



## Episode 52 – “Doctor Opera Closet”

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Sally: [singing] This is Season Three.

Emily: [singing] Welcome to Season Three! Today I had a flashback also to that “I’m gonna fuck my tractor” song [laugh] that I –

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: That I made up [laugh] at one point during this shit show. I can’t remember...

Sally: That’s what our theme song should be [laugh].

Emily: Maybe that’s – I’m going to go back and find it, fucking watch me.

Sally: Um, please somebody make us a theme song so “I’m Gonna Fuck My Tractor” doesn’t have to be our theme song [laughing hysterically].

Emily: Yeah, this is a threat. I’m going to do it. I will do. But yeah, here we are, Season Three. And about to start the longest set of Perrin points of view of all time.

Sally: [whimper]

Emily: It’s a – I don’t know if the microphone got that, but Sally just whimpered, it was super sad [laugh]. Um, well... Hey, [laugh] this is Everybody Hates Rand, Season Three.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Is it my turn or your turn?

Sally: I don’t remember, it doesn’t matter! I’ve gotten over my bitchiness about it.

Emily: [laugh] Well, it’s your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. Next time you’ll do it. I’ll remember, somehow.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: I've never remembered anything in my life, I'm like a goldfish.

Sally: [at the same time] That's correct.

Emily: But I have faith that this time –

Sally: A beautiful goldfish.

Emily: A stupid, stupid goldfish. Anyway, EHR, friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger!

Emily: Here we are, Season Three. I'm gonna fuck my tractor.

Sally: No!

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Please save me [laugh]. Please someone.

Emily: Uhhh, here's your spoiler alert: I have a feeling that especially in – during Season Three we'll be talking about spoilers because a lot of what happens in this book is demonstrative of what happens throughout the rest of the books. Um, so just keep that in mind, we...

Sally: We should first – okay, also this is your titular PSA, Everybody Hates Rand does not refer to you, please don't DM me. Um...

Emily: [laugh] You kept that short, I like it. Short and sweet.

Sally: I feel like before anything we NEED to talk about the cover of *The Dragon Reborn*.

Emily: Do you mean the cover in general or my mutated cover that is literally held together with gorilla tape?

Sally: Both. [laugh] I –

Emily: Like, I – What's really upsetting about the gorilla tape is that I've completely had – since Mat is on the spine, usually -

Sally: Ohh.

Emily: He's just completely gone.

Sally: You've redacted Mat.

Emily: I know, the least redactable character, arguably.

Sally: And we would know, as we've been systematically redacting Gawyn's name from every Patreon book that we send out, so...

Emily: Yeah, that's a spoiler alert. If you give us \$5 on Patreon we'll send you a graffitied *Wheel of Time* book, and literally the first thing we do with every copy is go through it [thump] and delete Gawyn's name.

Sally: [laugh] Yeah, so it's really worth your money.

Emily: It is. Hopefully, we catch all of them. Sometimes I really – like, it haunts me that I may have missed one.

Sally: [at the same time] I know. I'm gonna start sending out a contract with every book that's like, "If you find an unredacted Gawyn name you have to redact it".

Emily: Yeah, you have to delete it.

Sally: It'll be legally binding [laugh].

Emily: You send us \$5 on Patreon, you also have to send us, I don't know, a small vial of your blood so we can make a soul contract.

Sally: Yeah, so you will redact Gawyn's name if you see it.

Emily: Because he's the worst character of all time.

Sally: Yeah, grade A douchebag. Umm –

Emily: Anyway, yeah, this cover is wow. A lot.

Sally: I – I have two primary thoughts. The first is that coming from *The Eye of the World* and *The Great Hunt*, which are – though *The Eye of the World* is bright and blue, it's like a cool color, you've got lots of blues and greens and blacks, so I appreciate *The Dragon Reborn*'s commitment to being bright red and orange, cause these are colors that appeal to me aesthetically speaking. My second thought is that Perrin looks like a rejected Mortal Kombat character on the cover, and I hate it. [laugh]

Emily: I have a few more thoughts. One is that Rand is clearly wearing jeans.

