



Episode 51: The Kazoo of Valere

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Sally: Also -- (laugh) My family, we're broken fundamentally as people, and every single funeral that any one of the Stoke slash Goodger family has ever been to, we have laughed hysterically at during the middle of the service --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I don't know what's wrong with us, we just always, like, fucking lose it for whatever reason, and so my mom was looking at the program, and it was a prayer, and it referenced, like, Mary and Martha from the Bible --

Emily: Right.

Sally: But earlier, like in the same sentence, it said "Dave," which was the name of the deceased, and one of the daughter's names is Mary, and so my mom like turned to me and was like, "Who the fuck is Martha?" (laugh) in the middle of the service, and I was like, "Mom, they're talking about the Bible." And she was like, "Oh." And then she, like, lost it --

Emily: Cackled.

Sally: Was just, like, crying, and laughing silently, and so I was like fucking losing it in like the middle of, like, the Communion prayer, and so we -- don't invite us to funerals.

Emily: You and your mom are an inspiration to all of us.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Especially as it applies to the classic Barenaked Ladies song –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “One Week,” which says, (Sally joining in) “I’m the kinda guy who laughs at a funeral.”

Sally: That’s me.

Emily: That’s you.

Sally: I laughed at my grandfather’s funeral too.

Emily: Yeah. You’ve said. I think that was one of your sign-offs one time.

Sally: Probably. I don’t fuckin’ know. Okay. This is our season finale.

Emily: (laugh) I have to sneeze.

Sally: Emily has to sneeze. My hands are covered in goo.

Emily: They are very greasy.

Sally: I just, they hurt so bad.

Emily: Um, have I told you, one time, my cousins -- I have, like, millions of cousins –

Sally: Yeah, like, literally, five million of them.

Emily: Because my family’s Mormon. Um, but my mom’s sister, Pam, who famously said, “My biggest regret in life is that I didn’t see “Hamilton” before it got big. My second-biggest regret in my life is my first husband.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, THAT Aunt Pam –

Sally: Legend.

Emily: She remarried a guy who’s a total cowboy. So they live on a farm in rural Oregon, and, they like, have animals, like they’re that kind of farm, and they have pigs. And they, like, will eat the pigs.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's, like, okay. And my older sister Sarah was really good friends with their, um, oldest kid in the family, Megan, and so Sarah, one summer, went and stayed with them for a little while. And they introduced her to their first-ever pig, which they had named Sarah. (wheeze)

Sally: Ohhhhh. (laugh) Did they kill Sarah—

Emily: Yes.

Sally: At the end of the summer? (laugh) Oh, no.

Emily: Sarah ate Sarah.

Sally: (laugh) Oh, no.

Emily: We should get Sarah, my sister, on this podcast because the variety of insane stories in her life are -- incredible.

Sally: The Juchau family just, like, collects chaotic energy.

Emily: I know, it just, like, we summon it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On accident.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's a lot of -- there's a lot of bullshit. Okay, anyway, yeah, this is our season finale.

Sally: I don't know what part of that you're gonna use as the cold open, and I'm curious to find out.

Emily: Probably a lot of it. Probably up from when you were talking about laughing at the funeral to when I talked about my sister eating --

Sally: Sarah eating Sarah.

Emily: -- a pig named Sarah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. This is our season finale. We are almost, when this comes out, it'll be just about a year since we first released an episode.

Sally: It will be 363 days. Or something.

Emily: Damn, son.

Sally: Our first episode was released on January 23rd, 2018. So.

Emily: Did we release that on a, like a Tuesday or something?

Sally: Yeah, it took us a hot minute to get on a Monday schedule for some reason. We just were kind of releasing them –

Emily: Probably because, yeah, it didn't really occur to us that –

Sally: That that should happen.

Emily: That we would get a following? And that we would need to follow a schedule?

Sally: And that, like, people would be waiting to listen to it every week?

Emily: Yeah. Like, what?

Sally: Which is still confusing. So. Love you guys, but.

Emily: I know. Like, are you just waiting to hit that download button? Damn. Um.

Sally: Hopefully you've hit that subscribe button and it downloads for you automatically, meaning Everybody Hates Rand: A Wheel of Time Podcast is sitting in your app every Monday morning at 8 a.m., Mountain Standard Time.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Or Eastern Standard Time? I'm not really sure when it releases, but it does, so.

Emily: Yeah. Sure.

Sally: There you go.

Emily: Um, we're finishing this season without a theme song (laugh) –

Sally: Oh, Jesus.

Emily: Which is just a reminder that if you're the type of person who makes music and would like to, uh, let us commission you to make a, you know, ten-second little snippet of music

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That we can use as our theme song in place of, um, Chumbawamba's classic ...

Sally: Tubthumping.

Emily: Tubthumping. Why did I just forget what it's called?

Sally: I was trying to remember the other day, and I literally couldn't.

Emily: It's just the most confusing conglomeration –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: -- of vowel sounds.

Sally: Tubthumping by Chumbawamba. (laugh)

Emily: It's sort of a -- it's sort of an abomination to God. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, a little bit.

Emily: That many "Uh" sounds.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But, hey, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand.

Sally: The concluding part of that sentence is, if you are the type of person who makes music –

Emily: Oh yeah, sorry I didn't finish.

Sally: Please email us at everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com.

Emily: We -- are -- doing -- great –

Sally: It is a paying gig. Again, it is a commission. Um. Season finale! Emily's punching the air.

She's dressed like Tom Holland in Spiderman: Homecoming.

Emily: What?!

Sally: Doesn't he wear a blue flannel like that?

Emily: I don't know.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: This is Everybody Hates Rand. (laugh)

Emily: *Fuck*. We have to focus. (laugh) Your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast, speaking of Spiderman.

Sally: Yeah. Do you think we're gonna get sued by Marvel for using that as our tagline?

Emily: No, I think it's so common –

Sally: Okay.

Emily: I also don't think it's our tagline unless we use it, like, for advertising purposes.

Sally: I mean, it is on the header of our website.

Emily: Oh. Well.

Sally: I may take that off.

Emily: (laugh) Yeah. Maybe.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I don't know shit about shit. Um.

Sally: I worked very hard on that website, and Emily doesn't know it exists. (laugh)

Emily: I know the website exists, and I've been on it! I just don't remember what's on the header. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: Umm, spoiler alert. We'll definitely be talking about spoilers cause we're talking about the end of the fucking book!

Sally: Ahhhhhh!

Emily: Auuuuggghh!

Sally: Finally.

Emily: Um, also your weekly titular PSA: Our title is a joke and is meant to be taken as one. The phrase “everybody” in this context refers just to us, in our apartment, and probably the rest of the characters in Wheel of Time, as a Tumblr user pointed out to us. Does not necessarily apply to you, you don’t need to feel like we’re attacking you if you don’t feel the same way about Rand that we do. It’s okay. We’re all okay. Everyone, calm down.

