuming we all survive that long.

Emily: I don't know, I think book four will take us eons. Because ... either that, or book three will really take us eons 'cause there will be so much to talk about. And book five. I really like book five.

Sally: I love -- I like book five a lot too.

Emily: It's like the odd-numbered books are my favorite.

Sally: Yeah. You've told me about -- you're like, "The odd ones are good, and the even ones are bad."

Emily: Yeah. That's actually -- yeah. I can't think of an odd-numbered Wheel of Time book that I don't ...

Sally: What about the one you're currently reading? Is that an even one? Are you reading 12 or 13?

Emily: No, it's even.

Sally: I can't remember.

Emily: I'm on 12, and it's literally the worst book in the series.

Sally: Yikes.

Emily: So, yeah, yikes. Um, but 13 is pretty good. I have -- of course, I haven't read it since I was 17, so. Who knows?

Sally: Wow-za. You were 17 a while ago.

Emily: I was. That was -- many moons ago. Anyway, I'm reading a book from my -- well, I read, I finished it, but it's the only thing I can think of -- I read a book from my childhood titled "The Little White Horse" by Elizabeth Gouge? Or possibly Gouge. (pronouncing it differently)

Sally: I hope it's Gage. (laugh)

Emily: Seems --

Sally: Elizabeth Gage.

Emily: Seems unlikely.

Sally: Wouldn't that be cool, though?

Emily: It would be. Um, anyway. It was written in the 1940s and is set in the 1840s, and at the end, two 14-year-olds get married, so ... y'know.

Sally: What?

Emily: Nine-year-old me just skimmed over that little (laugh) detail.

Sally: When you're nine, 14 seems like 30, though.

Emily: No, they read like kids. I was very much aware that they were children. And I was just like, "Meh. Different time. Fourteen-year-olds. Whatever." They're also second cousins. Is that what -- are second cousins the one where your parents are cousins?

Sally: I think so.

Emily: What's that and cousins once removed?

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: I just ...

Sally: It doesn't make any sense to me. I feel like if you share any DNA, uh, no matter how distant, you should maybe be a little wary about that.

Emily: Well, theoretically, we all share DNA.

Sally: OK. Emily --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Oh my God. What type of slippery slope politics is this?

Emily: I just -- (laugh)

Sally: Now you put me in a bad mood. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That was so easy.

Sally: (sigh)

Emily: (laugh) OK, we have to talk about the book. 'Cause -- who knows, we might be talking about this forever. 'Cause it's a PARTY sequence.

Sally: I feel like first we should mention that it's the end of an era.

Emily: Oh. Yeah.

Sally: Meaning that --

Emily: R.I.P.

Sally: We are saying farewell to Tubthumping by Chumbawamba.

Emily: It was a great joke while it lasted, guys. But we're slightly more popular than, I think, we thought we'd be, and so --

Sally: So now we're a little bit worried about litigation. (laugh)

Emily: It's not that I think Chumbawamba themselves care. It's that I think there's a host of copyright lawyers out there who are just, like, waiting.

Sally: Itching to sue us.

Emily: Yeah, just itching.

Sally: It's like -- some guy out there -- John M. Litigation -- has been dreaming --

Emily: Oh, John M. Litigation -- (laugh)

Sally: Of year -- for years of suing us, particularly.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: And he's like, "Finally."

Emily: This is like an episode of -- I dunno, Black Mirror or something.

Sally: Yeah. Exactly.

Emily: At the end, we'll find out it's 'cause -- 'cause one of us hit him with a car or something. I've never hit a person with my car, for the record. Nor have you. Well ... I dunno.

Sally: No, I haven't. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) She had to think about it, my guys.

Sally: No! It was a joke. I haven't hit anybody with my car. But we are saying farewell to Tubthumping by Chumbawamba, and I don't know if you're going to go into the backlog and replace it in all the old episodes?

Emily: Um, I don't know. We'll find out, kind of.

Sally: Yeah, so it might be --

Emily: Depends on -- depends on whether it's a huge pain or not.

Sally: Yeah, I am still a little worried about it being there, but.

Emily: Well, I mean --

Sally: Can't change the past, right? Goodbye, Chumbawamba. We love you. And though we get knocked down, we will get back up again.

Emily: Um. Hello. Welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast.

Sally: OK.

Emily: I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Here's your spoiler alert: We will probably cover spoilers.

Sally: Don't think about it, bitch.

Emily: Oh. Yep. Keeping that in.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. (laugh) That was to our cat.

Sally: Sorry, that was directed to the cat. Not to you guys.

Emily: OK, we had an epic party sequence in this, um, sequence.

Sally: Epic?

Emily: I think it was kinda epic.

Sally: (laugh) When Rand gets trapped by skirts, that's --

Emily: It's more epic how they, like, roll in there, y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like ... what song would be playing? You're better at that than me.

Sally: Oh. What song would be playing --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: As they roll up?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um. Um --

Emily: What's a good party theme --

Sally: Let's Get the Party Started by P!nk. Obviously. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (singing) "IIII'm comin' out, and we better get this party started." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Obviously.

Emily: Slow-motion.

Sally: Yeah, exactly. As --

Emily: Ingtar, not caring.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Verin, looking fly as hell.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rand, nervously adjusting his entire coat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Loial. Has his face in a book. Mat. Is out of the frame 'cause he's so mad. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) And Rand, like, pulls him in by the shirtcoat.

Emily: He's trying desperately to escape.

Sally: Yeah. Verin -- no, Verin's got, like, him by the earlobe.

Emily: Yeah, something like that.

Sally: To drag -- yeah. Anyway. I really -- I know I say this every time, but I'm very upset that I have not been hired to do the music for Wheel of Time.

Emily: Yeah, it's, um -- I can't believe they've looked over your whole resume --

Sally: (laugh) My -- my qualifications.

Emily: (laugh) They've skimmed over your LinkedIn.

Sally: Yeah. Exactly. And they were like, "No. Obviously she's perfect, which is why we can't hire her."

Emily: Yeah, it'd -- there would be too much power --

Sally: It would be --

Emily: In the Wheel of Time television series.

Sally: It would be too good, and we're invested in not giving the people what they need.



Emily: (laugh) Well. That sounds like Amazon.

Sally: I'm just saying, I would do a really good job.

Emily: You would. I agree.

Sally: Thank you, Emily.

Emily: Whole-heartedly.

Sally: (laugh) OK, so they roll up. Everyone's got sunglasses on. They're the only people in the world that wear sunglasses.

Emily: Yeah. Of course. And then they, uh --

Sally: (laugh) Remember that scene in Black Sails where Jack Rackham has the, like, funny little sunglasses?

Emily: Yeah, it's the most hysterical --

Sally: That never appear again.

Emily: Scene of all time. And no one addresses it. It was like -- the costume designer was like, "I wanna try something this week."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And whoever plays Jack Rackham was like, "I'm so in."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then everyone laughed at him, and he was like, "Never mind."

Sally: Yeah. Anyway, it's like that. They all have sunglasses on.