Sally: [laugh] Oh my god, WHAT? Let me see. Oh my god, he is! You can even see seams [laugh].

Emily: I just have questions about Rand's whole outfit. Sarah McClintock if you have any insights, let me know. But like, what's his little half-cape doing? He's wearing a glove on one hand. Either that or it's, like, weirdly in shadow and this is just poor illustration. He's got, like, six belts and his shirt is very lacy.

Sally: His shirt is the worst.

Emily: [wheeze]

Sally: I have never seen an uglier shirt [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] I hate him.

Sally: I know, and he's also, like, holding his stupid glass sword above his head.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But it's floating because – do you get it? It's a King Arthur thing.

Emily: Yeah, and also – well, like, that's dumb. You'd think – I want it, him to actually be pulling it out of the stone. Although, does he in this book?

Sally: I don't remember.

Emily: He puts it in the stone.

Sally: He puts it in the stone and then I'm like, could you be any more dramatic?

Emily: I know, I'm like, please – that is a very dramatic moment.

Sally: Is it still in the stone? How long is it in the stone?

Emily: Uh, until he gets it out in... I think in the book you're on.

Sally: Eight?

Emily: Yes. He gets it out and is like, "I'm gonna fight the Seanchan with this", and then that goes terribly.

Sally: Yeah, I can believe that.

Emily: Yeah, in a predictable way. Anyway, yeah, Perrin's wearing a headband and a – like, one of those fur vests, like, and nothing else. So, it's just generally troubling. Like, where is his shirt? Who stole it? Did Rand take it? Because he's got too many, clearly.

Sally: [laughs in the background].

Emily: And Mat, who I can't see but he –

Sally: Oh, let me get our *other* copy of *The Dragon Reborn*.

Emily: Yeah, get our other copy. And he looks pretty normal?

Sally: No, Mat again looks kind of like he's 40.

Emily: Oh yeah, they always do.

Sally: Mat is very lacy. If we're gonna talk about lacy bois, like, look at this.

Emily: Oh boy. I mean Rand in particular looks –

Sally: Why does Perrin have a shield?

Emily: What? He has a shield? Oh, god.

Sally: [laughs loudly].

Emily: Why is his headband that long? Why – I just – you could grab that and, like, pull his head back and slit his throat. That's why you don't have long hair.

Sally: [at the same time] Kay – this is just final proof that the artist never read this because Rand looks like, I don't know what's going on here. Perrin looks ridiculous and Mat just is like, full twink [laugh].

Emily: Mat is –

Sally: Like, elegant twink.

Emily: Mat is very twinkly in this cover.

Sally: [laugh] yeah.

Emily: Which is a little weird, cause Mat is like, hard to say whether he's a twink or not. He might be too tall.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And too – [pause] he has the energy of a twink [laugh].

Sally: Yeah, I was about to say, he's got, like – you wanna classify him that way but I think that it just – Mat defies classification.

Emily: Yeah, I mean – Yeah, as we've discussed on this podcast previously there are fitness twinks and... what's the other one?

Sally: What *is* the other one?

Emily: God, I fucking can't remember.

Sally: Fitness twinks and –

Emily: Soft twinks?

Sally: Soft twinks, I think.

Emily: Yeah, and Mat has an entirely different category, which is chaos twink.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Which - [wheeze].

Sally: Actually, I just don't know if I'd call Mat a twink at all.

Emily: Just chaos.

Sally: Just chaos. There's no gender.

Emily: [at the same time] Just a creature of chaos.

Sally: Just chaos.

Emily: He is the embodiment of chaos. I also have a question – this is called “The Sequel to *The Great Hunt*”.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Which is, like, technically true, but do we really want to market it that way?

Sally: No.

Emily: You want people to pick this up not knowing that it is even related distantly to *The Great Hunt*.

Sally: [laugh] I think, don't all of them say, like, sequel to the book before?

Emily: And I'm always like, yeah but that's a little bit of a misconception.

Sally: Yeah, because it's like, just say book – just let someone know straight up that this is book eleven out of fourteen.