Sally: Okay. The season finale of season two of Everybody Hates Rand is a long time coming because the Great Hunt is the most exhausting book to read.

Emily: (Mouth clearly full) I’ve been sort of skimming through the Great Hunt -- sorry, my mouth’s full, but this is the type of energy that this podcast is bringing, so –

Sally: (laugh) I know. We need to get it together. The people don’t download for this.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: They don’t download for me being cranky and you being eating.

Emily: But I love eating.

Sally: And I love being cranky. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That should be our tagline. “I’m Emily Juchau, and I love eating.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway, what the fuck were we talking about?

Sally: Oh –

Emily: Oh, I’ve been skimming through the Great Hunt a little bit because I’m graffiti-ing our second copy of the book to send to one of our lovely Patreon, um, patrons?

Sally: I know, it’s confusing.

Emily: Yeah, it was just -- took me a minute. Uh, Thomas, that’s coming at you hot in a few weeks.

Sally: Hey, boo-bear.

Emily: Um, but I realized how much has happened in this book? Like, a lot has happened in this book.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And yet, it feels like ...

Sally: (whisper) Nothing has happened.

Emily: Yeah, yet it feels like nothing has happened. But, like, at the beginning of this book, we were in Fal Dara.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What the fuck? Basically the entire first half of this book was the boys and the girls in Fal Dara, hanging out with Sivan Sanche.

Sally: Yeah. Natch.

Emily: That takes forEVER, before they leave, and then it all happens super fast.

Sally: It's very -- it's -- as we've discussed a thousand times, the timeline and the structure of this book is, like, questionable.

Emily: So weird.

Sally: Um. And -- but finally, finally, the strangest of all ending sequences, we've ended up (laugh) in Falme.

Emily: It's so ...

Sally: There are two armies. And in the middle is our boys.

Emily: It's weird ... how they get there? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It doesn't make any goddamn sense.

Emily: Like, Ingtar goes to go off and commit seppuku, which I think is an appropriate --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Phrase here, although I know it refers to Japanese ritual suicide. Shienar does have heavy Japanese overtones.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So anyway. Ingtar goes off to commit seppuku because he hates himself because he's a Darkfriend. And Rand's like, "Oh no, I'm mourning Ingtar, but can I mourn Ingtar because he was a Darkfriend? I don't know right from wrong or up from down or left from right. I gotta save Egwene.

Because all I want to do is save women. But also frighten them.” The book I’ve been reading -- well, the book I *finished*, *The Gathering Storm* (mock laughter), it’s full of Rand intentionally frightening women because it’s the worst book in the entire world.

Sally: That sounds about right.

Emily: Anyway. Um. Rand’s like, “Ingstar’s dead.” (laugh) Perrin’s like –

Sally: “What?”

Emily: “Excuse me?” (laugh)

Sally: “Can you repeat that in a way that makes sense?” (laugh)

Emily: Perrin’s like, (bad French accent) “Pardon me?”

Sally: “Perrin me?”

Emily: Perrin’s like, “My wolf ears didn’t catch that. What the fuck are you talking about?” (laugh)

Sally: Rand’s like, “He’s DIED.”

Emily: “He’s DIED. We have to LEAVE HIM.”

Sally: “He’s DOING what he NEEDS TO DO.”

Emily: “HONORRRRR.”

Sally: And then he just runs the fuck away, and Mat and Perrin are like, “Okay, I guess we’ll follow?”

Emily: “What the fuck?”

Sally: “Our fuckin’ psycho friend who just, like, whipped his horse and took off into the middle of butt-fuckin’ nowhere.”

Emily: Yeah, he’s like, “Runnin’ through Falme, runnin’ through Falme, and then I’m runnin’ through the stuff outside Falme,” and I’m like, again, very confused about the terrain around Falme, who the fuck knows what’s going on. And then they, like, end up in this little stand of trees. And they’re like, “Ah, fuck, what’s going on?” And Rand’s like, “Uh, I dunno why I ran away, I gotta go back there and save Egwene.” And I’m like, what? (laugh)

Sally: It’s literally, like, one of those things that I just can’t comprehend.

Emily: Well, it's like Robert Jordan was like, "Oh, I need this really cinematic moment where they're placed between two armies, but I can't figure out how to do that without Rand freaking out and running out into the middle of the street," basically.

Sally: Yeah. Which, I mean, is kind of relatable content.

Emily: I mean, it is.

Sally: Fight or flight response was obviously flight in this instance.

Emily: Yes. Exactly. But, again, it's very transparently, like, "I just need this --"

Sally: Plot.

Emily: "-- situation to play out in the way I want it to."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, "No. That's not how good writing works, Robert."

Sally: You make it work for you, bitch.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Not the other way around.

Emily: Anyway, Rand's like, "We gotta go save Egwene!" And Mat's like, "I didn't even see Egwene." And Rand's like, "Well, she's there." And Mat's like, "Okay, well, yeah, sure, let's go save her, then."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "But, you know, we kinda gotta get the Horn to Verin, so let's go give the Horn and then rescue Egwene" or some bullshit. And Rand's like, "No, I cannot schedule my time like this for some reason!"

Sally: Yeah, he, like, loses it.

Emily: He's like, "We just have to stay here and, I dunno, fuckin' run around like chickens with our heads cut off." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Just march in circles. I dunno. I don't know what I'm doing! I'm yelling!

Emily: Remember that king we talked about in We Don't Watch -- well, it was We Watch Outlander at that point --

Sally: Oh, Jesus.

Emily: Yeah, like that Prussian king who was just really obsessed with tall soldiers?

Sally: (laugh) I forgot.

Emily: He used to have them march around his bed. It put him to sleep.

Sally: (laugh) Oh my God. See what you guys miss out when you don't listen to We Watch Outlander? That was quite legitimately the funniest thing I've ever learned. (laugh)

Emily: That's the history fact that I most love to tell people.

Sally: (laugh turns into a cough) Okay, I feel like you have to tell them now.

Emily: What? No, I wanna make them listen to our content. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) He just used to make them march around.

Emily: Yeah, he loved tall soldiers.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He said, "Tall soldiers. They are my weakness."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He was trying –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He said he was trying to, like, you know, breed a whole army of very tall men. Giants. But really he was just super gay, probably. And was like, "I just fuckin' -- I just fucking LOVE big men."

Sally: Yeah, it's a mood.

Emily: And we were all like, "Okay, King of Prussia whose name escapes me. That's a big mood." Anyway—

Sally: Vlad.

Emily: No? (laugh)

Sally: I just guessed.

Emily: I think it was, like, Charles or something.

Sally: Charles, King of Prussia.

Emily: Or George. Some bullshit.

Sally: “Tall men, they are my weakness.”