Emily: Yeah, so they roll in to this, uh, manor house party in disguise, of course -- well.

Sally: Natch.

Emily: Not really. It would be cooler if they were, like, masked -- if it was a masqsue ball.

Sally: I love me a masquerade.

Emily: Y'know.

Sally: I'm such a slut for that.

Emily: Phantom of the Opera style.

Sally: Exactly. Romeo and Juliet style.

Emily: Yaaasss.

Sally: But Baz Luhrmann Romeo and Juliet, where Mercutio is a drag queen.

Emily: I do picture this scene a little Baz Luhrmann-esque --

Sally: Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: Just, like -- the way it's described is so sumptuous, and there's -- people's hair is everywhere because it's piled in --

Sally: France.

Emily: Three stories-high hair.

Sally: That would probably be so painful.

Emily: For your neck? Yeah. God.

Sally: Like, how do you not just --

Emily: Tip over?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's the skirts. They're a counterbalance.

Sally: That makes so much sense.

Emily: Yeah, well, the skirts -- as Rand says -- are too wide to fit through normal doorways, which is, like, what a fashion statement, really. And I know that was fashion, really, for a while, but it's like, why, though? Consider this: No.

Sally: Maybe because high heels hadn't been exactly invented. I mean, they had, but not stilettos. They had to contain -- constrain the female body in another way.

Emily: I mean, yep. Always constraining the female body.

Sally: But I just don't understand, like, why would you want big skirts? What's the -- what's the lewk there?

Emily: Um, there's probably, like, some fertility symbolism with wide hips.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: But it's also like -- just stupid. So.

Sally: I dunno. I think it could be kind of a look.

Emily: I mean, yeah. Any -- the right person could pull it off. Who's the right person is the question.

Sally: Yeah, who is Wheel of Time's fashion icon?

Emily: Oh, you mean fictional characters? I was thinking, like, who in our world could pull it off?

Sally: Oh. Real person? Probably lots of people. Gaga. Ezra Miller.

Emily: Yeah. Gaga for sure.

Sally: Beyonce.

Emily: Ezra Miller for sure. God, Beyonce can pull off anything.

Sally: Beyonce ... probably Rihanna.

Emily: You're right. If Rihanna wore a wide skirt to the next Met Gala, I'd be like --

Sally: We'd all be doing it.

Emily: "Well, I guess that's fashion now."

Sally: Exactly.

Emily: So there must've been a Rihanna in the Middle Ages who was like --

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: Who was the Rihanna of the Middle Ages?

Sally: Who was?

Emily: It was Shakespeare. (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I solved it. Get me on the History Channel, now.

Sally: You right.

Emily: Or on Drunk History.

Sally: It was Rihanna. Wait.

Emily: It would be really funny especially because I don't drink, so it'd just be like -- I'm just like that.

Sally: (laugh) I'll drink, and Emily will talk.

Emily: (laugh) That would be perfect. OK, um. Jesus, we have to fucking talk about this --

Sally: OK, so then they, like, roll in, like, "Yo, what up? I'm Rand, and these are my bitches." (laugh) Um.

Emily: Well, everyone makes a bigger deal out of Verin, really. Like --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, he's so fucking stupid.

Sally: Well, yeah, 'cause an Aes Sedai rolls up in, like, a cool shawl that's, like, embroidered with -- embroidered with grapevines.

Emily: Yeah, they're like, "Ooh, Aes Sedai," and also, "Ooh, Ogier," and then no one really gives a shit about Ingtar, he's just like a -- your average --

Sally: Usual.

Emily: Dirty nobleman. Um, but then, like, between the three of them, they manage to, uh, y'know -- instead of all the attention in the room being targeted on one person, it's spread about. So Rand has a creepy conversation with the lord of the manor, who's like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I think you're Gawyn in disguise." And Rand's like, "Am not."

Sally: Rand's literally like, "Who's Gawyn?"

Emily: Rand's like, "What? Whomst?"

Sally: I love that -- I love -- one thing I love about Rand is that he's like, "Gawyn who?"

Emily: Yeah. True. Oh my God, I just thought of Wheel of Time's perfect ending. OK. Not perfect ending, but I've thought of yet another way for it to improve --

Sally: OK. Lay it on me.

Emily: Rand's actual love triangle should be with Gawyn and Elayne. (laugh)

Sally: Holy shit.

Emily: Then Egwene would be free of Gawyn --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who's, like, a curse. Gawyn and Rand totally deserve each other. So does Elayne. They're all just three -- all of them are the worst.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: No, like, incest stuff, just, like, separate --

Sally: No, no, it's -- the triangle doesn't complete. It's like --

Emily: Yeah, it's just two separate lovers.

Sally: Exactly. Which is -- which is then dramatic 'cause the, like, not-sex side of that is otherwise, like, Galad is their sibling --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: On the other side, and Rand and Galad, and, like, that is the real drama.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. And Min and Aviendha could fall in love, I guess.

Sally: I don't -- I don't think Min's good enough for Aviendha.

Emily: Yeah, I know Min's not good enough for Aviendha. The Min in my --

Sally: Aviendha and Egwene can fall in love.

Emily: The Min in my -- oh, yeah, you right. You right. You figured it out.

Sally: And Min -- dies.

Emily: (wheeze, laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: The Min in my world is much improved, but still ... what would I do with her? She probably wouldn't have a love interest. She'd be off doing her psychic thing.

Sally: Rad.

Emily: She'd actually do something cool with her powers.

Sally: Rad.

Emily: OK, anyway. Yet again, solving Wheel of Time. You're welcome, Amazon. Fuck. Robert Jordan is up there. He's like, "They're doing it. My work."

Sally: He's like Meryl Streep, you know, in that gif, where she's like, "Yes!"

Emily: Yeah, he's like, "YES!"

Sally: That's Robert Jordan up in heaven.

Emily: "They've caught the vision."

Sally: With his glass of wine.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: He's like, "YAAASS! TURN UP!" (laugh) That's what I like to think.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And Jesus is there with him, like, "YESS!" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Anyway. (laugh)

Emily: Um. Oh my God. OK. So, creepy conversation with the lord, um, Rand escapes and then is like, "Ooh. Thom. Hey, Thom." And Thom's like, "I'm not even gonna act like I see you."

Sally: I know. What a power move.

Emily: "That's how cold I am."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm a cold bitch." But then Rand gets cornered by three women who want to have an affair with him, which, again --

Sally: What the fuck?

Emily: Why? But also it's symbolic. There's two younger women, and I think they might have similar coloring -- like, have light hair? I can't remember. And then like an older woman who's kinda like Min-esque.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Anyway, as, uh, Sarah McClintock pointed out in our best episode, several episodes ago, which was all about --

Sally: Clothes.

Emily: Clothes and dress.

Sally: Episode 29, I believe.

Emily: This is another fun, symbolic moment where there -- Rand is literally trapped by skirts.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is really symbolic of his fear of women and femininity. Dur dur dur!

Sally: In case you guys were wondering, Rand actually hates women.

