



Episode 47 – “A Very Merry Supernatural Christmas”

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Sally: Kay. Fuck, marry, kill. Sam, Dean, Cas.

Emily: Ah, fu-- (laugh)

Brie: I feel like that's easy. (laugh)

Emily: That's super easy.

Sally: I just -- we gotta start the episode somehow.

Emily: OK, kill Sam, obviously.

Brie: Duh. Yeah, no, duh. Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah. Mm.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, then I guess I'd marry Cas?

Brie: Yeah ...

Sally: Fuck Dean?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That's where I was sitting too.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: So we're all in agreement.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I just -- Cas actually has a personality I can stand. When he actually develops a personality, which is later, I guess, in the series.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: I do think, though, that, like, the emotional parts of Dean --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: If that -- if that was, like, turned on all the time. Marry.

Emily: My idealized version of Dean --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I would marry.

Brie: Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: But the Dean that's actually on the show? Mm-mm. Fuckin' leave.

Sally: OK!

(all laugh)

Emily, singing: Have a holly, jolly Christmas ...

Sally: Um, earlier I was reading an article called --

Brie: Oh! Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Emily: Don't repeat it. It's the worst.

Sally: (laughing)

Emily: I know we're an explicit podcast, but this might be the line of what's too explicit.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: K, it was an article about monster erotica, and the title of the article is also a title for the book. So it's not like someone was just slinging dirty things around to sling dirty things around. "Cum for Bigfoot" is an actual book. (laugh) So. That's the name of the article I was reading.

Emily: Oh my hell.

Sally: (inaudible) ... classic titles, like "Booty Call for Cthulu."

Emily: Like Dean Winchester before me, I'm in hell.

Brie: Mm. Yeah.

Emily: This is hell.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: OK, anyway. I'll stop talking about fucking monsters. Um. We'll just talk about monsters.

Brie: Well. Yeah. And --

Sally: And maybe fucking monsters.

Brie: There is fucking monsters in Supernatural.

Sally: You're right. You're so right.

Emily: We do have to introduce ourselves.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: OK, this is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. This week we're taking a holiday break from Wheel of Time to focus on a much-beloved CW series, Supernatural. You're welcome. Uh, I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: Um, and I'm Sally Goodger. Um. I'm saying "um" so much. But this episode exists to thank you for helping us get to 2,000 downloads in November. Two thousand unique downloads in November. So thank you to everyone who downloaded the podcast, who listened to us in November and who is continuing to listen to us in December, I hope. But this is a treat for you? Though this isn't what you asked for, I think it's what you'll want.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Ultimately.

Sally: Ultimately I think you'll realize this is what you needed all along.

Emily: Uh, we're here with our guest star. This is --

Brie: Star?

Emily: Yeah. Guest star.

Sally: You are a star. (laugh)

Emily: Our guest expert. She's wearing a Supernatural T-shirt.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I've never seen anything that I've loved more.

Sally: It's true.

Brie: I came prepared.

Sally: Um. So we are joined today by my dear friend Brie Olds, who I met my freshman year of college, and I think our very first conversation was about Supernatural.

Emily: Dear God.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Was it?

Sally: Yeah, cause I had just started watching it, and I was talking about it, and Brie jumped in and was like, "That's the best fucking show of all time." And we talked about Supernatural. And that's how we became very good friends.

Brie: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And Brie is actually qualified to talk about this 'cause she studied film and communications in college and has done --

Brie: Oh, no.

Sally: A lot of --

Emily: (laugh)

Brie: I didn't know that that was like --

Emily: Qualifications?

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Well, she does have qualifications. I just spew bullshit from my mouth on a daily basis.

Emily: We occasionally remind people that we're English majors, so we do know what we're talking about --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But most of the time, I think they don't care.

Sally: Yeah, they don't care. I just wanted to let you know that Brie's the best person ever, and she's super smart, and I'm obsessed with her. So.

Emily: Yeah, we love her a lot.

Sally: She's our guest expert this week.

Brie: Well, we'll see. When we were talking before, you guys had about one million more insights than I did. So.

Sally: Um. Wrong.

Emily: We're also -- I think a thing about being an English major is that you're trained to watch TV and movies with, like, the most critical eye possible.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's really hard to turn off. So I can't just, like, watch Supernatural and be like, "Ah, this is a fun, enjoyable show about monster hunting." I'm like, "This is a fun, enjoyable show that has a lot of weird subtext."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It -- going on.

Brie: And -- I think that maybe if I had studied more film theory when I was in school, maybe I would be trained better to, like, do that kind of thing, but I did production. So it's really --

Sally: Oh, yeah, you did.

Brie: Really -- I can just say, "Wow, the lighting could use some work in this scene." (laugh)

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

Emily: You can shed some --

Brie: Some.

Sally: Light on it.

Emily: I think it has got better, though, as the series progresses. I remember seasons one and two were really dark.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Like --

Sally: It was like they had flashlights and were just like --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Probably did. It's the CW. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, God, the CW. Whenever I remember that this is the CW, it, like, brings it all into this crystal clear focus for me.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Focus. Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, "Ahh. Yes. It's the CW."

Sally: Supernatural. OK.

Emily: Um. I completely blanked out my first watch of Supernatural? Like, I remember some highlights -

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I remember the highlight reel. And I knew who characters are and shit. But then recently I was like, "I'll just start rewatching it for kicks and 'cause there's nothing else on TV." So that's sort of why we're here? Cause I wouldn't shut up about it to you?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And I wouldn't shut up about it on our podcast. So. Currently we're in the tail-end of season five. We just watched a very dramatic episode to get us in the mood. There's a scene where Castiel beat up Dean to within an inch of his life, and it was, like, kind of erotic. (laugh)

Brie: No, it's -- yeah.

Sally: It's very erotic.

Brie: Because it's like you're disappointing me. (clap) You know?

Sally: Yeah, I'm gonna --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh) Put my boyfriend back in line.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It was a little bit like domestic violence. (laugh)

Brie: Um, (laugh) I mean, yeah, it was.

Emily: Also, I just don't know what is going on here.

Sally: The fact -- OK.

Brie: It's confusing.

Sally: Because they're not canonically together, it --

Emily: Yeah, it's not domestic violence.

Sally: It -- I mean, you still shouldn't do a hit, but it is also --

Emily: You still shouldn't do a hit.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Don't do a hit!

Sally: OK. So, for those of you who haven't watched Supernatural, I don't know why you're listening to this podcast, first of all --

Emily: Oh my God. Are you gonna recap it?

Sally: I'm not gonna recap all of Supernatural!

Brie: Recap five seasons.

Emily: "And then Dean went to hell, and then Sam ... also went to hell."

Brie: They're both brought back to life like sixty times.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Literally, we just watched an episode where they died and were brought back to life in the same episode. And I was like, "That's where we're at now."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We just don't care that much.

Sally: But Supernatural is a television show on the CW, unfortunately, that follows the monster of the week formula, meaning that every week, they -- well, every week for like the first three seasons and then we get religious --

Emily and Brie: (laugh)

Sally: But for the first three seasons, we, like, fight a new monster every week, and we follow the brothers Sam and Dean Winchester, who were deeply abused by their shitty father when they were children, after their mother gets fridged in the first episode --

Emily: (chuckle)

Sally: And they go around killing monsters together, and they have a bad relationship to one another where they are deeply codependent and then, like Emily said, Dean goes to hell, gets pulled out by a super hot gay angel, and now we're dealing with the apocalypse.

Brie: You mean ... a gayngel.

Sally: You're right. You're right.

Emily: A gayngel! Ha ha! Ha!

Sally: What a fool I have been. (laugh) That's Supernatural in 30 seconds or less.

Emily: Umm. It -- this is a show that veers between seasons in wildly different directions.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It's very strange. We were talking earlier in the kitchen about how first season is very much Sam's point of view and then in season two, it sort of, like, veers over to Dean's point of view. And that's like a weird thing. But then -- yeah. Season three ends, and suddenly we're no longer in monster and occasional demon territory, we're now very much in angels, demons, and, like, God himself is a character.

Sally and Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And that's, like, a really weird thing. You get the sense -- there's this undeniable sense that in the writers' room, every week, they were like, "We don't know how to backtrack out of this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So we're just gonna keep muddling our way through."

Brie: And I think that continues, and that's why they get into just a disaster course.

Emily: Like the disaster zone that is seasons seven through --

Brie: Through --

Emily: Wherever we are now.

Brie: Question mark, yeah.

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: (laugh) But it's like, yeah, I feel like in season four, they're like, "OK, we went there. And --"

Emily: And now there's -- they, like, fell into this hole of "We've found the biggest, baddest thing, and now we have to keep finding something bigger and badder."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But what's the only thing we can think of? Uh, Satan? Like, uh, God?

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: We don't -- like, we don't fucking know.

Sally: Yeah, and, like, part of me -- like, I really do think -- so, season four is when we start getting the religious, like, explicitly. Like Castiel is an angel of God, and he's a character, and season five too. And, like, I guess into season six, I didn't have any problems with season six, where, like, the religious -- like, the Christian -- or, like, the Judeo-Christian religious aspects -- are, like, too difficult to deal with. I genuinely think in a large part because Castiel is a fun character.