Emily: Yeah, exactly. Don't try and trick people into buying the book. You poor fools. Um, there's also Aiel on the back and they're just like –

Sally: Oh, what the fuck.

Emily: Chillin'. Looking, you know, also like rejected Mortal Kombat characters. I'm trying to find – like, figure out what Rand looks like exactly [sigh].

Sally: Oh, there *are* Aiel on the back, I literally never knew that. And then there's, like, some type of demon on the spine.

Emily: It's like his application to clown school was rejected.

Sally: Rand? Yeah.

Emily: And so, he became a pimp instead.

Sally: This looks like it should be some type of, like, 1991 avant-garde Versace ad.

Emily: He looks like he raided my grandma's opera closet.

Sally: [laughing hysterically] does your grandma have an opera closet?

Emily: No... I just feel like if she had a specific wardrobe for the opera that shirt would be in it.

Sally: Yeah, you're right.

Emily: Okay, okay, we have to talk about the actual fucking book.

Sally: One last comment. I'm very deeply, constantly confused as to why the D and the R in *The Dragon Reborn* are bright blue.

Emily: D R. Dr.

Sally: Doctor! Doctor Sex Gun.

Emily: [snort].

Sally: Doctor...

Emily: Doctor Opera Closet?

Sally: Yeah [laugh].

Emily: Hah, we already found the title, there it is [laugh].

Sally: Doctor Opera Closet? Okay.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Let's talk about Doctor Opera Closet. Actually, no, let's talk about the Inquisition.

[both laugh]

Sally: Sorry, I keep bumping the table.

Emily: It's okay. Yeah, the prologue tragically brings us back to the Whitecloaks, which it did in the last book as well and I think periodically we check in with these guys in the prologue. I guess because Robert Jordan was like, "I need them in there, but I don't want to let them into the story proper".

Sally: I guess.

Emily: Which is an understandable sentiment because they're the worst.

Sally: Yeah, they kind of suck ass.

Emily: Yeah, it starts with Jaret Byar reporting his skewed version of events at Falme. He's like [southern accent] "There's a false Dragon and the Aes Sedai are on their side and [laugh] everyone's dead".

Sally: Is Jaret Byar a redneck?

Emily: No, it's funny, I should give this accent to Rand and Mat and Perrin because they're clearly West Virginians.

Sally: Oh my god, if Rand the Dragon Reborn had the *thickest* southern accent, could you believe? That would be so iconic if he just rolls up and was like, [southern accent] "Kneel Aes Sedai".

[laughter]

Sally: [laughing] I would lose my mind.

Emily: [laughing] I think it's Mazrim Taim who says that. But "Kneel Aes Sedai, or you will be knelt."

Sally: I think it is Mazrim Taim, I don't know why I always think Rand said – what if Mat – they all just had southern accents?

Emily: [southern accent] "I'm in a box".

Sally: [southern accent] "Kneel Aes Sedai or you will be knelt".

[laughter]

Emily: What is it about that accent that I find so funny? [southern accent] "Me and my three girlfriends".

Sally: [laughs loudly].

Emily: [softly while laughing]. "I'm gonna fuck my tractor."

Sally: [laugh] this is the one time on the podcast I've made Emily laugh harder than she's made me laugh. I'm very proud. She has to go get her Diet Coke now, out of the fridge.

Emily: I'm sobbing.

Sally: [laughing].

Emily: Okay, that's a bit that's definitely going to be returning in the future, I'm just warning you right now.

Sally: I'm gonna start every episode – that's the new theme song.

Emily: Yeah, the fucking Inquisition, Byar being an asshole as always. But Pedron Niall is somehow being more of an asshole.

Sally: Yeah, it's like an asshole competition.

Emily: It's an asshole convention up here in Amadicia [pronounced "Amadisia"], or wherever the fuck they are.

Sally: Um, I always thought it was "Amadeechia".

Emily: Amadi - You could definitely be right.

Sally: Like a little bit, like, an Italian vibe to it.

Emily: Yeah, no I like that. Especially because it's got more of a Renaissance Italian vibe in terms of, like, not really having a government.