Emily: “Tall soldiers. They are my weakness.”

Sally: I mean, that’s fucking relatable content.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, that’s my favorite historical story besides the fact that Alexander the Great’s father was killed because of a gay love triangle. Anyway.

Sally: Emily, you should have a separate podcast where you tell fun history stories. (laugh)

Emily: I only know, like three.

Sally: That’s okay. It can be a three-episode podcast.

Emily: (laugh) Mary, Queen of Scots, probably got her husband killed –

Sally: Rad.

Emily: Because he was an abusive fuck.

Sally: Exactly. I’m really into murdering husbands.

Emily: Anyway, he quote unquote died in an explosion, but actually he was found like two hundred yards away with, like, his pants missing? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) What?

Emily: And everyone was like, “Okay, so he died in this explosion?” And Mary was like, “Yes.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “That’s how he died. For sure. That’s definitely how he died.” (laugh)

Sally: History is insane.

Emily: I know. People have always been nuts is what I’m saying. Okay, anyway. (laugh)

Sally: Rand is marching in circles. (laugh)

Emily: Rand's marching in circles, and he's like, "Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Then Mat's like, "Okay, I'm going full Precious over here." And Perrin's just like, "Oh -- what the --"

Sally: Perrin is quite literally like, "I have not had any idea what the fuck is going on for the last THREE DAYS."

Emily: (laugh) Perrin's like, "This is the Bad Place."

Sally: (laugh) Anyway, then the best thing of all time happens where they're like, "We're fucked," and Mat's like, "I guess I'll blow the Horn of Valere?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Wait. They, like, are like, "We can't go back because this army is forming --"

Sally: I know, it's very confusing.

Emily: And there's this hilarious moment where Mat's like, "For US? Is that for US?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And they, like, look over their shoulders and there's this, you know, formation of Whitecloaks gathering, and they're like, "Oh. It's not for us. But we are about to be caught in the middle of a, uh, you know, staged battle."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Just of cavalry forming -- I don't fucking know. I wish this battle was explained better to me instead of it being this, like, touchy-feely When Rand Beats Ba'alzamon, the Whitecloaks Beat the Seanchan, and I'm like, "The Whitecloaks and the Seanchan are equally terrible forces, and I want them both to perish." Mutually assured destruction is what I want from this encounter.

Sally: Yeah. That's good.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I just really don't understand the geography of this because I'm like, "Where is there space for two armies? I thought we just left a city?"

Emily: Yeah. It's like, there's, we just walk out of the city and then there's plains? Some trees? It all just doesn't make sense. Robert Jordan, who is usually very committed to explaining, in detail, what's going on, like giving us lots of details, just like failed in this instance.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't know why. Anyway, yeah, then there's this hilarious moment where they all, like, look at the Horn of Valere, and Mat's like, "Okay, I'll say it. It doesn't have to -- no one said -- as long as it's blown at the Final Battle, no one said it couldn't be blown before."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And everyone's like, "Okay, we're not say -- it's your funeral. And Mat's like: (A kazoo is blown)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That was good. Um, we just learned a skill about me –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: -- which is that I can't make kazoos work.

Sally: (blows kazoo) It just needs to rev up like an engine.

Emily: That's terrible. Then what happens is, like, this just, mist starts gathering.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it kind of all, uh, I think it flashes over to the Whitecloaks for a minute.

Sally: Yeah, for like –

Emily: And it's like, R.I.P. my good bitch, I don't care about you, Geofram Bornhald. He's like, "Aw. My -- Byar won't be able to tell my son how I died." I'm like, "Wait, what? You died in battle. That's the only info he needs, really."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "What are you talking about? You don't need to be like, 'First he was cut on the left nipple, per the Iliad. Then--'"

Sally: (snort)

Emily: This is seriously all the Iliad is!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Then he was stabbed in the nipple, and then he was stabbed in the groin, and he was stabbed in the left buttock --” It’s, seriously –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: All the erogenous zones get stabbed. (laugh) I’m just telling you.

Sally: The Iliad is very gay. So.

Emily: (laugh) Yeah, there’s a lot of gay energy going on there.

Sally: (laugh) All the erogenous zones. Yeah, I don’t know why we flash over to the Whitecloaks, because it’s, the Whitecloak is just, like, “Mist.” It’s not like he’s like, “And then there was fuckin’ Artur Hawkwing!”

Emily: He’s like, “What?”

Sally: (laugh) “Oh, shit.”

Emily: (mimicking London Bridge by Fergie) “Oh, shit!” Um, no, but they kind of get transported up into the sky a little bit, it seems like?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: This is very, like, liminal space that we’re inhabiting for a little while.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where we’re part of the battle, and it seems like, for a while, at least, Perrin and the, everyone else is actually engaged in the battle?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Although it’s unclear whose side they’re fighting on?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. Then all the Heroes of the Horn pop up.

Sally: Honestly, this scene is so legendary.

Emily: This scene is very legendary.

Sally: Imagine just, like, I don't know if we have -- I don't know what equivalent is in this world to say. Imagine Britney Spears comes out of -- (laugh)

Emily: Oh my fucking God.

Sally: No. But just, like, the idea that there are these heroes that everybody knows about in Wheel of Time world, and that, they, like, all manifest at once? Like the energy is just so cool in this scene.

Emily: Well, much of the implication is that, like, these are heroes that translate into our-world heroes? Like, Artur Hawkwing could translate into—

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, Arthur. But I wish that that was played with a little more explicitly. You know? It's a fun little nod to the idea that the Wheel of Time takes place in our world or in a world that's very similar to our world, but it's kind of, like, I don't -- I don't know.

Sally: Well, yeah. Rand has that interesting line here, where he's like, "Something or Arthur," like, "Something or Patrick," where it gives very Anglicized versions of those names.

Emily: Yeah, he like, looks at these people and is like, "Oh. And they also translate to this and this and this version of themselves."

Sally: Yeah. (clears throat)

Emily: And it's like, yeah, that's fun and all, but it's like the ones you name are, like, Michael and Patrick. And it's like, if I'm expecting all the heroes, I think it would be fun if our world's Heroes of the Horn, quote unquote, would be like figures of legend, which would include probably Arthur and Merlin, cause that's a major legend, but like legends of other cultures.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Fucking, you know, Johnny Appleseed.

Sally: *Oh*. Mat is Johnny Appleseed.

Emily: Yes, Mat is Johnny Appleseed. I forgot. (laugh)

Sally: Mat is Johnny Appleseed reincarnated. Don't be a fool, Emily.

Emily: Johnny Appleseed and, like, Gilgamesh and, fucking, I don't know, other --

Sally: Achilles' gay ass rolls in.

Emily: Yeah, Achilles and Patroclus. Patroclus? (Pronouncing it differently) Patroclus?