Emily: Yeah. He's just kind of --

Sally: He just -- it's in a complicated -- like, the way that his hatred of women is expressed is very complicated.

Emily: Yeah. And that tricks some of us into thinking it's interesting.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's not.

Sally: Or chivalry. But really it's disgusting.

Emily: Chivalry is just benevolent misogyny.

Sally: Mmm! Emily!

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Turn it out.

Emily: Well, actually, there's a lot to be said about chivalry. Chivalry done right is a lovely thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Chivalry is sexless when done correctly.

Sally: Exactly.

Emily: But --

Sally: We should all be chivalrous.

Emily: Yeah. We should all be chivalrous. And kind to each other. And go out of our way to be nice. That's the real chivalry.

Sally: That is what the Middle Ages wanted.

Emily: And -- yeah, that's what King -- King Arthur himself, who, as Sally told me earlier --

Sally: (laugh) No!

Emily: Was in the sixteenth century --

Sally: That's not at all what I was saying. Emily was just ignoring me.

Emily: (laugh) I was not ignoring you.

Sally: I was -- I was both -- I was trying to get her to read aloud to me 'cause it'd be romantic, and we were both reading the Great Hunt at once, but Emily is not for reading aloud.

Emily: Sally constantly wants one of us to read out loud to the other one, and I'm like, "The only way I can see people reading aloud to each other is if one of them is in a coma." So it's like -- I just can't --

Sally: Kay, I guess I'll just get hit by a car, then.

Emily: Oh my God. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Like Sleepless in Seattle. I think he gets hit by a train, though. Not Sleepless in Seattle. While You Were Sleeping. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I was like, "Jesus, I haven't seen that movie in a while. Did Tom Hanks get hit by a train?"

Sally: He does not. I was thinking of While You Were Sleeping.

Emily: Yeah. Still. Similar veins of, um, romantic comedies.

Sally: Yes, stop this movie, and watch While You Were Sleeping. I actually like it. OK, so skipping over the part where Emily was making fun of me, um ... ummm, then Rand is like, "Augh!" and he, like, jumps over the skirts of these ladies and is like, "Thom! Thom!"

Emily: He literally vaults over the top.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Thom's, like, taking a sip of wine, and Rand's like, "All these women wanna sleep with me," and Thom chokes --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "You need to stop doing that," and Thom's like, "I'm sorry, I just can't believe anyone wants to fuck you."

Sally: True.



Emily: "It's so difficult to believe."

Sally: "It's very hard to believe. Have you looked in the mirror?"

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "No, you can't, because you can't see yourself, freakish giant."

Emily: And then they're, like, having a little chat, where Rand's like, "And yeah, the Horn of Valere got stolen again," and Thom's like, "Aw, damn, that sucks, do you need my help?" And Rand's like, "No, you're right. We should break up." And Thom's like, "Maaaaww. I kinda wanted to help get the Horn of Valere back."

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "That's the last time I've helped you! Unless you, like, want to ..."

Emily: "Unless you, like, maybe want to, like, get ice cream later?"

Sally: "Get ice cream and, like, go hunt monsters together? That sounds pretty cool ..."

Emily: Um. Oh, then Hurin runs up to Rand and is like, "Rand! Excuse me, Lord Rand! Your servant -- your manservant twisted his ankle!" And Rand's like, "What? Mat twisted his ankle?" And then he, like, catches on, and he's like, "Oh, NO, that stupid buffoon. I have to go check on him now and see if he can still serve me with his body." Ew.

Sally: (laugh) Emily.

Emily: (laugh) I'm sorry, I can't (inaudible) -- ew, ew, ew, ew. Ew, I wanna die. It's not the men thing. It's Mat and Rand.

Sally: Yeah, my --

Emily: It's a disgusting pairing.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. Especially 'cause Mat's so sick right now. I just want someone to heal him.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, I'm just worried about him.

Sally: And I'm deep in Tylin territory, where I'm like, "Everybody should leave Mat's body alone."

Emily: Everyone should just back away from Mat.

Sally: Everyone should stop touching Mat without his consent --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Or bullying him.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: People should be nice to Mat. Be chivalrous to Mat Cauthon.

Emily: People should just be nice.

Sally: Only to Mat, though.

Emily: Especially to Mat. (laugh) OK. Anyway, then they're, like, walking away, and Hurin -- Rand's like, "Uh, is Mat's ankle really twisted?" And Hurin's like, "No, you idiot."

Sally: Hurin's like, "You're stupid."

Emily: "It was a clever ruse to get you to follow me." And then they go out to the garden, and Hurin's like, "Here's where the trail ends. At this wall." And then Rand's like, "Mat, will you go carry this message for me?" And Mat's like "Fu--what the --"

Sally: He's like, "I'm not actually your servant."

Emily: Like, "OK, my lord. Will my lord require anything else?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's so salty.

Sally: I know. "My lord. Can I carry your banner, my lord? What can I do for you, my lord, my lord?"

Emily: He's still talking to himself as he walks off.

Sally: "My lord?" Yeah.

Emily: Which I find hysterical.

Sally: I know. Mat is the true MVP.

Emily: Um, then they climb the wall and find a Waygate. And it's great, 'cause they're like, "Oh, well, we can just follow them through the Ways. Easy peasy." But then they open the Ways and there's, um, the Black Wind, which is creepy. And Rand channels at it really aggressively --

Sally: Which is like -- what?

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like, wh--what? Why? OK.

Sally: What are you doing?

Emily: I don't -- yeah, I mean, instinctive reaction, I guess?

Sally: I guess. But it's just, like, a weird scene. Very --

Emily: It's a very weird, like, mind --

Sally: Fuck.

Emily: Bending scene. Yeah. It's just kind of -- Rand's really out-of-his-head space, and just, like, "Bleh bleh bleh bleh bleh, symbolism, it's an ocean, it's a pond --"

Sally: "It's a river."

Emily: "It's all around me. I'm dying. I'm drowning."

Sally: "But I love it."

Emily: "But I fucking love it! It's like cocaine!"

Sally: Or heroin.

Emily: Yeah, or heroin. Or any hard drug. Yep. We went there.

Sally: Excedrin. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) God. And, uh -- anyway, then they leave.

Sally: (laugh) Well -- yeah, it's very scary, 'cause of course the Black Wind is, like -- always says disgusting stuff about --

Emily: Bones.

Sally: Disgusting stuff.

Emily: Bones?!

Sally: Bo--bones? (laugh) Um, but yeah, then Rand's out there, like, mind-fighting the Black Wind. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, he's just, like -- I imagine him just standing there, like, squinting at it. And Hurin's like, "No! Big fire!" And Rand's like, "That's MY mind-fire."

Sally: Yeah, "MY mind-fire."

Emily: Meanwhile, Loial's literally, like, scrambling around on his hands and knees, trying to actually solve the problem.

Sally: I know. I think our band should be called My Mind-fire. It'd be a good band name, right?

Emily: (sigh) I didn't know we had a band.

Sally: We do.