Sally: Yeah. [laugh] the Renaissance was a truly wild time.

Emily: I know, the Medicis were just like, "Whatever, we got our statue boys..."

Sally: And –

Emily: "...making fuckable statues and that's about... the only contribution we're making to society."

Sally: Yeah, Michelangelo was just out there to make everything real gay.

Emily: Yeah, they're like, "Eventually the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles WILL be named after us but that's the only thing we have going."

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Umm, okay. Uh, Pedron Niall is plot, plot, plotting.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: It's very boring.

Sally: Yeah...

Emily: He's like – you might as well have just said, Robert Jordan, "This is a military man and so he's an asshole, so everything he does is going to be military asshole..."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "...stuff."

Sally: Hm-hmm.



Emily: He's like, "Okay Byar, get out of my sight. Go join the guys who are stationed outside the White Tower. Including Valda, who isn't a character yet, but he will be eventually. I think he's the one who kills Pedron Niall.

Sally: Maybe, I don't –

Emily: There are honestly too many Whitecloaks to keep track of.

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah, and I have no concept. And their names all just sound really similar to me.

Emily: And they all, like, embody the exact same role, which is being a douchebag.

Sally: Yeah, they don't have any personality so –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I'm like, oh, insert Whitecloak here.

Emily: They're all just like, white guy who cares too much about religion and I'm like, okay great, that's where I grew up.

Sally: Yeah, welcome to Utah.

Emily: Um. Anyway, then Carridin comes in and he's like, "Yeah, here's my bullshit turn of events" and Pedron Niall is like, "Okay, well plot twist, I don't want you to kill the Dragon Reborn I want you to make sure he does not die." And Carridin is like, "But why, sir?" and Niall is like, "Here's a bullshit metaphor about lions."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is that, if people – if you create a threat and then take it out, people will turn to you for leadership. And I'm like [long sigh].

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so then Carridin leaves and then Padan Fain, now going under the name Ordeith, which is like –

Sally: Or death.

Emily: Yeah, Or-death, just like More-death. Ordeith. Wormwood his name is.

Sally: Yeah, like –

Emily: He just embodies this like, you know, creepy advisor.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's a trope thing, isn't it, the evil advisor?

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah, I think we talked about it in the Shadar Logoth episode in particular.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, it's a – the evil – yeah.

Emily: Cause that's what Mordeith was, and now Padan Fain has taken on this role in particular. He's gone from being just a crazy peddler figure who's like, I dunno, a crazy transient lunatic, to just now being a crazy transient advisor. Like, he literally is advising everyone in this series at some point or another.

Sally: Yeah and so he's got his – and like, especially Wormwood made me think of Wormtongue in *Lord of the Rings*.

Emily: [at the same time] Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Not that everything has to have a *Lord of the Rings* parallel, it's just like...

Emily: No, that one feels intentional.

Sally: Yeah, it's just, yeah, a very prevalent trope.

Emily: Yeah. It's also – my only other thoughts about this [clears throat] sequence is that, of course Pedron Niall is one of our military guys and I think later he's classified as one of the five great generals who, like, kind of captained the world's forces during the Aiel War? So, he along with –

Sally: Oh, really?

Emily: Yeah, which is, yeah -

Sally: I didn't know that.

Emily: One of my big regrets is that we don't get more about the Aiel war.

Sally: [whispers] I know.

Emily: Because it's, like, this really interesting thing that happened in the very recent history of this world.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And like people are still, you know – people who are alive, like, this is a contemporary event.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Everyone witnessed it, more or less. And we have a bunch of characters who were alive when it happened, so it's just like, kind of like, I don't know... There was this interesting thing where there was an invading force and the otherwise fractured, you know, countries kind of came together to face it. And failed, obviously. The Aiel definitely won that one.

Sally: Yeah, but again, the Aiel just wanted to kill one man so badly.

Emily: [at the same time] I know.

Sally: The Aiel are so interesting!

Emily: The Aiel are so fucking iconic.

Sally: I know, they're like, "I just want that one French guy" and we're like, big relatable content from the Aiel.