Sally: I don't -- I say Patroclus. I don't fucking know.

Emily: Okay. Achilles and his boyfriend --

Sally: It's all Greek to me! (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Fuck. They roll up, holding hands.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gay as fuck.

Sally: Spear in hand. Holding hands.

Emily: Yeah. Sorry I can't actually reference more --

Sally: I can't even --

Emily: -- myths and legends outside of Western -- I'm thinking of, like, Bodicaa and stuff like that.

Sally: Ah, that'd be lit.

Emily: You know, rolls in on chariots.

Sally: If Gilgamesh rolled up, though -- I love Gilgamesh. I think Gilgamesh is the most dramatic motherfucker. I think I might be the only person in the world who doesn't find the idea that the Wheel of Time world takes place in our world in a different age or a world very similar to it to be interesting.

Emily: I don't find it really interesting now, after reading it? Twice?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Almost three times -- three times? It's kind of like I'm over it.

Sally: Yeah. I just -- I mean, this is more of a taste thing than anything, obviously, against the Wheel of Time, like if that's what Robert Jordan wanted to do, sure. I just, like, find, I mean, again, this is -- like I don't even particularly find portal quest fantasy very interesting, I am just like solely --

Emily: Sure.

Sally: --into secondary world-building. And, like, it almost feels like, like it degrades the story a little bit to say, like Artur Hawkwing is Arthur of Camelot.

Emily: Well, and it's, uh, pretty --

Sally: Or could be.

Emily: It's pretty non-committal, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: These are all like little nods but nothing, uh, set in stone. And it's like, maybe that's like an artist thing, that they're like, I don't wanna, really –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't wanna force people to read this a certain way, but it's also, like, I dunno, if you're gonna go for it, go for it.

Sally: I feel like I'd find it more, I'd be more into it if it was more of a commitment.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Because then I'd be like, this is kind of an interesting project. Like what it means, like what is a hero? Which I think is kind of one of the major questions in Wheel of Time anyway. Um. Where heroism and heroes reborn play such a big part. But the fact that it's just kind of like nudge-nudge, wink-wink, all archetypes exist in the same dreamspace, like –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: Yeah. Well, and, um, everyone rolls up and it's like, here we have Artur Hawkwing, here we have Birgitte, I think they're the only two who speak, because of course they're the two most quote unquote important –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Within the context of this book. Um. (laugh) Ironically, you don't get Artur Hawkwing look at the Seanchan and be like, "What?"

Sally: Be like, "WHAT?"

Emily: "They LIVED?"

Sally: Artur Hawkwing is not like, "I don't know who these bitches are."

Emily: "WHAT?"

Sally: "Birgitte's like, who's that?"

Emily: Birgitte's like, "That's your progeny, you dipshit."

Sally: "Fuckin' bitch."

Emily: "You imperialist dipshit."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, Artur Hawkwing.

Emily: Artur Hawkwing's like, "I can't recall. I'm sorry, suddenly I can't read."

Sally: "I don't know her." Puts on his sunglasses. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Anyway.

Emily: Um.

Sally: It's very funny.

Emily: They, of course, recognize Rand as Lews Therin, which is interesting only because that doesn't happen with Rand and -- I mean, Perrin and Mat --

Sally: I know. What if they were like, "Johnny Appleseed??"

Emily: They're like, "Johnny!" And Mat, like, looks over his shoulder --

Sally: (laugh) That would be -- ah.

Emily: I just, like, um, I dunno. Because we get, here, a little of the mythos of the Heroes of the Horn, where (stutters) someone, I think probably Mat, this sounds like a Mat thing to say, is like, "There's only like twelve of you!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Well, you gotta do a lot of shit to get bound to the Horn, you doofus." He's like, "Alright, fine. Anyway."

Sally: "You could do a little more, is all I'm saying."

Emily: (laugh) Um, but then they're like, "Well, let's go to battle."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Dur dur dur.

Sally: And then there's this great scene where Gaidal Cain, the ugliest motherfucker, like whips out his dual swords and is like, "Let's Go!"

Emily: "Agggghh!"

Sally: I really like Gaidal Cain. I think he's a fun character.

Emily: Yeah, me -- do -- me do too. *Me do too*. I just said -- (laugh)

Sally: "Me do too."

Emily: I do too, and I wish he was in more of the series.

Sally: I know, I really wish that he and Birgitte had been, like, brought out of the Horn together.

Emily: I know. That would've been iconic.

Sally: If they were just this angry married couple, rolling around --

Emily: And Elayne had to bond them both as her Warders.

Sally: (chuckle)

Emily: That would've been hysterical.

Sally: That would've been so funny.

Emily: Um.

Sally: Imagine Gaidal Cain as your Warder.

Emily: He'd be a perfect Warder.

Sally: I know.

Emily: A perfect boy.

Sally: He is a perfect boy.

Emily: I know. I barely know him --

Sally: Blockhead. Has two swords.

Emily: But I love him.

Sally: I love him. He's like in Gumby.

Emily: What?

Sally: (laugh) Blockhead's a character in Gumby.

Emily: Okay. Uh, anyway, so they're running into battle, and there's this really hilarious scene where Rand's just trotting along, and then suddenly out of the mist, Ba'alzamon appears, arms spread wide,

Sally: I know.

Emily: Like, "Fucking take me."

Sally: Um. I also –

Emily: "Titanic this motherfucker."

Sally: I also love that before that, they're like, "Oh, we need the Dragon banner." And then Panner -- (laugh) Perrin is the bannerman for this? And he rides next to Artur Hawkwing in battle? And, like, never again is Perrin like, "Guess what I did at summer camp." (laugh) Like?

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "I was Artur Hawkwing's bannerman, and it was fucking cool."

Emily: That's a hilarious scene, first of all because they're all like, "Where's the banner?" And they all kinda look at it, and then Perrin's like, "Okay, I guess I gotta do something about this because I'm the only practical person in this outfit --"

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And he goes and like cuts down a tree and is like, "Alright, we can mount it on this thing."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so they are flying the banner, and yeah, neither Perrin nor Mat is ever like, "So yeah, I was there. And I just, like, ran with the Heroes of the Horn for a little --" They're both totally like –

Sally: They're like –

Emily: "Didn't happen."

Sally: "We're not talking about it. It was a little too much."

Emily: "Don't know her."

Sally: Yeah. But it's really funny to think about. Because yeah, Mat is there like, sounding the Horn gleefully. They're like, "Trumpeter, play us into Battle," which is –

Emily: (laugh) Mat's like, "Okay."

Sally: The most iconic thing, to call Mat just, like, a trumpeter.

Emily: "Sounds great." Yes.

Sally: And so he's just like gleefully blowing the Horn of Valere while Perrin holds a banner, and they're like, "We ride!"