Emily: Yeah, and, like, season five specifically deals with the apocalypse --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Quote unquote, uh, like as it's seen in the Book of Revelations. Which is actually, like, pretty interesting, and like a fun thing to do. And I dunno, we could talk about how there's a sort of thing where

if they did this with any other religious text it would be really, really creepy, and like -- I don't -- like it would be a bad thing, I feel. Or if they -- 'cause there would be so much room for them to do it incorrectly.

Sally: Yeah. I mean, of course, I think that coming from a Western perspective, like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Christianity is a little bit more up for grabs than anything else.

Emily: Like, this is our religion to televise basically and to make fiction out of.

Brie: Um, it's interesting because the next episode --

Emily: That we're about to watch?

Brie: Yeah. Is about -- the gods, like, bring Sam and Dean to the hotel?

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Oh, the pagan gods?

Brie: So it's, um -- it's like Kali and Odin and --

Emily: Oh, cool.

Brie: Like a few other ones. And -- yeah. I -- I just would be interested to see what you guys --

Emily: We can watch that one next.

Brie: Cause I feel like they could've done more?

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: With those characters other than this one episode where they just bring them together to be, like, this god super-group. But it's like --

Emily: Well, there's this urge to, like, fit everyone into the Western Christian canon.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Brie: And! Kali's character, in it, is just like, "You Western people think that you're the center of the world and you can, like, destroy the world and ..." I dunno, it feels like maybe it is the writers apologizing a little bit, but, like, not in a good way because they still keep going.

Emily: There's this one episode, and then we're gonna keep going.

Sally: Yeah. It's --

Emily: But, like, I know the character -- the Trickster character? He gets, like, outed as, uh -- oh, he's actually an angel.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: He's the angel Gabriel instead of being like this own entity that comes from a lot of different cultures.

Sally: Yeah. Instead of -- yeah, being this sort of, like, manifestation of an archetype. Which would've been really interesting --

Emily: Yeah, it's cool.

Sally: Because the Trickster archetype is something that crosses -- pretty much every single culture has a Trickster, so if they all sort of manifest in this weird doughy white man --

Emily: You mean Mat Cauthon?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: He's a Wheel of Time character.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: Brie -- yeah, has not read Wheel of Time.

Brie: Yeah, I'm sorry.

Emily: Which is OK.

Sally: It's fine. It's very long.

Emily: It's a commitment.

Sally: Um. But -- yes. So they bring in the religion, and I do think it works in a way because the whole premise of Supernatural is that it's dealing with myth, legend, and folklore. And they usually do a pretty good job of bringing it in from a variety of cultures even if, like, the gaze is inherently Western and, like, they're in America the entire time. Like they do a pretty good job of having some Native American legends and African legends and et cetera, et cetera. So to have religion in it doesn't bother me, exactly, 'cause, like, the Christian canon is a large part of Western myth, obviously.

Emily: Yeah, and what they've done is taken a very Westernized version --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of Christian legend and folklore --

Sally: Yeah. Very European-ized.

Emily: Like, this is -- this is the American version.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah, that's fair. Or -- yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: So, yeah. It doesn't bother me, is what I'm trying to get out. But I wish afterwards they would've just kind of packed that up a little bit --

Emily: Yeah, and managed --

Sally: And gone back to something a little bit smaller?

Emily: Managed to find a way back.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because it -- I think writers in television and in books and in everything, basically, always think that once they've reached a certain level of threat that there's -- that the only way to move is forward, when that's not necessarily the case because you can lower the stakes, in a way, so that it's not just genocide we're talking about. It can be about your own --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Personal personhood. And it can still be an engaging TV show and, like, actually that's a really good thing that people usually want after facing --

Brie: Mm-hmm.

Emily: World-ending levels of threat.

Sally: Yeah! Yeah.

Brie: And, uh -- so I was reading, and the show's director, Eric Kripke -- I think that's how you say it?

Emily: Whatever, yeah.

Brie: Um, so he was planning on five seasons.

Emily: Ohhh.

Brie: And I think he left the show after five seasons?

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: And everyone was like, "Now what?"

Brie: And that's, like, really obvious.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: That's really obvious in the show. Because -- yeah, the apocalypse and the angel-demon-Michael-Lucifer thing, like, that's such endgame stuff.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: So yeah. I -- I think that's probably why they didn't try to backtrack? Is maybe they just thought, like, season five would be it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, and they keep -- the way they behave is, like -- as a show, that we keep expecting we'll get cancelled every season.

Brie: Yeah. Which is bad. Like it makes for poor writing. Yeah.

Emily: That's a bad way to run television, yeah.

Sally: Yeah. Cause they're -- at this point, they're like -- in season nine or whatever, Dean got brain-swapped with a German Shepherd.

Brie: (laugh) We don't talk about that.

Emily: We just -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: And how dare you even bring it up.

Emily: Well, it's funny 'cause, um --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) The show switches around season three, like we already talked about, like, to a religious aspect, but seasons one, two, and three are very much monster of the week format?

Brie: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And seasons four onward are -- are going into more, this, main arc versus filler episodes format.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which, uh, means you get some really weird shit after season four. Like, don't get me wrong, you get a lot of weird shit in seasons one, two, and three, but it's consistently weird shit?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whereas seasons four onward, you get, like, "Oh, and now we're having, like, an emotional conversation about angels and demons and our father and blah blah blah blah" versus the next episode, Dean gets killed ninety-eight times.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: That episode is maybe peak television.

Brie: (laugh) It's so painful.

Emily: Yeah, that actually is a really good -- and I think that's actually in season three. Excuse me. It's good.

Brie: But, like -- like when they're stuck in TV.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah! "We're stuck in TV now. Dean can talk to a dog."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Dean gets brain-swapped with a dog, I'm pretty sure.

Emily: Yes.

Brie: And brain-swapped with the 16-year-old -- that was like a season --

Emily: Yeah, Sam gets brain-swapped --

Brie: Oh, Sam, yeah!

Emily: With a 16-year-old, and you're like, "What?"

Brie: That episode is hilarious, though.

Sally: There -- (laugh) a lot of Supernatural filler episodes are really fucking hilarious up a certain point.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: All of the Trickster ones --

Sally: Like, Ghostfacers? Is incredible.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Like, they're really funny. And then they just, like -- I dunno, I guess it's because like you said, there is that division in season five where, like, a guiding hand --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: A steady hand was guiding them through. And then the land just lost all of its laws, apparently.

Emily: Yeah. We're just muddling through -- chaos here.

Sally: OK. Let's talk about them boys.

Emily: OK. I'm sorry I'm kind of dressed like Dean Winchester right now.

Sally: No, I think it's good. I think everybody played thematically except me --

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: Who is in a fluorescent floral windbreaker.

Emily: You're what Cas is like on the inside. (laugh)

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yes, if Cas could embrace his true gay self --

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: And stop wearing that horrific trenchcoat.

Emily: Agh, it's so bad.

Brie: I do think that the costume department probably, like, started to get better, but, um, the scene where -- this is so dumb, you're gonna cut this part out --

Emily: I'm not.

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: No, really. The part where, um, Sam is, like, the devil, and Dean goes into the future --

Emily: Oh, and he's in like this all-white suit! What the fuck?

Brie: Yeah, and the whites are different whites. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They are not.

Brie: Oh my God. Yes. The white shirt is, like, more yellow. OK, again -- really stupid.

Sally: This is why we brought a film expert in.

Brie: But it's like, what --

Sally: I never would have noticed.

Brie: What costume director okayed that?

Emily: Well, I don't think they're -- it's almost like there's not a costume director.

Brie: Probably not.

Emily: Cause they're like, "Here are our three main boys, they wear essentially the same thing every episode."

Brie: (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh) Like cartoon characters.

Brie: Oh my God.

Emily: Like, Dean has three different shirts that I think he just cycles between.

Brie: Yeah, uh, in the episode with the zombies, like --

Emily: Uh-huh.

Brie: Bobby's wife comes back or whatever?

Emily: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Brie: Um, one of the zombies, like, spits on Sam, and he wipes it onto his jacket, and then he's wearing the jacket in the next scene! And I'm like --

Emily: It -- it just -- what the fuck.

Brie: Why don't you go home and wash it? Listen. These are dumb, dumb --

Sally: No.

Brie: Points.

Emily: You never see them do laundry.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is troubling.

Sally: This is another -- we've talked about this on EHR main -- this is EHR, sub, Supernatural -- (laugh) um, about how, like, slice of life stuff, I think is important to world-build --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: And I would love an episode if it was just about Sam and Dean and the logistics of doing their laundry.

Emily: Of being on the road, yeah.

Sally: Buying groceries -- yeah.

Brie: Like, where's their luggage?

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: You don't see it in the backseat.

Emily: They just have a backpack.

Brie: Like they only --

Emily: That's why they only have three shirts!

Sally: I guess it is true to character that they only have three clothes, but I could NOT live like that. I don't think any human could.

Emily: Well, the thing is, I believe Dean would live like that. I don't necessarily believe it with Sam.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I believe Sam would have a little suitcase.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And be like, "This is all my stuff 'cause I'm a normal boy."

Sally: It's like a Samsonite hard cover.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Purple.

Emily: Jesus.

Brie: But, like, what about all their costumes, too?

Sally: Yeah! The suits that they have?