Emily: [at the same time] Yeah, honestly mood.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, and it's referenced in the sequence. Niall is like, "Oh yeah, Aiel have been seen pretty far West, which hasn't happened since" – he says they literally haven't been past the Spine of World since the Breaking except for the Aiel War.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, that makes the Aiel War the biggest event to happen.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In like ever.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And we're just not talking about it enough, I guess.

Sally: [whispers] I know.

Emily: Or it doesn't color the world in a way that is – like I feel World War Two was still majorly affecting Europe, the battlegrounds, twenty years afterwards...

Sally: [at the same time] Oh my god, of course, of course. Yeah.

Emily: So, it's like, the Aiel War we just aren't really seeing that.

Sally: Yeah, yeah.

Emily: The closest we come is the visit to Cairhien when everything is still kind of, burnt out looking.

Sally: Yeah, they're still looking to rebuild the architecture and stuff [clears throat].

Emily: But I'm like, I want more! Tell me more.

Sally: Yeah, I know. [singing] Tell me more.

Both: [singing] Tell me more.

Emily: [singing] Did it go very... far? And the Aiel are like –

Sally: [unintelligible]

Emily: "Yes, all the way to Penis Tower. And that's where we ended it cause we took one look at that and were like, hmm these people are idiots."

Sally: And like when they peeked over the mountains are were like, "Oh my god".

Emily: [at the same time] "Oh god, guys have you seen it? Arrrgh! Eww, you're all so phallic. Get out."

Sally: [at the same time] “Have you seen this tower, what’s wrong with you people? Argh, you guys are disgusting. We’re leaving.”

Emily: Gaul in particular was like, four years old and was like, “Fuck this.” [laugh]

Sally: Gaul, four-year-old warrior [laugh]. Four-rior.

Emily: I wouldn’t put it past him. Okay –

Sally: No, he’d probably be good at it, too.

Emily: Anyway, Pedron Niall is a military guy and he specifically has a few things that are reminiscent of Mat as military man in this sequence.

Sally: Yeah... like dice.

Emily: Gambling, mumbling “It’s time to toss the dice”, etcetera. And that’s just sort of a general call-back to, like, one of the, you know, general tropes. General, not like, cumulative, but like general, like captain.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: One of those tropes is that they’re gamblers, and we’ve had a lot of gambler generals in history. I think Julius Caesar is probably the most well-known one.

Sally: Was he a big gambly boy?

Emily: He was – I don’t know, it’s just like a metaphor that is used in the writing about him a lot. That, you know, he just kind of, like, took chances.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cause you have to when you’re in war and stuff like that. But I don’t know, it’s weird to set up this parallel between Niall and Mat.

Sally: [emphatically] Yeah!

Emily: Because they’re about as opposite as two people can be.

Sally: Yeah, it think it’s interesting then if we’re taking Mat as – and I haven’t gotten, really, into this part of the series at all, only two captains I guess, except Niall who I forgot was one cause I forget about Pedron Niall on a regular basis...

Emily: Cause he dies in a few books and it’s like, yeah, bye.

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah, and I’m like, “Good riddance to bad rubbish.” But it’s Davram Bashere, right?

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: And then Gareth Bryne was one.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Pedron Niall. And then Ituralde –

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Who I haven't met and who's –

Emily: Oh, fuck.

Sally: Number five.

Emily: Um. Oh, uh Agelmar.

Sally: Oh yeah!

Emily: Yeah, in Shienar.

Sally: The cool Shienaran guy who I love. Um, so...

Emily: So, you've now met three out of the five.

Sally: Yeah, I've met three out of – no, I've met four out of –

Emily: You've met four out of the five, but in this –

Sally: In this series we've met three out of the five. We haven't met Davram Bashere, my literal father, yet.

Emily: Yeah, we haven't met the two most iconic dads of the century.

Sally: [laughing in the background]

Emily: Davram Bashere, an actual dad. Ituralde, fatherhood status unknown, but very much a dad.

Sally: Nice. You don't have to have children to be a dad.

Emily: Yeah, he's a dad figure. He's just like, "Here I am, dadding it up over in Arad Doman."