Emily: OK, great. Glad to know. Glad to be a part of it. Original music --

Sally: You're not anymore.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Due to your bad attitude.

Emily: I've been kicked out already? (laugh) Joined a band and kicked out of it in less than thirty seconds.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That's like my entire life. (laugh)

Sally: No! You can be back in the band. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I mean, my poor attitude gets me --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Kicked out of things. (whisper) A lot. OK.

Sally: Then Loial solves the problem 'cause he's the best boy who ever lived.

Emily: He's the only one with a working brain. And, like, basically, they -- y'know, leave the party. Barthes takes Rand aside and is like, "So, um, I was -- I've been instructed to leave you a message from this dude, and he says he'll be waiting for you at Toman Head." And he, like, asks Rand a bunch of questions, and Rand notes that it seems like he wasn't intending to ask the questions, which I think is kind of one of the first hints of Rand's -- Rand's particular *ta'veren*-ness --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Often causes people to say things that they wouldn't normally.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is interesting, uh, 'cause Mat's bends fate or luck, and Perrin's, also kinda similarly, has people --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Perrin has the most subtle *ta'veren* powers. It's interesting. But yeah, he gets people to, uh, do what he wants, basically.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand gets people to say what they really mean. Rand just Zone of Truths people all the time, on accident.

Sally: I cast Zone of Truth.

Emily: Um, and then they leave the party --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And kind of are like, "Well, we can't go through the Way --" Well. They still want to go through the Ways; they're just going to go to a different Waygate.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Figuring it can't be at both places. So they're gonna go to Setting -- Stedding Tsofu, which is Loial's, correct?

Sally: No, I thought Loial's from Stedding Shangtai.

Emily: Yeah, you right, you right. But Loial's still freaked out 'cause it's like, "Oooh. A stedding."

Sally: Aw, no.

Emily: When he hasn't been home in -- literally, he ran away from home.

Sally: Unit.

Emily: It's like going to, like, your aunt's house when you ran away from your mom's house. That make sense?

Sally: Yeah. No, I get it.

Emily: Yeah. Um.

Sally: Hopefully your, like, cool aunt's house, though.

Emily: Yeah, but still, like, awkward.

Sally: Yeah, a little bit.

Emily: Um. So that's where we're at. What did I have to say? What did I think about? Mat's character contin-- I know we talk about Mat a lot, and it's interesting considering he's not even, like, a point of view character in this book, but just more and more, as he's on the page, I'm, like, struck by how much he changes as a character --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In book three. Like, Rand makes a side comment here about how, um, he's really concerned that Mat would say something and get them in trouble? 'Cause he just, like, can't keep his mouth shut?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But the Mat we're introduced to in book three does nothing but keep his mouth shut. Like, Mat evades questions and never, like, tells anyone what's really going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's not -- he doesn't blurt things out that he's thinking --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anymore. And it's like -- I don't know. It's just all his qualities that are very immature -- he just suddenly grows up in, like, a snap.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is kinda scary.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a way.

Sally: Yeah, like, he has to. He's, like, forced into it. Into maturity.

Emily: It's just sort of a jarring thing because whereas with Rand and Perrin and Egwene, we see the process; with Mat, it's just like, "Oh."

Sally: Well, and like with Rand and Perrin and Egwene, it's like, the process of maturity is built into their arc --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, Egwene is with the Wise Ones, and Perrin, um, y'know, takes control of the Two Rivers -- or, doesn't take -- is forced to do so --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And gets married, of course, which is a big growing-up thing, and Rand -- who even knows what Rand's doing? But he goes through a lot of different -- like the Dragon Reborn, where he's off in the wilderness doing whatever he's doing, and then Rhuidean and all that, whereas, like, Mat -- you don't really -- yeah, you don't really see what happens. And so it's just

like, is it this loss of memory? Like, what -- that, like, realigns him? You know, internally? It's very -- it's kinda spooky. Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, well, the loss of memory is what is so -- yeah, it's spooky 'cause it's like, you can never then identify if there was a moment or if there was a set of moments because he can't remember them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is really freaky.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a way. 'Cause, like, we never get from Mat's point of view -- it's so interesting. Mat never is like, "Wow, I sure have changed."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And no one, about Mat, is ever like, "Wow, Mat sure has changed." Everyone is like, "Yeah, Mat's the same."

Sally: Yeah, and it's kind of interesting -- I -- it's interesting that you say that, 'cause I'm in a part where, in a Crown of Swords, where Nynaeve just, like, keeps harping on how Mat is so difficult and Mat is so impossible to work with --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And it's like, is she thinking of the Mat that she grew up with? Like, she hasn't spent an inordinate amount of time with him after, um, y'know, his memory loss, after he wakes up in Tar Valon. And so then it's like, is Mat being treated by everybody else like the Mat he used to be wherein people aren't recognizing that he has changed and grown --

Emily: Yeah, it takes, like, everyone forever to catch up.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's -- the only one I ever am, like, convinced who they're, like, well-aware of what's happened in terms of, like, accepts the new Mat, kind of, is Thom. Like, Thom --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Does a really good job of just being like, "Oh, I guess this is Mat now."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "Weird luck boy and also really competent. Like, unlike little kid he used to be. Little dumbass."

Sally: Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: Like, Thom and Mat kind of instantly go from mentor/mentee relationship to a really solid partnership of equals.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's a really interesting thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. It's just weird. It's just weird. And we'll get to this next time or maybe the time after that, but, um, uh, it's similar themed when they go through the Portal Stone. Mat's -- some of what Mat seems to see when they're seeing all their lives played out is that he betrays Rand by, like, speaking of him or not keeping a lid on himself. It's just interesting.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I dunno.

Sally: I also love that, like, one of the first lines of this chapter is like, "There was nothing for Perrin to do, so we left him behind."

Emily: Oh my God, it's so funny.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're like -- (laugh) it was like Robert Jordan was like, "Ahh, is there a way for me to get Perrin into this scene?" And he was like, "I can't -- I can't --"

Sally: There's literally not.

Emily: "There's literally no reason for him to be there. I guess I'll leave him home."

Sally: Yeah. Perrin just has a nice -- Perrin just has, like, a Perrin night in.

Emily: He has, like, a nice evening.

Sally: Yeah. Takes a bath ...

Emily: It would be great if they walked back and he was, like, in a mud mask with cucumbers over his eyes.

Sally: Oh my God. He's just like --

Emily: He's doing the male equivalent of that, which is sitting, reading a book.

Sally: I really wish he was in a mud mask.



Emily: I do too. It would be so funny.

Sally: I bet Faile and Perrin do mud masks together.

Emily: They are very much the couple who, like, goes and does the couples spa --

Sally: Yeah. Totally.

Emily: Event together, and Perrin, like, pretends not to like it, but really he's like --

Sally: But really he loves it.

Emily: "Oh my God, I love this."

Sally: He's like, "Seaweed wrap? Yes."

Emily: Yesss. (laugh)

Sally: He's also got his glass of wine, like, "Yaaasss!"

Emily: Manicure.