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: You're so right!

Brie: (laugh) I have no idea --

Emily: Do they -- do they just -- I feel like one episode, early on, we see them go rent a suit --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, they can't -- they -- surely it's more cost-effective to just buy a suit.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, they should have them.

Sally: Also, I don't think you can just root suits day of. *Rent* suits day of.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In a lot of places.

Emily: Yeah, it's like an advance thing. So what I think we're concluding here is that Castiel's costume is the only one that actually does make sense. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah, because he has to wear it all the time.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Because he's possessing -- (inaudible)

Emily: It just would never have occurred to him to change his clothes.

Sally: Castiel, "I do what now?"

Emily: "You -- whomst?"

Sally: "I shall -- no."

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Shower?

Sally: No. Thank you.

Emily: Haven't heard of her.

Sally: No thank you. Um, but on the topic of Sam and Dean, obviously what I was thinking of, being in seasons four and five, in which we are set up with kind of the East of Eden archetype -- for those of you who are interested in exploring this more, East of Eden by John Steinbeck -- where we have a good brother v. bad brother. Which is AKA the Cain and Abel motif. AKA Michael v. Lucifer. AKA every mythology story ever but especially the Bible ones. And I just think we should talk about that. Unpack that. The archetypes our boys fill. Sam: smart boy. Dean: rowdy boy.

Emily: (laugh)

Brie: Rowdy boy.

Emily: Dirty, rowdy boy.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: I find it disconcerting, in a way, because although their characters fit the archetypes, it feels often like they're being forced to fit the archetypes. Because Sam, as a, like, logical, rational character, doesn't necessarily feel like the evil one.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If that makes sense. They, like, gave him a plotline in season four that was like, "And now we're gonna put him on the path of evil via drug addiction."

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: And I'm like, "That's problematic."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And there's a lot going on there that we need to unpack, but also, it's just -- I don't -- I don't know? Dean's like -- drinks, sleeps with random women, probably isn't very nice to them. Just, like, their personalities aren't necessarily conducive to these archetypes, so often it feels like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which isn't to say that I wish that their personalities were good brother and evil brother, because that wouldn't be a -- an interesting show, but this also isn't really an interesting model. How do you feel? Do you like it?

Sally: Look, I'm a slut for archetypes.

Emily: I do love archetypes. I just don't think they're very well handled here.

Sally: No, I don't think they're very well handled. I think, just, like, in general, even moving away from the religious stuff back to, like, season one --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: We get big brother/little brother in that Dean is like protective and gruff, and he dealt with his dad more, and Sam's like this doe-eyed younger child who, like, leaves the family business to go to Stanford, which Brie pointed out, he got like the crazy highest score on his LSAT.

Emily: He did?

Brie: It's a 174. (laugh)

Emily: Jesus.

Brie: Which is impossible.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: What's the highest?

Brie: 180.

Sally: OK.

Brie: Like -- yeah. Very few people --

Emily: Like someone Googled, quick, "What's a high score on the LSAT?"

Brie: Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: Yeah. And they ...

Emily: I mean, he also, like -- yeah, and he, like, got a full-ride scholarship to Stanford.

Sally: To fucking Stanford, when he moved high schools 87 times.

Emily: Yeah, how'd you do that?

Sally: Where'd he take the SAT?

Emily: Jesus.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Well, the implication is always, um -- and this is what, like, works about seasons one through three -- is that it's less of an archetypal thing and more of a family dynamic thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Which is that you have this, uh, dad who's sometimes absent, and when he's present, he's borderline abusive or not-borderline abusive, just straight-up abusive. And you have older brother who actually, like, experienced and has memories of the initial trauma --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And what life was like before. And, like, the younger brother, who's just being -- like, there's a wall between him and the rest of the family.

Sally: Yeah. For sure.

Brie: And I feel like the familial stuff is maybe, like, what really got me --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Interested in the show. And then -- yeah, when they started doing the good brother/bad brother thing, um, they kind of threw some of that out the window, like, some of that relationship that they had. Because now they're just, like, mad at each other all the time and, like, they kind of disregard a lot of their personality where they, like, actually communicate with each other and --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Work through problems --

Emily: And emote to each other.

Brie: Yeah. And that's like -- just doesn't happen as much, I think, after season three.

Emily: Well, like, a thing they establish in season one is that, like, Dean is deeply loyal to his dad because he's been raised in an abusive relationship with his dad, where he doesn't feel like there's any other option?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Like, to a point. Like, it's kind of freaky. There's an episode in season one where their dad calls them out of the blue -- and season one is all about looking for their dad, who's gone missing -- and Sam's on the phone with his dad, like, "Hey, like, you need to tell us what's going on. What the fuck's happening? I'm not just gonna do what you say," and Dean's like, "Gimme the phone." And Sam gives him the phone, and we don't even hear the dad's end of the conversation, Dean's just like, "Yes, sir."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And it's, like, really freaky in a way.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: So you get Dean as the, like, obedient brother and Sam as the rebellious brother and now, season five, they're bringing that back to be like, "Oh, look! The Lucifer and Michael archetypes."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, "You're kind of backtracking against the last five years, which have been Sam learning that his dad was terrible but was also doing the best he could -- with, you know, asterisk on that -
-

Sally and Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Doing the best you could is never an excuse for abuse -- uh, and Dean kind of realizing, "Oh, my dad put me through a lot of shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, "I have -- I have a lot of issues 'cause of it."

Brie: Well, and I like that more than what's happening now.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Because it's like Dean was loyal to his dad, but then he starts to become more loyal towards Sam.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And -- yeah. You can argue that they're too codependent, which is probably true, but, um, I think that's really endearing. And -- yeah. I think that it -- what draw -- it's what draws people in to the first couple of seasons, again. Um. That, like, you see them change in their relationship with each other.

Sally: Yeah. The point of, like, season -- like, the point they get to in season four and five is, like, on the tail-end of, I think, them getting to a really healthy place? After seasons one, two, and three, and into season four a little bit, where they're like, both kind of working through and, like, complicating their relationship to their family and therefore, I think, getting into a healthy place with each other, and like, then, on the tail-end of all this character work that they've built up over three or four years, they just, like, repackage them into these, like, really bland boxes. Which is very frustrating.

Brie: And it causes all of the tension that's in season five.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Where, like, Dean suddenly, like, hates Sam all of the time? (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, there's no -- (inaudible)

Sally: It doesn't make any sense!

Brie: No. It doesn't.

Sally: I think the reason Dean is chosen by the writers to be Michael is, like you were talking about, the shift from Dean to protagonist?

Brie: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Like, I don't think they would ever have their protagonist be the Lucifer figure.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: I don't think that they were brave enough. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) True.

Sally: It's no John Milton over here.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: But, um, yeah. And so -- to, just, like mark it to us that this show is now about Dean, he's angel boy, and Sam is devil boy.

Emily: And of course it's never explicit that, like, oh, Dean's the protagonist, but it's sort of like the underlying subtext of, like, we're coming into this from Dean's perspective because we see through Dean's point of -- like, there's that gap between seasons three and four, and when we pick up, we're well, kind of, aware of what is going on with Dean --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, oh, he's in hell. We don't really need an explicit explanation of what that means for us to still have a grasp on Dean's character. Whereas they're like, "And there's all this time that Sam's not going to explain to us until twelve episodes later that is now informing his character."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It's just weird. Anyway, I really like like the familial stuff; that really got me in seasons one and two, also, 'cause I was like, "Oh, damn, like, as a person who's also very close with my siblings," I was like, "Oh, this is actually a really well-written --"

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: "Example of sibling relationships."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And they're very endearing, and, uh, haven't reached that line -- the very unclear line between good brothers and codependent brothers -- like, I don't ever know where that is.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah, I feel like the line between codependent doesn't happen until after seasons five or six, where they are obviously at odds but still forcing themselves to be together --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Then it becomes, like, annoying. Like you said, like, in seasons four and five, like, it -- it's really sweet where they're, like, struggling to figure this thing out together because they care about each other so much.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Except for Dean being like, "Sam, I don't trust you."

Emily: (snort)

Sally: Like every three minutes. (laugh)

Emily: Which is so stupid.

Brie: It is! It's really dumb. (laugh)

Emily: Cause, like, in the third episode, they're like, "And now we're gonna resolve this. Dean's going to realize he's been wrong."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And every episode after that, they're like, "Just kidding. Dean still doesn't trust Sam." And I'm like, that might be actually how humanity works, but it's not how I, the viewer, want to experience --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This show.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Can we please move past this?

Emily: Like, when I -- when you have a character say something like, "I'm going to trust you now," I want you to follow through with that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a weird way. Ummm. We could keep talking about the familial stuff. Uh, Dean has middle child syndrome.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Which is a fun thing, 'cause he's actually the oldest child. But as Sally pointed out to me the other day, the dad actually treated him like a brother more than he treated him like a son, so that makes sense.

Brie: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: As, like, older brother bossing middle brother around, which I, as a middle sibling, can speak to. Sarah, if you're listening -- (laugh)

Brie: (chuckle)

Sally: Brie is also a middle sibling. And an oldest sibling.

Brie: Yeah. So ...

Sally: So Brie is Dean Winchester. (laugh)

Emily: Yay!