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Honestly.

Sally: [laugh] "Judy here [talks unintelligibly while laughing] with the raccoon."

Emily: [pause, laugh] Anyway the other thing I notice about this dumb sequence is that Pedron Niall is like, [mocking voice] "I'm so smart and rational" and then, like, then the second Padan Fain is on screen he, like, gets manipulated so easily.

Sally: I know, I know. You're a fucking idiot.

Emily: It's just like – Pedron Niall is the – just the epitome of an old man who thinks he's better than he is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's just, like, out his time.

Sally: Yeah, he's past his...

Emily: Peak.

Sally: Use by date, I guess.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, what's interesting in this sequence, um, that I wanted to bring up, this prologue, which, ugh. But um, Pedron Niall like, lists all the things that are happening. He's like, the Aiel are coming, and all these False Dragons, and the Seanchan, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Which brings us back to something I think we talked about I think in the first episode? Ever, of this podcast, which is wild.

Emily: Woah.

Sally: And I believe it was John Clute who wrote about this in the Encyclopedia of Fantasy, where like, when you have – fantasy worlds are so often set up in, like, a place of decay and it goes through this process of thinning, meaning that, like, a lot of bad things are starting to happen in the world and, like, chaos is sort of taking control. And that's really what we see starting to happen in force and in masse at the beginning of *The Dragon Reborn*.

Emily: Yeah, like the end of *The Great Hunt* is kind of the trigger event for that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We see a lot of stuff happening throughout the events of *The Eye of the World* and *The Great Hunt* but it's hard to really classify them as thinning, because they still feel like they're not – they haven't accumulated enough to be abnormal.

Sally: Yeah, and so we've – yeah, it's like, yeah we have that catalyst event on Toman Head with Rand and Ba'alzamon and the Seanchan and the Whitecloaks and Mat blowing the Horn of Valere, etcetera, etcetera that like officially, like – and it's very interesting that it's, like, the blowing of the Horn like a, like an actual, like, call to battle –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Something that's been used for centuries to, like, rouse soldiers that, like, puts us directly on the track towards the last battle, so...

Emily: Yeah, yeah it like – yeah. Good metaphor.

Sally: [emphatically] Thank you.

Emily: Um, yeah and that's just going to be kind of prevalent throughout this entire book, I guess, and through the coming books it's going to keep going, but this book is the weird space between this catalyst event and as we find out now there's been a time skip –

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Between the end of book two and now, like, an entire winter has passed. Which is, I think, the only time, really, that this series has a time skip between books of a major period.

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah.

Emily: Usually it's a few weeks, if that.

Sally: Yeah, or it just picks right back up.

Emily: Yeah or picks right back up. This is, like, the one book where we're like, oh, well it's seriously been, you know, a hearty span of time.

Sally: Yeah. Uh, one last thing I want to say about the prologue is like setting – going back to Pedron Niall as, like, a weird sort of foil or mirroring for Mat...

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Is that it's interesting to obviously open Mat's first point of view book, where, like, a lot of this book is about his relationship to, like, luck and, like, understanding what it means for him specifically to be *ta'veren*. But more, like, structurally speaking I'm really interested in this idea that there are, like, these five great generals that everybody looks to as the great generals, who are then, like, mirrored in some way or another in Mat? And like, obviously Rand has Lews Therin that he's coming up with, and we've talked about how kind of frustrating it is that we don't get to see that with anybody, but I think that kind of in a weird way you get that more, like, present time with Mat reflected against these five, old, crazy dudes.

Emily: Yeah, it's also telling that we then ride into the last battle, and this is a slight spoiler alert, but Pedron Niall is the only one who's died by the time we get to the last battle.

Sally: [at the same time] Hah, nice.

Emily: So technically there are still five great generals. Mat's just sort of the weird, wild card set, who's like, [weird voice] "Well here I am" [laugh].

Sally: "Here I am, twenty years old –"

Emily: Twenty years old, a huge slut, and ready to party.

Sally: Probably high [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] just smoked a huge joint.