Emily: Yeah, it is interesting, though, because this moment is like fateful for Mat

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But not necessarily Perrin in the same way. It's kind of just funny. A lot of, uh, Mat's characteristics are clearly defined by his archetypes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whereas Perrin has archetypes, also, but they're a little more loosely defined. Kind of like, the lines are thinner. There's more room to color over them.

Sally: Yeah, which is interesting, as we've talked about, like, wolves are like this very liminal thing, and Perrin's sort of packed into a wolf archetype, and so he's a little bit more blurry, whereas, like, the Trickster archetype, which is Mat's predominant, sort of, archetype –

Emily: Yeah. We've got so many tricksters throughout all of history –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That it's just, like, "Yep. We all know what that is."

Sally: We all know what they're doing. We all know who Coyote is and Prometheus and Odin and -- well, I don't know about if Odin –

Emily: Anansi and literally everyone.

Sally: -- you can classify, exactly, but. I mean. Sort of.

Emily: Yeah, he is sort of a trickster.

Sally: In that vein. But.

Emily: And Loki.

Sally: I'm just thinking of American Gods.

Emily: (laugh) You guys. We were watching American Gods, and may I just remind you that they cast the most perfect man of all time to play Loki?

Sally: It's true.

Emily: I don't -- it is such iconic casting. Okay. Anyway. Um. Then Rand starts fighting Ba'alzamon?

Sally: Yeah. It is really funny when Ba'alzamon's like, "Surprise, bitch."

Emily: I know. You're like, "Okay?"

Sally: "I'm here."

Emily: He has a staff. For some reason, my whole life, I've thought he had a sword and they were sword-fighting?

Sally: Me too!

Emily: I read this and I was like, "He just has a staff? What's going -- why does he have a staff?"

Sally: Gandalf motherfucker.

Emily: Yeah, what is he doing? What's happening?

Sally: Honey. That is not a good weapon.

Emily: It's a terrible weapon!

Sally: To bring to a swordfight, unless you're Mat Cauthon.

Emily: Yeah. And then he'll kick your ass.

Sally: Yeah. Twice.

Emily: Yeah, but Ba'alzamon isn't using it like a quarterstaff. He's like, "Here's my stick-sword."

Sally: "I'm gonna bonk you with it." (laugh)

Emily: And it's fucking magic, so I guess, like, you can't cut it, or some bullshit." Anyway, they're sword-fighting, and Rand's like (unintelligible noises), "The battle is following us." And there's an ongoing current here, which I actually think is, if not super interesting, very poetic, where Rand has this ongoing theme of "all the threads of my life are in danger."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And like, threads are individual people, like, not just like -- not just Egwene, although Egwene is omnipresent throughout this scene, which is very annoying –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because Rand's like, "I gotta go save Egwene." And Ba'alzamon's like, "What the -- she already saved herself. Who the fuck are you talking about?"

Sally: Ba'alzamon's like, "What?"

Emily: "What? That capable motherfucker? She's already out of prison."

Sally: "She's, like, in a different country."

Emily: "She's the one doing the lightning. What are you talking about?"

Sally: Yeah. "You're dumb, and I hate you."

Emily: Yeah. And it's really annoying that, like, no one sidelines Rand with this information.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Later, he'll be like, wake up and be like, "Oh, Egwene actually saved herself or was saved by the girls." But instead, everyone's just like, "Yeah, you do gotta rescue the girl."

Sally: Yeah. And so, meanwhile, Ba'alzamon and Rand are having their classic, like, "Yield to me or die" –

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Bullshit conversation, and I'm like, "Why can't I be down where Freaks is playing --"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "And Mat's blowing a trumpet."

Emily: Yeah. And like, Mat's in danger, Perrin's in danger, Mat's connection with the dagger is, like, coming into play –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: All of Rand's separate bullshit -- I dunno, it's a very, like -- obviously the Stone of Tear, the breaking of the Stone of Tear is the most iconic –

Sally: Yes. Obviously.

Emily: Scene of all time, but I think the Stone of Tear is satisfying in a very separate way than this scene because everyone goes of their own accord into the Stone of Tear, more or less. Obviously the girls get kidnapped, but they were kinda, like –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: They were sort of there peripherally on their own to begin with. But everyone is, like, making a choice to kind of go with fate or to evade fate, in Mat's case. (laugh) Cause he's, like, not there to do his duty? He's there to do the opposite of that? He just feels beholden to these girls. Whereas in this instance, no one has a choice.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that's a little bit -- not fun to read, exactly?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's interesting in a different way, cause you're like, "Okay, great. Like, here's fate playing out. Here's, you know, the mythos coming into being."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it's much more fun when everyone is, like, taking an active part.

Sally: Yeah, I think The Dragon Reborn is satisfying for lots of ways, but like, book one is obviously railroading all these kids on a very specific fantasy journey.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And like, railroading, I think, is the perfect term, because it's constantly like, book one is Forest of Coincidences™. Copyright, all rights reserved. And the Great Hunt is literally just, like -- throughout it, Rand has been forced into decisions that he doesn't want to make. Mat is beholden to this dagger. Egwene gets captured. Like, everyone's being forced, again, to do things? Whereas book three, like, everyone starts making decisions and having agency. In, like, all in really interesting ways. Like the railroading has sort of splintered, and it starts to go off in a very different structure overall for fantasy, and it also, just, like, each of the characters, like Mat is like, "Fuck this shit. Me and Thom are pole-vaulting onto a riverboat, and we're out."

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Rand's like, "Peace, motherfuckers, I'm gonna go run shirtless through the forest for 600 pages or whatever --"

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "--the fuck I'm doing."

Emily: Perrin's like, (Borat impression) "My wife."

Sally: "My wife!" (laugh) Perrin's like, "Fate? Nah, bitch, I'm gettin' married."

Emily: "I'm horny."

Sally: Yeah. "Horny as hell."

Emily: "Horny for success."

Sally: (laugh) Nah, he's just horny.

Emily: (laugh) Um. But yeah, that's an interesting way to put it, and it kind of, like, nails down why book two feels so weird.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because it is that railroading, but this time they're conscious of it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're, like, aware of the fact that they're being railroaded. They're like, "Fuck, this isn't how it's supposed to be going."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "This isn't how I want it to go. I'm just, like, being pulled."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And book three, they're like, "Okay, fine, well, we're on the train, we might as well do the best with what we can --"

Sally: "Might as well drive it."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Murder on the Rockport Limited, bitch.

Emily: Book three becomes Snowpiercer, my favorite movie.

Sally: Never seen it.

Emily: Snowpiercer is an iconic movie featuring Chris Evans. Um.

Sally: But yeah, um. Battle. Rand gets his Fisher King wound or whatever.

Emily: Foreshadowed Fisher King wound, yep.