Sally: Perrin would get a manicure.

Emily: Perrin would get a manicure.

Sally: OK --

Emily: I'm just realizing how much Perrin -- I visually imagine Perrin to look a little bit like Travis McElroy. So that's weird.

Sally: I imagine Perrin is -- kay, Perrin is very well-kept in my mind. Like, beard: Trimmed.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: Nails: trimmed. Like just, like, looks really nice. And then it just deteriorates from there, where, like -- Rand is, like, just doesn't fit in his body, and then there's Mat, who's just in, like, six-day-old clothes.

Emily: (laugh) Hasn't cut his hair in three years.

Sally: Hasn't cut his hair in years. Like --

Emily: He's just like, blegh.

Sally: He -- if he could grow a beard, it would look gross, but he can't grow a beard, so it's, like, fine. (laugh) His nose is crooked.

Emily: Um. It's funny how nobody ever talks about getting their hair cut in fantasy books.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Because for me, personally, getting my hair cut is a -- I have to do it every, I dunno, eighteen days or so? Literally. You might think that's an exaggeration, but literally.

Sally: It's not.

Emily: I have to cut it all the time to keep it, like, a normal height, and even right now it's just like -- height.

Sally: I think your hair looks very nice right now.

Emily: There's just a lot of height to deal with.

Sally: You look like you're in a boy band.

Emily: Thank ... you?

Sally: It's a compliment! I love it! I'm sorry -- I didn't mean, if that was upsetting -- I just really like it.

Emily: (laugh) Um --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's not upsetting me, don't worry. (laugh)

Sally: Today I was buying you a present (laugh) at the aviary, and my favorite coworker was like, "Who's it for?" And I was like, "Oh, it's for my roommate," and he's like, "What's she like?" And I was like, "Well, she's very butch, and she's very hard to buy presents for." (laugh) And he was like, "OK?" (laugh) So anyway. That's, like, all I could think of to say in that moment.

Emily: I'm sorry I'm hard to buy presents for.

Sally: (laugh) You're very hard to buy presents for.

Emily: I'm very easy to please. Give me a six-pack of Diet Coke. That's like -- I'm set.

Sally: I'm not gonna buy you a six-pack of Diet Coke for Christmas!

Emily: If you did, I wouldn't think any less of you. I'd just be like, "Damn. Excellent." I love a six-pack of Diet Coke.

Sally: OK, well, anyway, I just thought it was really funny 'cause I was like, "Aw, I spend so much time with Emily, why can't I say anything other than she's really butch and hard to buy presents for?" (laugh)

Emily: (doing a weird voice) “She’s real butch. Keeps her hair short.”

Sally: (laugh) I don’t --

Emily: I don’t know what this voice I’m doing is. It’s not like you. But I wanna keep doing it for a while.

Sally: I don’t know. I didn’t mean to do you this --

Emily: (back to weird voice) “Wears men’s jeans.” (laugh)

Sally: I didn’t mean to do you a disservice in that way. OK, anyway. What were we talking about? Haircut. Getting my hair cut is like a whole fucking afternoon. I have the same hairdresser I’ve had my entire life. I go, I know her whole life, we sit, we chat, I get my hair cut, I get my eyebrows waxed --

Emily: Wow.

Sally: I buy new shampoo. It’s like a four-hour ordeal. I usually go with my mom. We get lunch afterwards. Anyway. It’s like a whole thing. So the fact that people are just, like -- not talking about it.

Emily: Well, it’s just, like, in fantasy, there’s a tendency to skip over, like, the minute details of people’s, like, upkeeping themselves as people, y’know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: We never really read about people brushing their teeth or shaving or women’s periods or anything like that because it’s just like, oh, it’s boring, and everyone does it, so. We’ll just skim over it. But it’s like, it is kind of boring, and I wouldn’t appreciate it if it was on every page, but I wouldn’t mind if, every once in a while, we got a scene where, like, someone was doing one of those things.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: While other stuff was happening, y’know?

Sally: Yeah. Well, I’m just curious.

Emily: Like, it would be interesting. Yeah.

Sally: What does Mat Cauthon do with his hair?

Emily: Yeah, like -- just generally, what is -- what are -- how are men upkeeping their hair?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cause Wheel of Time, we're told it's pretty much kept short, so --

Sally: Yeah, so it's like, where are these fantasy barbers?

Emily: Yeah, like I can believe Egwene's running around, like, not cutting her hair in three years because, like, whatever --

Sally: She's got --

Emily: She's busy.

Sally: Beautiful flowing locks.

Emily: Yeah, she's busy, and it's like, if you have long hair, then you have long hair, you know?

Sally: Yeah, exactly. Well.

Emily: I mean, split ends and all, but -- again.

Sally: That's true. You should get your hair cut regularly to keep --

Emily: Egwene's appearance isn't gonna, like, change drastically --

Sally: Yeah. She -- yeah.

Emily: If she doesn't cut her hair, whereas Mat with long hair is a nightmare.

Sally: Could you imagine?

Emily: No, I don't want to.

Sally: Mat with a rat tail.

Emily: I'm watching too much Supernatural, so now whenever I think of long-haired men, I just think of Sam Winchester, and I feel a, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Deep, abiding disturbance in the force. (laugh) Don't like it.

Sally: Yeah, Sam's hair gets a little out of control.

Emily: It's just bad.

Sally: What's a man who has long hair that looks nice?

(long pause)

Emily: I'm gonna --

Sally: Let me rephrase: What's a white man with long hair that looks nice?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I know lots of men of color with beautiful flowing hair.

Emily: (sigh) Jonathan Van Ness?

Sally: True. But that's, like, next level. That's like a mermaid crawled out of the ocean.

Emily: Is there a straight white man -- is there a straight white man who looks good with long hair? Is the real question.

Sally: Jonathan Van Ness has the most beautiful hair.

Emily: He really does.

Sally: I just wanna, like, wrap it around my hands.

Emily: I've been listening to Getting Curious --

Sally: Aw, do you like it?

Emily: Yeah, it's really fun.

Sally: What episodes have you listened to?

Emily: Just the first two. I really like the second one, which is all about Christmas.

Sally: Oh, that one was really nice. The first one --

Emily: The first one --

Sally: I didn't like the guest.

Emily: Yeah, he was just kinda, like --

Sally: Just really --

Emily: Not -- he was a little uptight.

Sally: Yeah, there -- there's one later about gravitational waves where the guest is, like, a major douchebag.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: All the men are bad. But. Except for the Father, he was so cute.

Emily: Oh, yeah, he was delightful.

Sally: He was like, "Let's talk about Christmas!"

Emily: He was like, "Yeah, let's use your gay slang. Love it."

Sally: I know, and he's like -- I was obsessed with him. Anyway.

Emily: He was great. OK.

Sally: Um, I don't know a straight man with long hair that looks good.

Emily: Yeah. I rest my case.

Sally: Chris Hemsworth looked OK? But, like, then he -- then they cut his hair in Thor: Ragnarok, and we were all like, "Finally. Free him."