Sally: Just smoked a huge blunt and ready for the apocalypse.

Emily: And Davram Bashere is like, "Big mood."

Sally: He's just like, "Yeaaaah, pass that blunt" [laugh].

Emily: There's a lot of fun stuff that happens with the generals in the last battle, but one of my biggest regrets is that – my big huge complaint about book fourteen is that Mat isn't present earlier.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's a big meeting of, you know, people and minds – in the early chapters of the book, and Mat's just, kind of, like, off fucking cavorting, like he usually is. But I'm like, I want Mat to be here so Mat can roll in and be like, "Hello I'm here to take command".

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that we can see exactly the reactions of the four dudes.

Sally: [at the same time] what it was like. Yeah.

Emily: Like, Agelmar is like, “Last time I saw this guy –” [laugh].

Sally: He was literally dying.

Emily: He was literally dying. Gareth Bryne is like, “Who, now?”. And Ituralde is kind of like, “Um... Also, who now?” And Davram Bashere is like, “I LOVE HIM!” [laugh].

Sally: “That’s my son” [laugh].

Emily: [yelling] “That’s my actual son, FUCK PERRIN.”

Sally: Yeah, he’s like, “Perrin who?”

Emily: Fuck Perrin.

Both: That’s my boy!

Emily: Yeah, personality-wise Bashere and Mat actually have very similar personalities... anyway.

Sally: Staying in *The Dragon Reborn* for a second.

Emily: Staying in *The Dragon Reborn* for a second. Then we bounce over to Carridin who, uh, I don’t know. The only thing that happens is he gets threatened by a Myrddraal who’s like, “Okay, you might have been ordered to not kill the Dragon Reborn, but I want you *to* kill the Dragon Reborn” and it’s like, what’s he gonna do? You know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that’s supposed to be some kind of tension as to whether or not this dude who’s been, not a huge presence in the series, except peripherally, whether or not he’s gonna kill Rand. And it’s like, I’m only three books in but my bet’s on Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Surviving an encounter with this loser.

Sally: Rand is the titular character.

Emily: Yeah, I’m like, okay Carridin, you’re not exactly big bad material, so I don’t care about you, I don’t care about this torture threat, it’s boring and gross.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Can we get back to the real story? And we do. Cut to Perrin.

Sally: On a horse, in the snow.

Emily: In the mountains of West Virginia.

Sally: [singing] “Mountain mama”.

Emily: I knew you were gonna do that.

Sally: [singing] “Take me home, to the place I belong”. Are they in Andor? I never understood what mountains the fuck they were in.



Emily: They're in, um, the Mountains of Mist...?

Sally: [laughs loudly] They're actually called that?

Emily: Yeah, I think so.

Sally: I've, like, basically never looked at this map once in my life.

Emily: [laugh] Okay, so there are two major mountain ranges in this – on this continent. There's the Spine of the World, over which the Aiel lie, and there's the Mountains of Mist, quote on quote, which separate Arad Doman and Tarabon from the rest of the world.

Sally: Okay. Um, because I didn't know there was a secondary mountain range, I always imagine they were in the Spine of the World.

Emily: Interesting.

Sally: Because I'm good at geography.

Emily: How did you think they got over there?

Sally: I don't know, there's – like you said there was a time skip.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: And I was like, they were just walking for forever? Like, why did they bring Min with them? It's confusing.

Emily: I just can't – well, period. Why did they bring Min with them? Why is Min there? It's so stupid.

Sally: Why is Min a character?

Emily: [emphatically] why is Min a character? [southern accent] “My girlfriend”.

Sally: [southern accent] “My girlfriend”.

Emily: Um –

Sally: [southern accent] “oh, that's my girlfriend”.

Emily: [gagging noise].

Sally: [laugh] Okay, we bounce over to Perrin and Perrin is being like, “Oh, I can smell really good, but I don't want to talk about it.”

Emily: “I can smell and see real good and these bros that I'm with are pretty cool about it but I still don't wanna talk about it.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Cause it's my personal business and I'm fragile.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we're all like, okay great Perrin.