Brie: Yeah, it can work for me both ways too. And so maybe that's why, like --

Emily: Well, no --

Brie: I would die for Dean.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I, like, was introduced to Dean, and I remember being kind of annoyed by him my first watch-through, and this watch-through, I was like, "Damn, that's a relatable boy." (laugh)

Brie: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "Damn, I get him." Like, "Oh, that's me."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: That is -- that me. And my relationship with my younger siblings.

Brie: So I was gonna -- I -- I remember what I was gonna say.

Emily: Yeah, tell us.

Brie: And it kind of relates to this too. So I think that, like, part of the reason why, um, Dean is the good brother and Sam is the bad brother is because -- yeah, like mentally, maybe they don't really fit into those categories, but, like, emotionally --

Sally: Mmm.

Brie: Dean is much more, like, self-sacrificing.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah.

Brie: Than -- than Sam is. And I think that -- yeah, again, I can relate to that, and that's why I like Dean the best, is because Dean is, like, all about loyalty and family, and Sam is like, "Fuck you all." Like, that is basically the impression that I get from Sam. Most of the time. There are exceptions. But --

Sally: No, mostly Sam gives off "It is about me."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Which I know is the stereotypical younger child thing to do.

Emily: Yeah, I mean, like, to be fair to Sam, he is raised in such a way that it is all about him.

Brie and Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (laugh) Which is --

Sally: Quite literally --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Everything in Sam Winchester's life has been and continues to be about Sam Winchester.

Emily: Like, one of the saddest episodes we see -- as well as one of the most poorly acted, because it involves the flashback Dean and Sam characters -- is the one where, like, Sam -- at the age of ten or so?

Brie: (wheeze)

Emily: Finds out that his dad is hunting monsters?

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Is 'cause, like -- and it's, like, sad 'cause Dean has to tell it to him alongside the fact that, oh, there's no Santa Claus?

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And it's, like, a really upsetting episode 'cause you're like, "Damn, so Dean's been living with this for the last ten years."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On his own. And that's really freaky.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, Sam is, I think, maybe one of the worst characters of all time.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I really hate Sam Winchester so much. (laugh)

Emily: I always start off from a place of being, like, "Ah, he's fine," and then around season four, when they really fuck up his drug addiction storyline --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, "OK. I'm -- I'm out."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: I just -- I -- and I want to, like, give Sam credit because like you said, he was raised in this weird idolization of himself. (laugh) Like, that's gotta give you a complex. But consistently, Sam makes the most annoying decisions of all time.

Emily: Well, that's also like -- speaking of complexes, not to make light of actual mental issues -- but, like, Dean has the more interesting set of complexes.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Dean Winchester is just, like, a set of psychological complexes stacked on top of each other in a bad leather jacket, whereas Sam just has, like, a few that aren't very -- I dunno.

Sally: Well, I --

Emily: Interesting?

Sally: Yeah, Sam just has ones that I think are pretty typical to, like, white men. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Whereas Dean has ones that are stuff we need to be talking about more, like PTSD and a martyr complex.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Whereas Sam's like, "Hello, it's about me. I don't owe you anything. Pay attention to me. I'm gonna go fuck this demon." It's like, what?

Emily: Oh my God, yeah.

Sally: What are you doing?

Emily: Season four, Sam fucks a demon. (laugh) Dean fucks an angel. It's so annoying.

Sally: In case you missed it.

Emily: In case you missed it. Tell us about that.

Brie: I do like -- so I do like Ruby, like, when they -- I like Ruby when they're, like, in it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And they're basically, like -- the scenes where they are feeding off of each other and, like, the really bad scenes, like, I'm like, "Ruby, this is interesting."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Brie: And then it's like, obviously she's bad. Like, she's like all the other demons, where they trick them, and it's not super interesting --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Except for Crowley, which -- I forgot about Crowley.

Sally: Oh my God!

Brie: And I'm so pumped.

Emily: He was introduced, like, in the last few episodes, and I was like, (whisper) "I love him."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: I forgot about him.

Emily: "You gotta tell me everything about him. What's his story?"

Brie: Yeah. Crowley is rad, and I've been waiting.

Sally: My life has just been changed.

Brie: Tick tock. Tick tock.

Sally: I forgot about him.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: He had one episode -- so, he's had -- been in two episodes, I think, so far, for me --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Where I'm at. And he, like, introduced himself by, like, kissing a man, and I was like, "Great, into this."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It's a demon deal thing, but glad we're finally getting into the territory of "If you make a deal with a demon, you have to kiss them --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's like, "And what if the demon is not your specified gender attraction?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I'm mad they didn't cover that earlier.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: But I guess it was 2005.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: And homosexuality didn't exist.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: That's right. Homosexuality did not exist until about --

Emily: So now we have Crowley --

Sally: Six years ago.

Emily: Who's like, "Please just stuff your homophobia, I'm gonna kiss you --"

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: "Make a deal, goodbye." I'm like, "I'm into it."

Sally: Crowley is amazing. Is it -- has it always been the same actor? Mark Sheppard?

Brie: I think so.

Sally: Amazing. He's incredible as Crowley.

Brie: He's just, like, so sassy. And I think that the part that I don't like with demons like Meg and Ruby --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: Is they trick them, and then they fall for it, and it's like a whole thing, but, like, Crowley straight-up --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: At the beginning, tells you, "I'm doing this for self-interest."

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And that's, like, his whole character throughout. And they don't fall for any tricks. It's just, like --

Emily: Well, it's particularly telling that, of course, the female demons are the ones who --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Are doing this manipulating of the boys.

Brie: True. True.

Emily: It made it really annoying. Cause you're right, I really liked Ruby in season, uh, five, less so in -- uh, four -- less so in season three, when she had a different actress, but her season four actress, like, has great chemistry with, uh, Sam --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Obviously --

Sally: Her husband. Jared Pacalecki.

Emily: Cause they actually get married.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But also, she's just, like, I dunno, better acted --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And a more engaging character.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so it's really annoying when you get this kind of pay-off, in quotes, 'cause it doesn't -- it's not really pay-off, it's not really foreshadowed, it's just kind of an "I told you so" from the writers.

Brie: Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: Yeah. All women are evil.

Emily: Yeah, you can't trust a single woman. Cause she'll stab you in the back.

Sally: And make you raise Satan.

Emily: Or she'll die in front of you and really make you cry. And it's like, "Um?"

Brie: And she'll die in front of you without you two ever having done it.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: Oh, no, the worst of all things!

Emily: How upsetting would that be? That's the worst scenario.

Sally: She'll die before you get to fuck her? Oh, no!

Emily: No!

Brie: That's Jo's entire character.

Emily: I know, I just watched --

Brie: It's so sad!

Emily: The season --

Brie: That -- I love Jo, and I -- yeah.

Emily: Jo's another character gone too soon.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, "Please, just get away from this, like, creepy thing you have going with Dean." You can just have a relationship --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: With a woman and not feel like you have to fuck her.

Sally: Imagine that. Women don't exist just to be sex objects?

Emily: Like, Jo's dying, and Dean kisses her on the forehead, and I'm like, "Aw, that was genuinely sweet," and then they make out, and I'm like, "Oh."

Brie: Stop.

Emily: "I retract my earlier statement."

Sally: You ruined it!

Emily: That was terrible.

Sally: I know. Yeah, that's the worst 'cause, like, Jo deserves better.

Emily: Jo deserved way better.

Brie: Well, and the whole thing, um, where I think it's Dean is possessed and talking to Jo, like, way early -- I don't remember what season it's in --

Emily: Oh, that's Sam.

Brie: Or it -- yeah, Sam. Oh my gosh, I keep doing this.

Emily: No, sorry. Just like -- was like, "Wha ..."

Brie: When --

Emily: Filing through my --

Brie: Yeah, when Sam is possessed and talking to Jo, it's like, "You're in love with him, but he thinks of you as a little sister," and so that's --

Emily: "But really I'M in love with you."

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: And you're like, "What? The fuck? Where did this come from?"

Brie: But y'know, like, that's their entire relationship, is you're supposed to think that, like, Jo has this crush on him?

Emily: Unrequited love for Dean.

Brie: And I dunno, it's -- I -- yeah, it's dumb.

Sally: Well, it doesn't read that way, it's just, like, what the writers expect us to think because that's --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: How those stories always play out.

Emily: Yeah. Far more interesting is Dean's relationship with Cas, which I know we joke about being romantic but actually does -- like, a) it's a great example of queer-baiting.

Sally: Yes.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Because there's a lot of queer subtext going on with them, but also, just, like, genuinely, it's probably the most interesting relationship -- it supplants Dean and Sam as being the most interesting relationship.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then Cas comes in and is like, “Oh, look, I actually have new things to contribute instead of us just cycling over the same few psychoses.”

Sally: Yeah. Um, on the -- just quick, on the subject of Sam -- er, fuck -- Dean and Cas’ queerbaiting is that there’s, like, an entire plot in seasons future where Cas, like, has sexual feelings towards a woman and has sex with her and they have -- Dean and Cas have to talk about it so that we know for sure that they’re not fucking. (laugh)

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: It’s, like, a whole thing.

Brie: It’s like --

Sally: And Dean is like, “Did you use protection?” and Cas is like, “I had a knife,” and it’s, like, really painful. (laugh)

Brie: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: It’s really painful, you guys. (laugh) I hate it so much.