Emily: Yeah, Chris Hemsworth was like, "OK, fine, if this is what I have to live with," but then they cut his hair, and I was like, "Oh my God."

Sally: "You've been torturing this man."

Emily: You've been -- literally, how have you been hiding this beautiful specimen --

Sally: I know.

Emily: Under this mop of hair. I hate it.

Sally: God, I know. Ragnarok changed everyone's life.

Emily: I know, Ragnarok changed everyone. Changed me as a person. Emotionally, sexually. Just a lot. Just a lot going on. Um.

Sally: Stop this podcast and watch Thor: Ragnarok.

Emily: Yeah, just do it.

Sally: It's really good. It's on Netflix, I think.

Emily: Do you have anything else to say about that sequence?

Sally: No? Well, then there's like a -- a, like, plot significantly at the end. Verin's like, "Blah! Accept your fate, mah." And Rand's like, "No!" Pretty much.

Emily: Does he? I can't remember.

Sally: I think so.

Emily: I can't remember the end of that chapter.

Sally: Oh, and she's also talking about how she's worried about Mat and how, like --

Emily: Oh, Rand's like, "Why does -- why the fuck does he look like that?" And Verin's like, "Yeah, it's just not going like we thought it would."

Sally: (laugh) She's like, "Medicine be like that sometimes."

Emily: She's like, "Well. We're not perfect. We're not actual doctors." I've also been listening to Sawbones, which is delightful. (laugh) Um. "We're not actual doctors, and we just didn't know what it would do. We thought it would help him, but the longer he's away from the dagger, like, his body's just wasting away, but he's --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Feels normal." Which is a really freaky thought, actually.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, imagine -- I don't know. Again, it's like, we don't get Mat's point of view at all during these books, but it would be really interesting if we did because that's a level of body horror, I think, that --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We're -- we're only seeing from outside.

Sally: Yeah, cause he talks, in this chapter -- he's like, "All the other servants keep asking me if you're starving me, like, half of them ask if you're starving me, and half of them won't get near me 'cause they think I'm sick."

Emily: Yeah, and he just, like, says this nonchalantly, like, Mat just, like, plays it up.

Sally: But, like, that has to be so --

Emily: Yeah, that's freaky.

Sally: Traumatizing and upsetting.

Emily: And he's gotta be, like, noticing the way that people are looking at him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, second-glancing at him, like -- that's freaky.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: Anyway.

Sally: That's really upsetting.

Emily: Mat just, for me, is a character who -- it's like he was only, y'know, drawn in outline in these first two books and colored in --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Last -- after book three.

Sally: Then Robert Jordan was like, "Wait."

Emily: Robert Jordan was like, "Wait, I have something perfect here. I'm gonna use it."

Sally: "This perfect boy. Gonna put him in a hat."

Emily: "Gonna put him in a hat. Give him fireworks."

Sally: "Then he'll be complete."

Emily: "And a lot of knives."

Sally: So many knives.

Emily: So many knives.

Sally: Knife Boy. And Lavagirl.

Emily: (snort)

Sally: (laugh) Did we talk about two chapters or just one?

Emily: That was two chapters.

Sally: That was TWO chapters?

Emily: That was two -- it feels all like one chapter. Like, he just slapped a chapter break in the middle of there. Should we talk about how, um, Thom's girlfriend gets, uh --

Sally: Mega-fridged.

Emily: Fridged? Yeah. Mega-fridged.

Sally: Like, what's mega-fridged? Freezered? (laugh) She gets --

Emily: She gets put in the fridge zone? Like --

Sally: What is -- what is it? Cyro -- when you freeze people after they've died?

Emily: She was cyro-fridged. Yeah. Remember that dude in that documentary?

Sally: Yes! (laugh)



Emily: Who was literally the creepiest motherfucker I've ever laid eyes on?

Sally: Yeah ... Emily and I -- I basically dragged Emily -- I didn't drag her, she came very willingly, but it was my suggestion, and when it goes poorly, I always feel deep abiding guilt for months afterwards 'cause it's just who I am as a person -- we went to this really terrible documentary about death, and they interviewed, like, people who were dying and yadda yadda yadda. And one of them was a guy who worked at, like, a freeze-you-after-you-died kind of thing?

Emily: Is it cryogenics? Or -- yeah.

Sally: Yeah, and he was like, adamantly convinced --

Emily: That he was -- that science was eventually going to bring us all back, like if we just --

Sally: Yeah, and he --

Emily: Preserved our bodies, we'd be fine.

Sally: Well, and he was like -- and that's like -- I dunno. Whatever. Believe what you wanna believe. But this guy had, like, a weird ego about it, where he was like, "I'm my favorite thing in the world. Why would I let myself die?" (laugh)

Emily: "Why would I let this dick be destroyed by the cold hand of death?" Y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, "Shhhh."

Sally: Like, he was really creepy-looking too.

Emily: Yeah, he was just a disturbing --

Sally: David Hasselhoff-looking motherfucker.

Emily: (laugh) Just a disturbing dude.

Sally: He was creepy.

Emily: Um. (clears throat) Yeah --

Sally: But that's what happens to Dena -- Lena?

Emily: Yeah, I -- we met her once and then she's gone.

Sally: Fema? Femur?

Emily: Gone too soon.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Well, yeah, I mean, it wasn't like she was a great character --

Sally: She really shouldn't have existed.

Emily: Shouldn't have existed. And also just, like, it's this weird psychological thing where it torments Thom but also it's, like, sort of because of Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But no one ever tells Rand about this. So Rand, like, doesn't have to add this woman to his list --

Sally: This one woman, otherwise he constantly --

Emily: Of other women he's fridged.

Sally: Because it also bothers me that it, like, bothers Thom in this book and then it just kind of -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Is gone.

Emily: He gets a new love interest. He gets to obsess about Moiraine. It's just, like, bleh.

Sally: That also grosses me out.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: I just -- what if, like, Thom and, like, the fun innkeeper whose inn he's staying at fell in love. Age-appropriate --

Emily: I literally just --

Sally: They've got history --

Emily: I literally just think this was poor plotting on Robert Jordan's part, where he was like, "I need a reason for Thom to kill the king of Cairhien. And I'll just kill his girlfriend -- I'll just give him a girlfriend, then kill her."

Sally: As if Thom needs a reason to commit an assassination.

Emily: I know. I mean --

Sally: Thom's like, "Kill the king of Cairhien? Sure, sounds fun."

Emily: I'm just -- Thom has now killed two kings?

Sally: Good for him.

Emily: Which is like, interesting.

Sally: The real kingslayer.

Emily: Yeah, the real kingslayer is Thom Merrilin --

Sally: Jaime Lannister who?

Emily: Especially 'cause Thom Merrilin doesn't make, like, a big fucking deal out of it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's just like, "Yeah, I did that."

Sally: "Yeah. I killed two kings."

Emily: "Whatever."

Sally: "Going for three. The hat trick, baby."

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Who's the third king he could kill? There aren't too many kings left by -- (laugh)

Sally: I know. Thom's killing all of them. Isn't there a king in Illian?