Sally: And he's like, "Oh, that hurt!" Well, and then Rand has his dramatic moment, which I think happens on page 666—

Emily: It does.

Sally: So, like, Jesus. Where he's like, "I'm ready to dieeee. Bleeeghh."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "I'm gonna sheathe my sword," which just sounds like an innuendo. So.

Emily: Uh-huh. That's a condom, son.

Sally: (gagging)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Disgusting.

Emily: Anyway, then it flashes over to Min, who has a really boring sequence where she finds Rand, and she, like -- throughout the end of this book, again, and kind of, like, homage to the overarching theme of this book, here everyone is feeling definitively pulled in certain places.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Including Min, Egwene, and Elayne, apparently.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who all have romantic attachments to Rand. And they're all just like, "We feel like he needs us, so we have to go there."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and Min finds him, and is like, "Ah, this is a cold motherfucker. I'm gonna get him in a bed and sleep with him." And I'm like, "Ohhkay, why are so many of Rand's love interests forced into bed with him due to lack of body heat?" That doesn't speak well to -- (laugh)

Sally: Uh-uh. You're right.

Emily: Anything, actually.

Sally: You're right. What the fuck.

Emily: I know that's, like, a cute trope in fanfiction, but in real life, it's terrible.

Sally: Ugh. Just imagine being injured and freezing, and a person's like, "I'm gonna press my sweaty flesh against your cold and sick flesh."

Emily: And it's like, sure, survival, but at what cost?

Sally: But at what cost? Being touched? When I'm SWEATY? No, thank you.

Emily: Ew. Anyway, she's in bed with him, and then Egwene comes in and is like, "What the fuck?" And Min's like, "HE'S MINE."

Sally: Oh, I know, and then she's got, like, she's like, "Like Elayne said, just because you threw him away doesn't mean I don't get to pick him up."

Emily: It's literally the stupid -- it's literally the beginning of the descent of Min's character --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Into catty bitch.

Sally: And then Egwene has the most iconic moment of all time, where she just, like, stares at Min for like a full five minutes.

Emily: Doesn't even look at Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's just like, "Okay, bye." And leaves.

Sally: Yeah. Like, "This is some dumb shit. I got other shit to deal with."

Emily: Which is, again, it's like, Egwene, like, this is the moment where she's, like, done.

Sally: Yeah. She's like, "I'm done."

Emily: Done with Rand, done with the drama of the three -- well, two and a half most terrible women of all time. Aviendha is terrible whenever she's with Rand, I feel.

Sally: Yeah, no, Aviendha is slowly -- Aviendha started out so good as a character, and as she gets more entangled with Rand, it is declining, which makes me sad.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Like, love interests should not make you less interesting; they should make you more interesting.

Emily: Yep. No.

Sally: They should be a growth point -- a point of growth, not a point of decline. So.

Emily: Yeah, no. Elayne and Min are the worst characters in the entire book. And then Aviendha's, like, doesn't do well by having Rand as a love interest.

Sally: Yeah. Which is sad cause she starts out so legendary. Where she's like, "Berelain's annoying you? Let's kill her." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Which is so rad.

Emily: I know. I fucking love Aviendha. Anyway. Um, Egwene's like, "Okay, I'm out with this nonsense."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "Call me when you get, I dunno, your tits in order. Come on."

Sally: "Call me when you fucking get your tits in order." Legendary.

Emily: "Since those are what you think with, you dumb asshole."

Sally: Yeah. It's true. She is an idiot.

Emily: Um, and then she leaves, and then Lanfear comes in?

Sally: I know.

Emily: And is like, (whisper) "He's mine." And Min's like, "Okay? Copy that."

Sally: What's happening?

Emily: Lanfear's like, "Goodbye. Keep him safe for me." And Min's like --

Sally: She's like, (whisper) "I'm Lanfear."

Emily: "Okay?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Lanfear's entrances with random people are really funny.

Sally: I know. Like if Lanfear wasn't, like we said, the literary embodiment of hentai itself --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I would think she was really funny because, like, what is she doing? (laugh)

Emily: She has two of the most hysterical entrances of all time in this series.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: One: here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Two: When she walks in on Mat while he's naked and eating a turkey leg.

Sally: Yeah. And she's like, "Oh, no."

Emily: She's like, "Oh. Jesus."

Sally: "This won't do." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "This will not do."

Sally: Yeah. She's like, "This is not going to work for me."

Emily: Close third: When she, like, makes something blow up on the docks in Cairhien --

Sally: Oh, yeah, when she's like, "WHO'S AVIENDHA?"

Emily: "WHICH SLUT --"

Sally: (laugh) So, like --

Emily: "IS SUCKING MY MAN'S DICK --" And Rand's like, "Honestly? There's a huge line."

Sally: He's like, "Honestly, who isn't?" (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, um. (laugh) Then, uh, Rand wakes up and is like, "Oh, fuck."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I'm wounded. Everything went to shit. Mat's gone, apparently."

Sally: Yeah, Mat is like --

Emily: Mat peaced out with Egwene and Nynaeve because they really had to get him to Tar Valon. Moiraine's there.

Sally: I know.

Emily: And she's like, "Hi. Welcome back to our combative relationship."

Sally: (sigh)

Emily: And Rand's like, "Okay, great. Missed this a whole lot." Um, and then Rand kinda gets, like, sworn fealty to by all the –

Sally: All the Shienarans.

Emily: Shienaran soldiers? So, like, the first of the quote unquote Dragonsworn?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Men who are just gonna be, like, kind of avid followers of the Dragon. Including Masema, who's like -- Rand's like, "He's got fervor in his eyes." And I was like, "Dun dun dun."

Sally: Putting it mildly.

Emily: Yeah, (sing-song) to put it mildly. This man will do terrible things.

Sally: This man is a terrorist.

Emily: Uno, meanwhile, is a perfect angel, and I'm glad he's there.

Sally: Yeah. Uno's like, "All other oaths are broken, so I'll swear my oaths to you, tall red-headed boy."

Emily: Yes. "And care for your very mean lady friend, Nynaeve." A few books from now.

Sally: Honestly, if Nynaeve was going to end up with an older Shienaran man, why doesn't she end up with Uno? (laugh)

Emily: True. Cause Uno has a lot of gay energy.

Sally: You're right. Uno and Gaul: my one true pairing.

Emily: (singing) Ahhhh!

Sally: I would fucking shit my pants if Uno and Gaul were in a gay -- my two best warrior boys. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh, sigh)

Sally: So good. But ...

Emily: Um.

Sally: And then Rand's like -- oh, and then it ends so dramatic, where he's like –

Emily: It's like, "He made his choice."

Sally: “Bleeeegggh death is lighter than a feather.” Some shit. I don’t even know what that phrase is anymore, I’ve read it too much, it doesn’t make any sense to me.

Emily: Mm. Yeah.