Brie: I -- I was just about to ask if, like, the seasons that I haven’t watched, nine through fourteen, if there’s more, y’know, obvious things that happen.

Sally: Hmm. I, like, wonder.

Emily: I dunno. I’ll probably find out, because I’m gonna watch it all.

Brie: I know, now I have to too.

Emily: I know.

Sally: You guys, no.

Brie: There --

Emily: To find out if their jeans ever get better! (laugh)

Brie: (laugh) OK, but this year, they did a Scooby Doo episode --

Emily: Yeah, I saw that.

Brie: Where they literally go into Scooby Doo.

Emily: They got animated.

Sally: WHAT?

Brie: Yeah, I know, I *lived*.

Emily: I know. You're gonna have to watch that, because you love Scooby Doo.

Sally: I do fucking love Scooby Doo. But are you fucking joking with me?

Brie: But, like, they are with the Scooby gang. Not just animated, like, Dean kisses Daphne's hand.
(laugh)

Emily: Oh my God ... what the fuck?

Brie: See, the show should've ended on that.

Emily: What the hap is fuckening?

Sally: Who did this? Who allowed this? What animator agreed to do this? (laugh)

Emily: I know. Anyway, Cas is a really (wheeze) interesting character.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who I didn't appreciate, really, the first time around? Again, like Dean, I was just kinda like, "OK, boring, blah blah blah blah." Now I'm like, "He's the most perfect character ever created 'cause he actually is interesting."

Brie: I feel the opposite.

Sally: Really?

Brie: But it's mostly because -- OK, it's mostly --

Emily: Yeah, tell us.

Brie: This is gonna sound harsh, but I think Misha Collins is, like, not a very good actor.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Oh, no, he's not.

Brie: And so, like, it kind of takes me out of it a little bit, at least at the beginning. I think it'll get better. But, like, re-watching it --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: I dunno. And -- and, like, the change when he goes back to being Jimmy?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: I -- it just -- it was like, "You're an actor ..."

Emily: Well, and a really good -- a really good actor would make it, like, so crystal clear between Jimmy and Cas, and --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Misha Collins doesn't really do that. And I'm also like, "First of all, you did throw that season -- that episode at him kinda early on in the --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Process. You -- he had only been in, like, what, five episodes before then? But, yeah, it's just like - - which isn't to say that this is a well-acted show all-around.

Brie: Hey, I would die for Jensen Ackles.

Emily: OK.

Brie: And those emotional scenes.

Emily: He's good at those crying scenes. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, he's a good cry boy.

Emily: Um, I think I like Cas 'cause he's, like -- now I can't think of a way to describe it.

Sally: No, defend Castiel to me. Alright, you guys. We're now having a trial.

Brie: Mine isn't even about Cas, though!

Emily: I don't wanna -- I don't want to --

Sally: We're having a trial. Is Castiel an interesting character? On the defense, we have Emily Juchau.

Emily: I hate this.

Sally: On the other court side, which I don't know what that's called -- the prosecutor?

Brie: Oh my God.

Sally: We have Brie Olds. (laugh)

Emily: Neither of us likes this.

Sally: We're doing it. (laugh) It can be 30 seconds long.

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: I don't know. I don't know how the law works. I didn't go to law school, unlike Sam Winchester. Who didn't go to law school, who just took the LSAT.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: I don't remember.

Emily: My defense of Cas is that he's actually, like -- uh, follows the Milton --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, schema? Which is that Lucifer's actually the protagonist in the story of the Fall because he has the more interesting set of motives --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And things going on? But in this series, Lucifer's more boring 'cause he's set into, like, Big Bad trope. And, uh, Castiel actually has, like, interesting reasons and motives for doing things. And he has a very slow and fun-to-watch progression between, like, big bad angel and actually invested in two boys. Two, parentheses, number two, boys. (laugh)

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: I don't know, it's endearing.

Sally: That was great.

Emily: That was my defense.

Sally: Brie, take the stage.

Brie: Well. Since I just talked about how Misha Collins was a bad actor for my first point, (laugh) I -- I think I'm OK with Cas' storyline, um, except for the, like, crisis of faith, which I just feel is too on-the-nose.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Yeah, it is pretty on-the-nose to give that to your angel character. I guess?

Brie: And I just feel like, from the beginning, when you see him start to get invested in the humans --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: Like, you kind of -- like, that's gonna happen --

Emily: Like, it would be interesting if he had you know, like this sort of unwavering religious faith. I don't know, but also is just like, "Well, I've kind of decided, like, between humans and angels, like, all my people that I've been with, angels are assholes."

Sally: Well, it would be more -- it would be interesting if he, like, had this reinvestment in humans and that, like, bolstered his faith, 'cause, like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: The whole thing with Lucifer is that he was asked to, like, bow to humans as God's, like, favorite --

Emily: Superior creation.

Sally: Creation. Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So if Castiel was like, "Mm, the Big Man was right. Look at these boys."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: "The Big Man was right. We've all lost our sense of focus."

Sally: Yeah. "Look at them."

Emily: "Look at that terribly dressed boy."

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: But, it is --

Emily: Superior. (laugh) Far superior to us.

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: I mean ...

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Look at his skin. Yeah.

Brie: The jawline.

Emily: The jawline alone. (laugh)

Brie: Um, it's true. I think that Dean's jaw and lips, like -- that is why I started watching this show. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: Which is so bad, but it's true.

Emily: He just sort of has a perfect face?

Brie: Yeah. It's bad.

Sally: And then there's Jared Padalecki, who, God bless him, does look a little bit like a neanderthal. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze)

Brie: I think that he does, like, get better when they allow him to grow some --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Facial hair.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Brie: But, like, when they have him where he has bangs --

Sally: (laugh) Oh, yeah.

Emily: Oh, no.

Brie: In the first three seasons, like, who did that?

Emily: He looks like he's in a boy band.

Brie: Who did that?

Emily: His forehead is like a billboard. I'm -- someone has to say it.

Brie: That's the true evil in this world.

Sally, Emily: (laugh)

Brie: Is those bangs.

Sally: Maybe just bangs in general.

Brie: (laugh) Probably.

Emily: Maybe just his haircut generally.

Sally: Sam never has good hair.

Emily: Uh, yeah. True.

Brie: I like it when it's longer.

Sally: And the longer it gets, the better it gets. That's for sure. Season one Sam, I'm like "No."

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: I know, you see season one Sam, and the thing is, I was like -- I know it changes, but I didn't, like, notice the progression?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Somehow? Just, some day, I was like, "This is different than his season one hair. When he looked like every boy I went to high school with in 2003."

Sally: True.

Emily: Yeah. I didn't go to high school in 2003, I don't know why I said that. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Emily was very little in 2003, like we all were. but, on the subject of -- this is not on the subject of bangs -- but -- (laugh) I think we should transition to the best part of Supernatural, which are the filler episodes, seasons one through three.

Emily: I don't even know what the filler episodes even are in seasons one through three.

Sally: Like the ones, I think, that deviate from the monster of the week format. Ghostfacers. The Trickster episodes.

Emily: Oh, yeah. I love the Ghostfacers, by the way.

Brie: Did you guys ever watch the, like, mini series?

Emily: There was a mini series?

Brie: I think -- I think so. I was watching an episode, and it just, like, came up. CW dot com --

Emily: Oh my God.

Brie: Slash Supernatural slash Ghostfacers or something like that. And I guess it was, like, yeah, a mini series or something.

Emily: What in the world?

Brie: I don't know if I could do it. Honestly.

Sally: Yeah, the CW really will just do anything these days, won't it?

Brie: Uh, but the -- Supernatural was like the first show that I ever watched on the CW, and then I started watching Gossip Girl and so, like, this was the only thing that was the CW to me.

Sally: Hmm.

Brie: And I feel like --

Emily: This was your baseline.

Brie: But, like, the first couple seasons is good for the CW.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Yes.

Brie: Especially compared to Riverdale. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I've never watched an episode of Riverdale.

Emily: What kills me about season one of Supernatural is that obviously it's the monster of the week formula, but there's also a woman of the week.

Brie: Ugggh!

Emily: Literally, every episode is a new twenty-something woman --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Who one of them sleeps with.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Or has, like, romantic tension with. Or they have to rescue. And it's like, "What the fuck?"

Brie: And I feel really weird that I didn't pick that up the first time --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: That I watched it.

Emily: I don't think I did either, yeah.

Brie: But it -- it -- yeah. I just feel like, you know, when you're, what, eighteen and nineteen? Like, I -- I feel like that should've popped out to me more. I don't know? But yeah, this time around, if it's not, like, a full-on single woman or someone who is, like, slightly underage, even -- (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: It's, like, a hot mom --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: And her kids. It's just, like, a range of --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Of -- yeah. Of, just, fuckable women.

Sally: Yeah, they cycle through hot single suburban mom with child --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Like, hot detective, coroner, some type of professional lady --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Hot other hunter who they have a tension with but never really sleep with --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: It's just, like -- it's usually hot mom, though.

Emily: Yeah, there are a lot of hot moms.

Sally: Ninety percent hot moms.

Brie: So many hot moms.

Emily: Which doesn't -- ugh, when you think about their psyche?