Emily: Umm ... no, they have, like, a council, I --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Oh, no, there's a king. There's a council, and then they make Rand king.

Sally: What?!

Emily: Oh. I think that happens in the book you're on. Sorry. Spoilers.

Sally: I didn't know they made -- I know he just sent Perrin to Illian. He, like, pretended to fight, and everyone's like, "Uh, that was fake as shit." And then he sent Perrin through a gateway with Berelain and Faile and they're like, "Ah, we hate each other," and I'm like, "What if you two fucked? That would be interesting."

Emily: Oooh. There's also a king in Arad Doman, but at this point, where you're at, he's gone missing.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause Graendal just, like, squirreled him away. Um, can't think of any other kings. No one in Cairhien. No one in Tear. No one in Andor. Dunk. No more kings.

Sally: No more kings --

Emily: Thom killed 'em all.

Sally: Dunk!

Emily: Yeah. Too bad.

Sally: I guess he can kill ... meh, there's people for Thom to kill in the world.

Emily: Yeah, there's more people for him to kill.

Sally: There's bad people.

Emily: It's a world full of people for Thom Merrill to kill.

Sally: Isn't that a thought that just makes you happy when you wake up in the morning?

Emily: Well -- (laugh)

Sally: Doesn't it just put a spring in your step? Plenty of people for Thom to murder.

Emily: So many political assassinations for Thom to commit.

Sally: Ah! Ahhh. Just makes you happy.

Emily: Anyway, there's a very, like, French Revolution vibe going on as --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, right after Rand and co. leave Cairhien. Which, again, is like a nod toward the *ta'veren* thing going on, which is like, as soon as Rand leaves a place, things go to shit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, immediately afterwards.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Similarly, in Andor, like, Elayne and Ny-- and Gawyn left, along with Rand, it was like, they're out of the house, and now, uh, Forsaken can swoop in and --

Sally: Oh, yeah, I forgot about Rahvin.

Emily: Yeah. Rahvin can come in and get, uh --

Sally: That motherfucker.

Emily: Yeah. And the same thing will happen in Arad Doman and Tarabon after Rand leaves there. Just chaos. Just Rand leaves chaos in his wake. Dur dur dur.

Sally: Well.

Emily: Um, and Thom's kinda like, "No, I'm not gonna kill the king," but then later it's implied that he definitely did. So.

Sally: Good for you, Thom Merrilin.

Emily: Yeah. Do your thing, Thom.

Sally: Thom's like, "I can't leave Cairhien yet. There's still a man for me to kill."

Emily: Yeah. Um --

Sally: What song would play there? The Kill Bill theme. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) It's such a good theme. And he's all, like, pissed 'cause he can't kill Barathanes, 'cause Darkfriends got to it already.

Sally: Yeah. And he's like, "Shit. I wanted to kill two men tonight."

Emily: He was like, "Agh, fine."

Sally: "It's not a good Saturday."

Emily: "I'll kill second-best: the king."

Sally: The king is kind of a douche, though.

Emily: Yeah, I mean, killing the king leaves Cairhien wide open for every other fucking thing that happens there in the next twelve books. I know.

Sally: Cairhien is a lot.

Emily: Cairhien's a lot.

Sally: I feel like we spend too much time in Cairhien.

Emily: We do spend an inordinate amount of time in Cairhien, it feels.

Sally: Like, it's just constantly like, Rand has been in Cairhien forever. And then they take him in a box --

Emily: Why is it Rand's base of operations, kind of?

Sally: Yeah. Like why isn't it --

Emily: For a while.

Sally: Why isn't it --

Emily: Just convenient, I guess. But.

Sally: Andor.

Emily: Andor?

Sally: Andor.

Emily: I guess 'cause Elayne's there and shit has to go down there. Oh my God, the book I'm reading right now, the Wheel of Time book I'm reading now -- its one redeeming quality is that there are no Elayne point of views. (sigh)

Sally: Just dabbled. I hate Elayne.

Emily: Yeah. Who doesn't?

Sally: I didn't know how much I hated Elayne until I read book seven.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Well, I'm not done with book seven. But she is a (guttural noise) --

Emily: Insufferable.

Sally: Expletive expletive expletive in book seven.

Emily: Um, then we bounce over to Fain, who --

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Delivers the Horn and sort of the dagger, although he doesn't mean to do that one, to Lord Turak, who we've already met. Seanchan dude in Falme. And, um, not much to say there. Turak's kinda like, "Oh, I'm gonna collect you along with Bayle Domon 'cause you're just men who lie to me, and I guess that gets me off, so." Gross.

Sally: Maybe it does.

Emily: Ew.

Sally: (laugh) Sorry.

Emily: It's just, like, I can see being attracted to Bayle Domon. But Padan Fain? Ew.

Sally: Yeah, Padan Fain is gross. Bayle Domon's probably got -- just oozing sex appeal.

Emily: I bet he is. You right. You right.

Sally: He, like, rolls in, pirate captain. Is just like --

Emily: What if Bayle Domon was Mat's, like, gay awakening? Just, like, Mat was like, "Oh. I can have a crush on dudes."

Sally: If they -- yeah, he's like, "Oh, yeah."

Emily: He's like, "Oh, yeah. Pirates? Yeah. Kinda into it."

Sally: Pirates are all -- all of our gay awakening, let's be honest.

Emily: Let's be honest.

Sally: Yeah. Pirates have an incredible amount of gay energy.

Emily: Keira Knightley in my case.

Sally: That's a good one.

Emily: Oh, God. When she's dressed all like a pirate in movie three.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: It's good. But yeah, what if Mat saw Bayle Domon and was like, "Oh." He's like -- all of Bayle Domon's, like, shirtless sailors doing sailor work, and Mat's like --

Emily: I feel like we talked about this in the Eye of the World. (laugh)

Sally: We probably did.

Emily: We were like, Mat would get along with so many of these sailors.

Sally: Yeah, because a) swearing, and b --

Emily: Just fuck his way through them.

Sally: That's true. We did talk about this. It sounds --

Emily: We did talk about that.

Sally: Really familiar, yeah.

Emily: Yeah. OK, but I want him to have, like, a -- a -- a crush on Bayle Domon.

Sally: Could you imagine?

Emily: Makes it even funnier when they're, like, together after --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Book nine or whatever it is.

Sally: Mat's like, "La la la."

Emily: Mat's like, "Oh my God, I'm kinda nervous around him. But I'm also courting my wife at the same time." Weird.

Sally: Yeah. I just --

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: I'm sure that I will be very interested in Tuon when I finally meet her, but I want, so badly, for Mat to be gay that it's hard to get behind --

Emily: It is hard.

Sally: His straight relationship.

Emily: Yeah. I think Tuon's delightful. The fact that she's Seanchan is really problematic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And there's a lot going on there. But she's just, like, an interesting character. She's very smart.

Sally: (whisper) I just want Mat to be gay.

Emily: Doesn't put up with any of Mat's bullshit.