Sally: And then it’s like, “he made his choice.” Bleggh. Also, hilarious when Moiraine just pulls out, like, a chalk drawing of Rand above Falme. (laugh)

Emily: She’s like, “Check this out.” And Rand’s like, “What?! Burn it.”

Sally: It’s like an Etch-a-Sketch.

Emily: And she’s like, “There’s many of them?”

Sally: (laugh) “This is not an original work.”

Emily: “I know we don’t have printing presses, really, but --” wait, do they have printing presses?

Sally: I think so. It also talks -- Min looks at his wound and says that it’s been cauterized, which I found really interesting.

Emily: I think cause Ba’alzamon hit him with a magic stick.

Sally: No, I mean, I know, but just like that “cauterize” is in the medical zeitgeist. Like, I’m curious about the history of that and where, like -- I’m constantly juggling with, like, where Wheel of Time fits in like a technological space?

Emily: Mm. Yeah.

Sally: And like where technology and science is? So that’s just like an interesting point.

Emily: Hm.

Sally: Towards Wheel of Time’s medicine, where she’s like, “Ah, yes, it’s been cauterized,” and I’m like, “Oh. Are you -- okay.”

Emily: Yeah, the downfall of having, you know, magical healing abilities is that we don’t get to see the history of medicine play out in this society?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is a little, like, frustrating. But it's, like, there have been some really interesting -- I'm -- I've been listening to a medical history podcast, Sawbones, and it's like, people have done some stupid shit --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: -- But also some very clever shit in an attempt to solve medical problems throughout, like, history, back when they had zero technology and no idea what was going on, you know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So it's just, like, that's a very interesting thing to talk about and to play with and to be having go on in the background.

Sally: Yeah, of, like, in this world where apparently we are afraid of magic ladies, like, what is --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: If you're not going to let someone heal you, like Mat, who's like, "Don't ever fucking touch me with that healing ability because I'm superstitious and afraid of magic," like, does penicillin exist? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Yeah, it's a little boring that then the default -- the fantasy default is, like, just women with herbs.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know, there's no, like, actual -- obviously herbalism is an interesting practice on its own, and it, like, speaks to the history of women in medicine more than it does to the history of men in medicine, which is its whole separate thing, but it's just, like -- I don't know. It'd be cool.

Sally: It's just interesting. So that just -- that just stuck out to me. That particular world.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And also, like, Min's relationship to knowing what a cauterized wound looks like. (laugh) Like, what?

Emily: I'm just thinking of how Mat never lets anyone heal him so he's constantly getting stitched up.

Sally: I know. I love -- one of the most hilarious scenes is when his, like, grumpy manservant is trying to, like --

Emily: (whisper) I know.

Sally: -- stitch him up in, like, book five or whatever?

Emily: Mat's like, "Please!"

Sally: Mat's just, like, drinking nonsensically so that he doesn't feel anything.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Mat is so stupid, and I love him so much. (laugh) That entire sequence where he's, like, his camp gets attacked and --

Emily: I know, Mat's just, like, covered in knife scars because he won't get magic healing.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Stupid asshole.

Sally: I -- God. I love one idiot.

Emily: Um. Anyway, so this is all very, like, climactic and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know.

Sally: Yeah. I didn't -- I don't particularly care for this climactic scene just cause, like, I want the focus to be on this really cool battle with all the, like, Heroes of the Horn.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And I understand that we get more of the Heroes of the Horn throughout the series, so it's not, like, the end of the world, but it's just so cool when they all rise up out of the mist and Rand's like, "Oh, we all recognize these people." And there's, you know, again, Gaidal Cain with his two swords and Birgitte has this beautiful silver bow and Artur Hawkwing's, like, got a sword named Justice --

Emily: Fuck.

Sally: Which is hilarious, and it's just like, I want so much more of what the Heroes are doing cause they're so funny.

Emily: And it's so cool when, like, one of the Seanchan ships is leaving harbor and Birgitte just rides through the air to shoot it full of fire arrows.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, "Nine million more times more of this, please." Like, either that, or get us to the Stone of Tear, where our heroes are, mm, maybe not competent, exactly, but doing fun shit like this.

Sally: Yeah. Like I'm just so bored of watching Rand and Ba'alzamon fight at this point.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or yell at each other.

Emily: I mean, it's kind of a relief -- like, so much of this book has been Rand struggling with his fate.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And now we finally reach the point where he's like, "He made his choice." And it's like, okay, yeah, obviously, I know how this ends, he chooses to fulfill his destiny. But it's like, okay, finally.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Now it's like, the real books can begin.

Sally: Yeah. It's --

Emily: Which, we've already talked about how that is actually the sense of starting the Wheel of Time, is that book three is actually the beginning?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the other two are just prequels.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But ... you really could start a Wheel of Time movie -- uh, television series at book three.

Sally: Okay, how iconic would it be if the Wheel of Time TV adaptation started with Mat just, like, eating an entire turkey leg? (laugh)

Emily: (whisper) Iconic.

Sally: Because Mat is the main character. I will argue that.

Emily: I just think it would be really interesting to, like, start this series with them all having already undergone their major things --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: -- that they've already had to come to terms with. Like instead of meeting Rand as, you know, wide-eyed shepherd boy, now it's like, post-traumatized -- post-traumatic stress disorder Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Immediately. Who's just, like, already fucking done with it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, Perrin, who's just, "I'm also already fucking done with it, but, like --"

Sally: Look. My wife.

Emily: (Borat impression) My wife. Yeah, and then Mat's over there, eating an entire turkey leg. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) No, and, like, objectively speaking and from a structure point of view, as we talked about pretty extensively in the Eye of the World, like it follows the Lord of the Rings structure where it has you in a very homey place so that later we feel like there's something at stake. But it's like I don't ever particularly feel like the Two Rivers are what I'm worried about.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So ...

Emily: Rand, sometime during this sequence is like, "Ah, dang, I didn't even see Fain, and he said that he would do something bad to the Two Rivers if I didn't meet him." And everyone's kinda like, "Well, okay." Shrug. Like we're not really -- that's not really our top priority.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And like, given, it does come back in book four, but again, that's my -- that's one of my least favorite plots in the series.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: It's like, I just think *in medias res* is like --

Sally: Yeah, it would just be a really --

Emily: So much better.

Sally: I would be really interested in that adaptation where books one and two happen either as, like, atmosphere, and we just, like, get a sense of them, or as maybe some minor flashbacks or something, but we do not live through them to the almost agonizing extent --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Like genuinely -- and maybe this is just because I think Sarah McClintock is brilliant, but I think the only like genuinely important scene in the Great Hunt is when Rand gets a new coat. (laugh)

Emily: Hard to argue with that.

Sally: And like how hilarious of a flashback would that be?

Emily: Yeah. To this deeply dramatic moment.