Sally: Yeah. No, like, the mom -- like, Freud would have a field day with this show. (laugh)

Emily: Well, to, like, veer us into a, um, talking more about queer-baiting and how this show treats fandom --

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Uh, there's like, obviously the boys -- the boyz, with a z -- like, just aren't allowed to have meaningful relationships with women --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which I think is where we gear into queer-baiting territory, because the only meaningful relationships they have are with other men.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And so that becomes, like, a thing of, once the creators become conscious of it -- which, as early as season four, we know they are, because they reference it -- um, it's just, like, once they're conscious of it, they can play off of it in really manipulative ways.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Umm. There are, like, a couple -- once you introduce the character of -- what's his name, Chuck?

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Who, like, wrote the Supernatural books, and then he turns out to be God or something later on, I don't -- I don't fucking --

Sally: Is that, like, canon?

Brie: Uhhh. I think that, y'know, he, like, gives a smirk to the camera, so it's another implied-type thing.

Emily: Ah. OK.

Sally: Supernatural's got lots of those.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And I'm not totally sure if he even comes back.

Sally: OK.

Brie: So -- but it was, like, y'know. Something -- I think it's the end of this season or the next one where, like, something happens, and he, y'know, kind of gives the audience this --

Emily: A wink.

Brie: Like -- yep. "Ah, it's been me the whole time," and then disappears from the show and -- yeah.

Emily: What the fuck.

Sally: If you were God, why would you spend your time writing books about Sam and Dean Winchester?

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I -- yeah, honestly.

Sally: Like, what? Don't you have anything better to do?

Emily: Well, yeah, you could make the TV show, and you could make it better than it is.

Sally: True.

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: True.

Emily: (laugh) Um, anyway, early on, when they first introduce the idea of Supernatural as a book, that's, like, their way of being like, "Ooh, and now we can coyly interact with the fan base by having a fictional representation of the Supernatural books fan base." And they have this conversation where Sam's like, "Oh, and there's shipping, and some people ship us together." And Dean's like, "We're brothers. That's gross." And Sam's like, "Yeah, I agree." And that's the creators being like, "That's gross."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And I, personally, am like, "That's gross." I have been -- I am happy to report that I went on the fanfiction, like, website, and although there is a disturbing amount of Sam and Dean fanfiction, at least the Dean and Castiel fanfiction --

Brie: Destiel.

Emily: Far outnumbers -- oh, excuse me. (laugh)

Brie: Yeah. Destiel for life!

Sally: Destiel -- Destiel for life is RIGHT. Brie and I are deep in that camp.

Emily: Oh, I am too. Obviously.

Brie: Duh. (laugh)

Emily: Like, it far outnumbers the quote unquote Wincest, which, I just said that word --

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, and now I wanna gag.

Sally: Um. Gross.

Brie: OK, but have you ever, like, started reading a Wincest?

Emily: No.

Brie: And --

Emily: I have read a few --

Sally: Kay --

Emily: Of the Castiel/Dean fanfics just to see, like, what I was dealing with. There are some good ones.

Brie: Yeah. No, there are way good -- because it, like, makes sense because they have this tension, right --

Emily: Yeah, there's actual romantic tension --

Brie: Yeah, but, like, the Wincest ones are always just, like, they're just, you know, doing something normal and then all of a sudden --

Sally: They're fucking?

Brie: PORN. And --

Sally: (laugh) Oh my God. After this, we have to read some.

Emily: No ...

Brie: (laugh) Dear God.

Sally: No, before, I -- like, I came to Tumblr pretty late in the game, and so, like, before I learned that you could, like, block tags --

Emily and Brie: (laugh)

Sally: I was following a bunch of Supernatural blogs and, like, a bunch of Wincest would come up --

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: And like, at this point, you guys have heard some of my horror stories on Tumblr, where I've stumbled across strange things -- like, whatever, but they were very disgusting and strange, though.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Well --

Sally: Like, I have no problem with erotica, I referenced “Cum for Bigfoot” at the beginning of this episode, I have no problem with that, but, like, Wincest -- I have some weird, weird shit.

Emily: Well, and later they introduce this character who’s like your, uh, typical quote unquote fangirl --

Brie: Yeah ...

Emily: And when we’re introduced to her, she’s writing Dean and Sam fanfiction. And, like, she’s also the girl who’s in, um --

Sally: Is this Felicia Day?

Brie: No.

Emily: No, it’s not. It’s, um -- she’s the actress who’s in “She’s the Man” as the, like, girl with the headgear. You know?

Brie: I think her name in the show is -- her character’s name is --

Emily: Becky?

Brie: Becky, yeah.

Sally: Oh.

Brie: And she has braces and then she kind of likes Chuck.

Emily: She’s not --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Well, it’s important that we, like, go over what she is as a character ‘cause she’s not, um, uh, Hollywood standards of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Attractive. She has a very socially awkward personality with no boundaries, and, um, she is writing, y’know, Wincest.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it’s, like, these aren’t, uh, kind characterizations of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A subset of people that actually exist, and certainly there are people who are like that who actually exist, but it’s like, the fact that you’re like, “And I’m going to introduce this female character, and she’s gonna be the only one in the show who doesn’t meet my standards of fuckable --”

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Et cetera, et cetera. Later, the boys go to a Supernatural fan convention, and there's this whole thing where they run into a bunch of, like, cosplayers of themselves, and it could be this really, like, funny, tongue-in-cheek thing, except that we're relentlessly like, "These are people who have no social skills."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And at the end, of course, the one, uh, cosplaying set that they've been interacting with for the most part are like, "Oh, and we're a gay couple."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: This is like, by the way, our -- I dunno -- third and fourth canonical gay characters.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Our first one was killed off in an episode of Ghostfacers.

Brie: Oh, yeah, that was pretty sad.

Emily: Like, as a queer person myself, I track this relentlessly --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, "Oh, so this is what you think of queer people."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is we're relegating them to these specific subsets. And fandom is, in itself, a very queer thing. And a lot of queer people are, like, devoted to fandom, and that's where they find communities and, uh, find friends and stuff like that, but it's just, like, not a -- it's not a kind thing at all, the way that Supernatural's creators treat this.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: I dunno what else to say about it. That's just been weighing on me.

Brie: Well, the character that you brought up -- the Ghostfacers character?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: Um, I think that that characterization is weird too --

Emily: Also bad, yeah.

Brie: Because, um --

Emily: His only characteristic is that he's gay.

Brie: Yeah. And, like, not -- and it's like he's in love with the --

Emily: A straight guy.

Brie: A straight guy and to the point where it's like, he's so devoted to it that he's blind to the fact that he's straight?

Emily: Yeah, that it's unrequited.

Brie: Yeah, and so, um, I just think that it, like, is not realistic.

Emily: Mm-mm.

Brie: In that sense. I -- I know that -- you know, queer people have crushes on straight people, but --

Sally: But can we just say that straight people are very obviously straight? (laugh)

Brie: Yeah --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And, like, it gets to a point where --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: It's like, yeah, that's his whole personality --

Emily: Well, and --

Brie: And he, like, risks his life --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: For it, and it -- yeah.

Emily: The crux of this episode is that the queer character dies and then comes back as a ghost and only by the straight character he's in love with confessing his love to him, which is a lie, does this, like, ghost queer character now have the power to defeat the bad ghost.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, "OK. There's a lot to unpack there, and all of it's bad." And you can only say "It was 2008" so many times before you're like -- which is another reason I'm interested to keep watching *Supernatural*, to see if there's any veering into, I dunno, better territory.

Brie: Yeah. That -- same. Because I do think -- yeah, *Ghostfacers* episode, it just -- it puts a really small box around "queer" and --

Emily: Well, when you only have so much representation, like, it's just not a great thing.

Sally: Yeah, it's particularly -- I mean it -- it's just bad, it doesn't have to be particularly bad -- but it is particularly bad in a show where, like, the concept is that they are driving across America, meeting a lot of different people --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And in their entire -- like, 'cause there's a lot of, like, guest stars on Supernatural -- the cast of characters pretty much changes every episode, and so the fact that we've got, like, four or five -- or, like, at the point I got to, maybe, like, six queer characters in the, like, what? Hundreds of people that they meet? Thousands of people that they meet?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Yeah, and "queer" is always demonized, sometimes literally, like with Crowley --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or, um, infantilized, like with the fandom, like it's never just allowed to be a valid identity, it's always --

Emily: Well, like, it's --

Sally: The butt of a joke.

Emily: It's interesting to contrast that with Teen Wolf, which is another of our favorite shows, which is also famous for queer-baiting, which at least does have a much more solid representation of gay characters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, you have multiple characters who either are gay on-screen, explicitly, or talk about being gay or, I dunno, a fun thing they did was have the character of Jackson come back in the shitty last season and be like, "And now I'm gay."

Brie: (laugh) Literally.

Emily: Because the actual actor --

Sally: The actor is --

Emily: Came out as gay.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it was, like, "We're all cool with it." Of course there's still queer-baiting, and we're not acknowledging, like, sexuality --

Sally: Yeah. Supernatural, like Brie said, I'm surprised at how blind I was to, like, how aggressively masculine it is.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Very masculine.

Sally: In a lot of ways.