Sally: Of which there is a lot.

Emily: Yeah, of which there is a lot. She fucking wrestles him.

Sally: Good for you, Tuon.

Emily: I know. Almost wins.

Sally: Tiny, funky little lesbian.

Emily; He's like, "Oh my God. She's gonna beat me." (laugh)



Sally: I just -- want Mat to be gay so bad, though!

Emily: OK.

Sally: It, like -- lives -- it's my truest wish.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Mat Cauthon, world's gayest disaster. I just wish everyone in this book was gay.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Even Rand would be more interesting -- like you said, Rand and Gawyn. Rand and Elayne.

Emily: It would all be more interesting. I agree.

Sally: Fascinating.

Emily: Like most things, it would be more interesting if it was gayer. Anyway, uh, there's some Seanchan stuff, but I don't really care to talk about it yet --

Emily: 'Cause we're about to get to Egwene's --

Sally: Seanchan, blah blah blah.

Emily: Um ... Tuon is mentioned, though, by the way, by name.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For the first time.

Sally: Which is insane.

Emily: And, I think, the only time until she's reintroduced as a character.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, so is, like, the nine moons? The Court of the Nine Moons? Or whatever? So, y'know, for the --

Sally: The astute reader.

Emily: The astute reader, it would be, like, by the time -- in the next couple books, when Mat's like, "Hey, I'm gonna marry the Daughter of the Nine Moons," it'd be like, "Ugh, the Seanchan.

Gross. Good luck.”

Sally: Yeah, and then all of us were like, “Disgusting.”

Emily: And all of us were like, “Ugh. Consider: Maybe not.”

Sally: Let’s not romantically involve one of our characters with the perpetrators.

Emily: (singing) Yes!

Sally: Let’s -- let’s reconsider that.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Or at least not the Empress. At least not the power on high. Like, I don’t have any problem with Egeanin and Bayle Domon, ‘cause she’s, like, a -- a low.

Emily: Yeah, well, I mean, like, the implication is that, oh, now that Mat has, like, married someone high in the power structure and actually, like, influenced her that then things are going to change in Seanchan? But it’s like, yeah, there’s still a lot going on.

Sally: And that’s fine. I know I’m a Negative Nancy about stuff like this, where I just, like, have a hard time reconciling that things can have grey areas. I know that that’s a flaw of mine that I’m trying to work on. But it upsets me.

Emily: It upsets me too. I just, like, am like, that was clearly the intention. I just don’t know if it works.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don’t think it works well enough.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tuon’s still, like, hung up on a bunch of her shitty Seanchan ideas. And I’m like, meh, well. This sucks. So. Anything else to say about party chapter? Imagine it was at a rave. Imagine it was, like, one of the rave scenes in Teen Wolf, of which there are surprisingly many.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Why are there so many rave scenes in Teen Wolf?

Sally: I think they have, like, one set. (laugh) So I guess they just reuse the rave scene.

Emily: Different shades of neon paint.

Sally: No, I think it’s ‘cause -- I think it’s ‘cause MTV and MTV likes --

Emily: Yeah. They do like their music.

Sally: Rave music.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Yeah, so.

Emily: Yeah. But just imagine if this were a rave.

Sally: If it was at a rave -- oh my God.

Emily: It would be so much more iconic! Everyone would be covered in --

Sally: They'd be playing In the Air by Crankdat featuring T-Pain.

Emily: Yaaaass. Everyone would be covered in glitter and body paint --

Sally: Yeah, and glow-in-the-dark --

Emily: And, like, black lights would be on.

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: It would be a little bit disturbing but also super fun, 'cause imagine Thom.

Sally: OK, but imagine -- if we're gonna take Wheel of Time and do, like, a -- a conceptual spin on it, in which I could put P!nk music in there, fantasy France as, like, a vaguely upsetting Alice in Wonderland-esque rave scene makes a lot of sense. (laugh)

Emily: It does. There's a lot of mental grey areas that have been --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In Cairhien. Everyone just kind of is losing their minds.

Sally: Yeah. And, like, there's just the scene where Rand is, like, cornered by different groups of nobility --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Would be much more upsetting. It's like what Cassandra Clare wanted to do in Pandemonium --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But failed to do in Pandemonium.

Emily: I can't believe you remembered that night club by name.

Sally: I can't forget that night club. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That's a good point.

Sally: What would this night club be called? The night club where Lord Barthanes has his party?

Emily: Barthanes ... Barthanes' Bar? ... BAR-thanés?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, that's it.

Emily: Nailed it.

Sally: A club called BAR-thanés. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Nailed it. OK.

Sally: Nailed it. (laugh)

Emily: Well, uh, next time we're gonna come back and talk about the steddin, see how far we get with that. We're gonna be a little loosey-goosey with the next three chapters 'cause the third of those chapters could have us talking for a really long time, but we just kind of won't know until we get there. So.

Sally: That's the many lives sequence. So.

Emily: Yeah. That's the very trippy sequence --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, uh, time-skips us by several months.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is interesting. Uh. So --

Sally: This whole book should be set in a nightclub.

Emily: Yeah, keep up-to-date on the reading schedule. Sally will let you know what we actually read. Um. Do we have any housekeeping?

Sally: Um, just an update, um, from last week's episode. We are not actually on YouTube yet due to our, um, fear of Chumbawamba. (laugh)

Emily: (snort)

Sally: Our deep, primal fear of Chumbawamba. We're not on YouTube --

Emily: Chumbawamba-phobia?

Sally: Yeah, Chumbawamba-phobia. (laugh) That's a fun word to say. Chumbawamba-phobia. We're not on YouTube, um, and we're gonna -- I've been really trying to get us up on other platforms; that's gonna be a little bit limited until we address our theme song, so. You can continue to find -- I mean, you guys are listening to us, so this is, like, preaching to the choir, but iTunes, Google Podcasts, our Libsyn Feed, FM Player -- or Player FM? I always get that confused. And our Patreon feed. We put new episodes up on there, and you don't have to be a paying patron --

Emily: Yeah, they're public.

Sally: To listen to those, so. That's another good place to find us.

Emily: I mean, that's annoying, 'cause you can't download them, really. As far as I know, you just have to be on the website to listen to them.

Sally: Yeah. But it's there. Um. That's my only housekeeping.

Emily: Um ... sign us off. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Um, yeah. I have a really gross blister on my toe right now because, um --

Emily: (laugh) This is not the direction I was expecting.

Sally: I know. Because a couple weeks ago I had to go to this boring philanthropy luncheon that was like, "Let's all circle-jerk about the good work that we're doing," and then our Lieutenant-Governor talked for like 30 minutes, and I hate him. But I (inaudible) -- I was, like, serving it, in, like, jewel tones. I looked really good. And I wanted to wear these heels that I had, not realizing that I would then be sent to the post office, which was a couple blocks away from where the luncheon was, and so I had to do a lot of walking. So -- but, basically, what I'm getting at is that my toe vaguely looks like a penis right now because of the blister. (laugh) And it's really gross.