Sally: To just, like, in his coat. We've got these great close-ups of his gold-embroidered dragons and then he has a flashback to putting the coat on and everything that that's done.

Emily: Anyway, it's just like a mistake that authors -- and people -- make constantly that we need to contextualize trauma.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Which isn't necessarily true. Especially, in real life, for the person who's been traumatized. Like that's an invasion of privacy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But in fiction it's also, like, it's not necessarily interesting.

Sally: No, I think that --

Emily: We can start post-trauma and still, like, it can still be a valid story.

Sally: Yeah, I think there's a, ummm, inclination -- I don't know exactly the word I'm looking for -- to be like, you're making me care about someone because I've seen them before what happened to them --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And I'm like, "Oh, I've either gone through this with them or I'm so sad about what happened to them" as opposed to presenting a traumatized character as a full and valid person ...

Emily: Yes.

Sally: ... Who you can care about without having seen them in their wide-eyed innocence at the Two Rivers with their farming dad and their, like, before anything bad has happened to them. Like, you don't - like you said, you don't need to give me that context because people are still people and they're still interesting and valid and important after they've been traumatized. So.

Emily: Yeah. We've talked about how trauma is separated into before and after –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's a valid timeline, you know?

Sally: Uh-huh. Um. Anyway, the Great Hunt comes to a symphonic conclusion with Mat blowing the Horn of Valere, Rand getting stabbed, and Perrin being like, "Okay." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "This is the bad place."

Sally: "This is the bad place. My name is Perrin Aybara, and I am not comfortable."

Emily: Um, and you know, then there's a little epilogue, where it's like, "Oh, the prophecy is fulfilled! Blegh!"

Sally: "Everybody's talking about it. Bleh."

Emily: "Everybody is talking about it. Word spread."

Sally: "The Dragon is reborn."

Emily: And it's like, yep. That's what words usually do.

Sally: So that is the Great Hunt.

Emily: How would we rate the Great Hunt?

Sally: I would give it, um ...

Emily: Out of ten kazoos.

Sally: Ooh. (laugh) I would give the Great Hunt four out of ten kazoos.

Emily: Fair. I think that's about what I'd give it too.

Sally: (laugh) I really don't like this book.

Emily: Maybe five out of ten kazoos. I dunno why. It's just like -- (stutters, sighs) I've read book eight of Wheel of Time, and so.

Sally: Yeah ... I might feel differently after -- book eight's what I'm going to read next.

Emily: No, really I've read book twelve of Wheel of Time: The Gathering Storm, which is zero out of ten kazoos.

Sally: I have a greater -- like I had a greater appreciation for the Eye of the World once we finished the season -- I have a greater appreciation for the Great Hunt and all the things that it does to set up the series later, but I do not enjoy the act of reading it.

Emily: Yeah. Unlike the next book, which I am so excited to read.

Sally: Ugh. The entire season will just be me crying hysterically.

Emily: Screaming. (laugh)

Sally: Because I love the Dragon Reborn so much.

Emily: Yeah, so, guys, if you feel like we've been negative too often on this podcast, hang in there because we're about to get so fucking positive --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: About the Dragon Reborn, the best book of all time.

Sally: It's about to be, like, Wheel of Time gassing up for nothing but thirty episodes or -- whatever, how long the season will take.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. Speaking of: Great Hunt's over.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Next week, we'll be back with a, um, kind of a break episode, we don't really know what we're gonna do yet, but something Wheel of Time-themed but not within our usual schedule.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's gonna just be kind of a break for us, so we don't have to do any reading or research. Uh, then, the week following, we'll be back with the Dragon Reborn. Prior to that, we'll release on the website, and I'm sure Sally will update you on social media, our tentative reading schedule, which, as you know, is subject to change.

Sally: Are we gonna take a bye week?

Emily: Oh, did we want to take a bye week? I thought you said that was a no.

Sally: I mean, I don't want to, but, um ... TBD. We might take a bye week, just kind of depending on how crazy things get, but I don't want to, I want to dive right into the Dragon Reborn.

Emily: We'll see.

Sally: And also, um, I'm sure you guys have seen because you all follow us on social media -- you don't, but please do -- that we are doing a team-up with the wonderful ladies from the White Tower podcast. We are recording on February 4th. The episode will be released sometime before Valentine's Day, which is the week following that. But we're doing sort of a Q&A and round table about gender and feminism and all sorts of stuff like that in the Wheel of Time. So we really would love your questions on those issues, and if you could please submit them by January 28th, which is, by the time you hear this episode, one week from today, um, if you're listening when it drops on January 21st, you can submit those on our website, www.everybodyhatesrand.com. Just go to the Contact Us tab and there's just a little form for you to fill out. And just feel free to ask anything, like if you have really complicated questions, if you have text-specific questions, or if you're just like, "I don't even really know what feminism is. Could you please define that? And you say words like gender, and queer." Like, I don't want it to feel like it's a super academic thing, like I want it to be what you guys, guided in a large part by what you guys are interested in. So please submit your questions next week. No, this week because you're listening to this this week. It is our one-year anniversary on January 23rd, and I want you guys to do something super fun to celebrate for us because we will both be suffering at work, Emily with her reluctant promotion and me doing I don't know the fuck what. So, um, do something fun and tweet us about what you're doing because we love you and we want to celebrate with you. So. Um.

Emily: Thanks for joining us.

Sally: Yeah. Thanks for joining us on this, season two. Season deux.

Emily: Dos.

Sally: I only know two languages.

Emily: Me too. (laugh) I was trying to think of more than two, but I can't. Anyway. Sign us off.

Sally: Um. Today, because my hands are disgustingly dry in the Utah winter, I was complaining to my mom about that, and she was like, "Oh, I know what you can do for that. Just sleep with latex gloves on." And I was like, "Like some type of fucking serial killer?"

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: That's literally what she said to me. She was like, "Sleep with Latex gloves on."

Emily: Just Dexter it up in this motherfucker.

Sally: Yeah. I was like, "I'm not gonna sleep with latex gloves on, are you insane?"

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: What a gross thing to say. She's like, "Yeah, just buy a box of latex gloves," and I was like, "No, because then I will get put on a watch list."

Emily: (laugh) The government tracks –

Sally: The government will come for me.

Emily: -- who buys boxes of latex gloves.

Sally: Yeah, obviously.

Emily: I mean, as long as you don't buy it along with duct tape, zip ties, and a tarp, you should be okay.

Sally: But what if I was, like, had dry hands so I had to sleep with latex gloves, it's my only option –

Emily: The government still might come for you.

Sally: Because I have dry hands?

Emily: Because we live in a fascist government.

Sally: They're gonna cut off my hands?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And feed them to a child? (laugh)

Emily: Okay, well. This has gone off the rails.

Sally: I love you guys. Bye.

Emily: Bye.