Emily: And very rural American.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is tied up with masculinity in America.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Brie: No, there's a lot -- yeah, with Dean, obviously, even though he's my favorite character, it's just, like, he does so many things that are performatively masculine.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Just, like, over-the-top, like, "What? Why? Why do you need to do this?"

Sally: Yeah, it's the -- it's the way he eats, it's the way he dresses, it's the car that he drives, it's the way that he talks about women --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: It's the fact that his job is hunting things. Like, he drinks. Duh duh duh duh duh.

Emily: He loves guns.

Sally: He loves *guns*.

Emily: He only has close relationships with two people.

Sally: Yeah. Like, it's -- he -- performatively masculine is a perfect way --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: To paint Dean Winchester, with just like a sprinkle enough of emotion to have women be interested in him --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And we're all like, "Boring."

Emily: Well, what makes him so fascinating --

Sally: "He's hot, though, so."

Emily: As a character is that you're like, "Oh, it is a performance."

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Like, “The real Dean, quote unquote, is actually, like, less these things. He actually just has a lot of psychological issues and a lot of other stuff going on under the surface, and this is all showmanship in a way.”

Brie: So if they made him, like, bisexual, and -- you know --

Emily: I fixed Supernatural in my head. Here’s how I would fix it. One, Sam would be a woman.

Sally: Rad.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, brother-sister relationship would actually be way more interesting, and I think Sam would work as a woman.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Um, number two, we would not go into the religious territory -- I’d find a way to get Castiel in there, because he’s a perfect character, and I love him --

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Um, but the show would be about monsters of the week and recovering from their father’s abusive childhood.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: They go to therapy regularly.

Brie: Right on. Right on.

Emily: Like, different therapists, across state lines. It would be fun.

Sally: Yeah. Every -- instead of woman of the week, it’s therapist of the week.

Emily: Exactly.

Brie: Please.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Brie: So healthy.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Um, so that's how I would fix Supernatural.

Sally: Dean is bisexual --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He and Cas immediately fall in love --

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: They have a healthy, committed relationship for ten plus seasons.

Emily: Exactly.

Brie: I mean, like, honestly, if it was a little bit tense, and they were on and off again, or, like --

Emily: (inaudible)

Brie: Not full-on, just -- y'know --

Emily: I'd get into that. I'd fuck with that.

Brie: That's pretty much what's happening anyway.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Come on, guys.

Sally: Exactly. If Dean and Cas had some, like, epic on-again, off-again, like, Booth and Bones, all these famous shows --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: About people getting together, I would be into that 'cause I am trash for that.

Brie: Same.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Super trash.

Sally: And --

Brie: And they've built the -- the foundation for that --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: They've built the foundation for Dean being bisexual, and they have the fan base, who would support it --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Like, more than support it --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: So it just seems weird --

Sally: Cowardly.

Brie: That they haven't --

Sally: No, homophobic.

Emily: TV producers are all cowards.

Sally: Yeah. And homophobes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, what other ways would I fix Supernatural? Um, they would never get that stupid bunker thing that they get cause I --

Emily: What is --

Brie: I know, I thought -- (inaudible)

Sally: I really do think that was kinda, like, the decline of the show.

Emily: What are you talking about?

Brie: It's, like, their house. (laugh)

Sally: They get, like, a --

Emily: They get a house?!

Brie: Pretty much. (laugh)

Sally: A bunker.

Emily: What the fuck?

Sally: Like, a fuckin' apocalypse bunker.

Brie: It's huge too.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: It has, like --

Emily: It's like a castle.

Brie: Like, bedrooms for both of them and guests.

Emily: Jesus.

Brie: It's wild.

Sally: Yeah, they would never get that. Um --

Brie: In terms of, like, queer characters, though, Charlie --

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Helps a little bit. I think that --

Emily: Oh, is she a lesbian?

Brie: She -- yeah.

Emily: I didn't know that. I don't -- I haven't been introduced to her character yet.

Sally: Or bisexual. Felicia Day.

Brie: Yeah, she's a lesbian or bisexual.

Sally: Again, not very clear, which is another problem. (laugh)

Brie: I do think that that was probably them being, like, "See? We're okay."

Emily: "We can have a queer character."

Brie: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: But then didn't they kill her?

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yes. Because they kill everyone. (laugh)

Emily: I mean, yeah, you kill everything, but again, it's like, you can only have four queer characters --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It's sort of important --

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh) That at least one of them lives.

Emily: Please let one of them live.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, you could solve this problem if you had Dean be bi. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then I'd be like, "Yeah, sure, kill off as many -- (wheeze) -- queer characters."

Brie: I mean, really, in terms of representation, like, all of the white dudes --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: Like, live the longest, at least.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Even Bobby is one of the side characters that's there for the longest --

Emily: Yeah, he comes back and blah blah blah blah blah.

Brie: Yeah, and other characters, like women --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: People of color.

Brie: People of color, like --

Sally: Just gone-zell.

Brie: Like, are there that many people of color in this show?

Emily: There are very few. That's another thing, is they, um -- often, their black people, in particular, are also either demonized, usually, or are made into mystical characters?

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Um, who are like there to provide emotional support?

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And guidance?

Sally: The, like, magic black woman or whatever the trope is.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. There's a literal magic black woman -- psychic black woman in the first season --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: We just had an episode where they went to heaven and the, kind of mystical, “I have a really intimate connection with God” angel was black.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: But then, also, the really mean angel character, Uriel, was black. It’s just, like, “Come on, guys. Come on.”

Brie: And I feel like they think they can get away with it, and it’s OK, because of the, um, haunted racist truck episode --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (snort)

Brie: Because Dean has a black girlfriend.

Sally: I knew we’d get here.

Emily: Dean had a black girlfriend once, so they’re not racist.

Brie: So they’re like, “Now we can have black angels and black demons and put no other people of color in the entire show.”

Sally: Yeah ...

Emily: Well, that’s a thing, like -- if you’re engaging with America as a concept, which this show very much does, but has a very pick-and-choose concept of America --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It doesn’t engage with the South at all.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At least, not Southern culture as it affects black people.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And the really poverty-stricken people in the South. Instead, it’s like, “We’re staying with middle America and kind of our, you know, gun-toting Republican version of the South. Bible-bashing white dudes, basically.” It’s just --

Sally: Bible-thumping.

Emily: Bible-thumping, excuse me. Is that what it is?

Sally: Mm-hmm. Bible-thumping.

Emily: OK.

Sally: I would know; they're my people. (laugh)

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Why don't they ever go to Utah and engage with some Mormon ghosts?

Sally: I think they do go to Utah --

Emily: NO.

Sally: In one episode.

Brie: Yeah, I mean, I don't think that they, like, do anything with Mormonism. But they do go to Utah at some point. Yeah.

Sally: Don't they go to, like, Ogden? Or did I make that up?

Brie: Yeah -- no, I think that sounds right.

Emily: You would have to drive through Utah all the time. I-80 goes right through it --

Sally: 'Cause Utah's gigantic.

Brie: Well, the fact that it, like, does -- they're always in Nevada or Wyoming --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Or Colorado. And -- y'know. And, like, yeah. The breadbasket, Kansas-type stuff. But they, like, are very much in the West but never in Utah. That's why --

Emily: Yeah, it's --

Brie: I understand, I guess. (laugh)

Sally: It's just funny, the, like --

Emily: Well, it does seem to indicate, "Oh, there's a place we can't go, because we might offend somebody --"

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: The land where the shadow touches.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: No, it is interesting, the, like, points of, like, blankness or erasure that Supernatural gets --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, obviously, they never go to big cities, which fascinates me because, like --

Emily: They go to a few earlier on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But I feel like that fades away.

Sally: Because, like, if I were a monster looking to eat people, I would not go to, like, Buttfuck, Kansas.
(laugh)

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: I would go to New York City. Um, so that's confusing. They don't go into the South. And they don't go to, like -- they don't go to hyper-religious places, really. Utah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Well, I think it engages with the fact that, um, what makes America freaky is its size.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, as opposed to what makes Europe freaky is its age.

Sally: (wheeze)

Emily: There -- y'know, you go to an old place and, like, who the fuck knows what happened here?
Whereas with America, it's like isolation is the key to horror.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And so when you get to, like, a small town and nobody outside knows what's going on, and that can be, like, freaky. Um.

Sally: Yeah, it would just be really interesting to see them play with the --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Isolation of a big city. Because I've never felt more alone than the year I lived in New York City.

Emily: Exactly, yeah.

Sally: Like, people don't give a shit.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: And it's just, like, there's people everywhere, but nobody's paying attention to you, which is, like, isolation --

Emily: America is big. Another fun thing about America -- fun, quotes -- Brie will maybe appreciate this 'cause you also like true crime, Sally less so -- but America is pretty famous for its prevalence of serial killers.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Especially in the '70s and '80s. Um, but one of my favorite episodes in Supernatural -- I think it's in season one? -- is where they actually engage with, like, a serial killer family --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Who is famous in the, like, mythos of America called "the Bloody Benders."

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: They are these people who ostensibly ran a motel and just, like, killed their guests.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Which, of course, is the type of, uh, like, folk legend that Supernatural would really like.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But then, you know, you're kind of engaging with the fact that these are just real people.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Like, they didn't -- they never said, "Oh, and this is a real thing that happened, and these are the ghosts of what happened." They were just like, "And here's this family." Where you're just pulling that straight out of history. So I think a fun thing that Supernatural could've done was engage more with, like, the human side of evil.

Brie: Yeah. Totally.

Emily: And have that be, like, the twist --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Occasionally. Like, "Oh, we're not actually hunting, like, a Satanic monster, we're just hunting a serial killer."

Brie: I think that would be rad and pretty realistic. Like, the fact that people die --

Emily: Which is horrible.

Brie: Well, and, like, so many people die in a town --

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: It's not always gonna be a werewolf or vampire or a demon. Like, the -- serial killers do exist. And -
- yeah, I think it definitely -- um, I don't wish that it was -- that it took place in the '70s or '80s --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Brie: But if it was, then that would probably be more of a thing.

Sally: Could. You. Imagine. If Supernatural --

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: I don't want to.

Sally: Took place in the 1970s.

Emily: They have flashback episodes.

Sally: Mustaches. Sam and Dean would have the worst mustaches.

Brie: They would have huge mustaches.

Sally: Imagine the, like, unbuttoned shirts --

Brie: I can dig it.

Sally: The short shorts.

Brie: I'm OK with unbuttoned shirts.

Emily: They just had a flashback episode where they traveled back in time to their parents in the '70s --

Sally: Oh, yeah, I remember that.

Emily: It was a good episode, 'cause Cas transported them and then was bleeding for the rest of the episode. (laugh) We were like, "OK."

Sally: Castiel's dying in the 1970s -- that'd be a terrible time to die.

Emily: That's my least favorite thing that happens in Supernatural. Something will happen to Cas, and Dean and Sam just go about their business rather than their, like, frantic hunt for each other.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: I think, again, it's another, like, "Where the hell is Cas?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: Because, even -- I was watching, I think, probably that same episode, and I said, "Why isn't Cas helping them with any of this stuff?"

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: And Baylee -- my sister was watching more closely -- and she was like, "He's in a hotel room for five days." And -- what? Like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Well, and it's like, they're like, "We've overpowered this character, so now we have to find convenient ways to sideline him so he doesn't just solve all their problems."

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, it would be a fun thing if you just had Castiel be a character who's like, "I'm not gonna solve your problems."

Brie: Yeah.

Sally: He's like, "What? No, I'm --"

Emily: "This isn't my paygrade."

Sally: "Busy."

Brie: Instead, he's, like, in a hotel room watching 1970s TV. What was even on?!

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: Magnum P.I., maybe?

Brie: MASH? (laugh)

Emily: I wanna see --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I wanna see Castiel's reaction to MASH.

Sally: Yeah, I would prefer to watch that than the episode where Dean's like, "Our mom is hot."

Brie: Ugh.

Emily: Oh, God. (groan) Kill me.

Sally: Gross.

Brie: (laugh) So painful.

Sally: I don't know why I love Dean Winchester so much. He's objectively the shittiest character.

Emily: It's hard -- it's hard to define.

Sally: I don't understand. What is this feeling, so sudden and new? OK, I think we should end on a positive note. What is one of your favorite episodes of Supernatural?

Brie: Oh, no.

Emily: Ah, fuck.

Brie: There's so many.

Emily: I feel like I've listed some. Do you know the answer?

Sally: I'm waiting for you guys to answer first. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: I need to think about it.

Brie: I think, maybe -- for me, I'll do, like, one fun one and one serious one.

Emily: OK. I like that format. Let's do it.

Brie: So I think my serious one that I like is the episode where Dean is gonna go to hell?

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Brie: And, like, he feels like he can't stop it. Because I just feel like Jensen is acting so well and he's, like, so anxious, and it comes across really well, and Sam is not garbage, like, he's -- he's right --

Emily: He's being a supportive brother.

Brie: There, and they're, like, in it against the world. And, right on. Um, and then, funny episode: I just love the Trickster TV episode.

Sally: Ah, it's so good.

Brie: Because of the Grey's Anatomy stuff. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Brie: The Grey's Anatomy stuff --

Emily: Doctor Sexy, MD.

Brie: It's, like, perfect, though.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Like, it is not even that far from Grey's Anatomy. (laugh) The music --

Emily: They kept referencing little things --

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: And I was like, "Surely this would make sense to me if I were a Grey's Anatomy fan."

Brie: Well, it's like -- yeah, there's one part where Dean's like, "There's Dr. Wang, the sexy but neurotic cardiovascular surgeon."

Emily: (laugh)

Brie: And that's, like, Sandra Oh's character!

Emily: (wheeze)

Brie: You know, it's like, they didn't even -- they basically took Grey's Anatomy and --

Emily: Um, my favorite serious episode is the very beginning of season two, when Dean's wandering the hospital as a ghost. (laugh)

Brie: Oh, yeah, and you meet Tessa? Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, you meet the reaper. Blur blur blur. But also, Dean just gives off a lot of really gay energy while he's wandering around barefoot in a white v-neck.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: And there's a really good scene where he communicates via Ouija board with Sam. (laugh)

Brie: Yeah! I love that scene. I love that scene.

Sally: Oh, yeah. That scene is really good.

Emily: Um -- I just really like that one, I don't know why, it just has, like, some good, y'know, death stuff.

Sally: Yeah.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: Um. What else do I like? Obviously the TV episode is good. Also the episode where Dean dies like 98 times. That one's just like --

Sally: It's such a classic. Um. I don't remember Supernatural well enough to pick a favorite serious episode?

Emily: That's OK.

Sally: Because I don't remember them. (laugh) Um, but I also love both the episodes that you guys picked. But for clarity's sake, I also love the fairy episode where people believe that they're being abducted by aliens.

Emily: What?

Sally: But it's actually fairies.

Emily: I haven't seen that one yet.

Sally: That one's really funny.

Brie: Yeah.

Emily: OK.

Brie: That one is funny.

Emily: I'll look forward to that one.

Sally: It's really weird, but I just always remember that one. Those are, like, the three that I remember: the TV one, the dying one, and the fairy one.

Emily: Mm.

Sally: I think just 'cause the fairy one has the best scene of all time, where someone gets hit by a bus, and Dean's making a joke, and he's like -- (laugh) and Sam gives him a look, and he's like, "Oh, was that too soon?" And Sam's like, "Yeah, Dean, I'm pretty sure six seconds is too soon." (laugh)

Brie: It is awesome.

Emily: Why do -- sometimes, they have such good writing.

Sally: I know, it's really funny.

Emily: Sometimes they really don't.

Sally: Sometimes -- like in the last episode we just watched, where their brother, Adam, spoiler alert, comes back, and Sam's like, "Adam, you wouldn't know me from a hole in the wall." (laugh)

Emily: We were like, "What? What happened in the writers' room?" Someone was like, "You can't say, 'You don't know me from Adam,' 'cause his name's Adam. You have to think of another phrase." No, there is no other phrase.

Sally: A hole in the wall.

Brie: What if you just said it?

Emily: We'll just say some random nouns and hope no one catches us.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK, this has been our very merry Supernatural episode?

Brie: (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I don't really know how to conclude this.

Sally: Um. We're gonna eat some pie.

Emily: We're about to go eat some pie.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You should do the same. When this, uh, episode comes out, it will be Christmas Eve.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: For those of you who celebrate Christmas, Happy Christmas tomorrow. (bad British accent)
Happy Christmas, Harry.

Sally: Happy Christmas, Ron.

Brie: (laugh)

Emily: We say that in our house all the time.

Brie: It's cute.

Sally: Brie, do you wanna sign us off by telling us something bad that happened to you this week?

Brie: Uh, you mean like all of my packages getting stolen? (laugh)

Sally: Oh, yeah! No.

Emily: Tell us. What happened?

Brie: Yeah, um. So just, like, one hundred and fifty dollars worth of my packages got stolen.

Emily: What the fuck?

Brie: Of my Christmas presents got stolen.

Emily: From where?

Brie: My apartment. Um. My mailbox, which is not my apartment.

Emily: Yeah.

Brie: And so that was part of the issue. But Amazon got me a refund 'cause I --

Sally: Good.

Brie: Ripped them a new asshole.

Sally: Good. They deserve it. They deserve --

Emily: Yaaaaass.

Brie: And, um, then -- have you guys seen the video where the guy, like, builds a glitter bomb, and he puts it on his front step so someone who steals a package will open it, and, like, glitter will go everywhere?

Emily: No.

Brie: So, it's, like, recently came out, but because of -- this happened to me -- everyone has sent that to me being like, "This made me think of you." So then Baylee -- it's now her mission to, like, create a glitter bomb.

Sally: Amazing.

Brie: And bomb -- glitter bomb someone for stealing our stuff.

Sally: Good.

Emily: I fully support her.

Sally: Yeah, I support Baylee in everything she does.

Emily: Yeah, that's some good sister -- sisterly affection.

Brie: Yeah. She also saw somebody slow down outside of our apartment, so she, like, followed them around the neighborhood. (laugh)

Emily: Now, between you and Baylee, which one is the good brother and which one is the bad?

Brie: Yeah, I do think that in general, I am more of the, like, "I will -- I'll die for you, Baylee," and Baylee is more of the, "Eh."

Sally: (laugh)

Brie: So ...

Emily: I'm ending it right there.