Sally: If you told a bunch of Shienaran soldiers that you had a psychic link with wolves, they'd be like, "Okay."

Emily: Uno would be like, "Literally couldn't give a fuck."

Sally: He's like, "Yeah, and?"

Emily: "So?"

Sally: "You're not special Perrin."

Emily: "You're not special, that happened to my mom. What the fuck are you talking about?"

Sally: Who the fuck are you – fucking white person. I don't actually know –

Emily: [at the same time] Jesus, ugh. What?

Sally: I don't actually know if Perrin is white.

Emily: Yeah, that's a –

Sally: I sort of headcanon Perrin as, like, a nice man of color.

Emily: Oh, do you?

Sally: Yeah, just like a pleasant, big, burly, beautiful boy.

Emily: I picture, except for Rand, I picture – yeah, I picture them all with varying skin tones.

Sally: Yeah, I imagine Mat's pretty pink too.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Just cause he complains about the sun so often.

Emily: Mat does complain about the sun a lot.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Mat just run through the Aiel waste, finds sunglasses and a hat, the first thing he does and is like, "Sunscreen? Haven't heard of her."

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah, yeah. I know, Mat probably 100% has skin cancer.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: He's that white.

Emily: After that, after that romp in the Aiel Waste. Anyway, um [clears throat].

Sally: Anyway, Perrin's like, "Blah blah, my life is sad and I'm cold".

Both: [laugh].

Sally: Basically.

Emily: Yeah, there's a raven and they shoot it cause they're a bunch of Shienarans. There's a whole argument about bows between Masema and Ragan –

Sally: I know, about the big longbow?

Emily: Yeah, and I'm like, okay boys.

Sally: Would you guys like to know a fun fact about bounty placed on birds?

Emily: Sure.

Sally: The world's only alpine parrot, the kea, who are very fun birds, you should go look them up, are naturally super curious, that they haven't developed a healthy fear of humans –

Emily: [softly] No.

Sally: And so, they, like, interact pretty destructively with, like, human property, and they're also omnivorous, so sometimes they kill sheep. So in the 1860s the New Zealand government, they're native to New Zealand, put a bounty on them where people could kill kea for money, and so over the next, like – the bounty wasn't lifted until the 1980s, and like a hundred and fifty thousand kea were killed in New Zealand.

Emily: Um, hello New Zealand and Australia. [whispers] Why do you hate birds?

Sally: I know, they really don't like birds. So anyway, that was a random bird sidebar about not putting a bounty on birds.

Emily: Yeah, yeah. And I'm like, surely there are some ravens who are not working for the Dark One, who are just chilling, doing their raven thing.

Sally: [at the same time] I know, this is systemic raven prejudice.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, so it turns out they're waiting for a woman who is one of Moiraine's – this is unclear, but kind of as we get more info on Aes Sedai it seems like Moiraine has a huge network of eyes-and-ears, who are just, like, apparently all women because women generally have better relationships to Aes Sedai, we very rarely see men who are inhabiting this space.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There are just women working for Aes Sedai all around the world, which is really interesting, and although we see a lot of these characters, like, from the periphery, we don't get a lot of point of view characters who are like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who are just living their own life and occasionally reporting to, you know, Verin or Moiraine.

Sally: God, I would love it if one of our main characters was just, like, an innkeeper who reported to Verin on a regular basis.

Emily: Yeah. It's just like, hello. It would be interesting if, like, Basel Gill, for example, was an Aes Sedai eyes-and-ears

Sally: Basel Gill is the one man I love.

Emily: [at the same time] the perfect boy, I know. Um, speaking of dad energy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But this woman rolls up, and she's a Tinker, so of course Perrin is incredibly rude to her.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because Perrin has a whack relationship with violence and non-violence, and at this point it's boring, even though we're only in book three.

Sally: [whispers] I know. It's sooo boring. Perrin is at – like, the last book I read, *A Crown of Swords*, Perrin was in it minimally, which is when I think Perrin and I do best with each other.

Emily: Hmm, yeah.

Sally: Um, but he, like – once Perrin, I don't know, starts to, like, accept a little bit more responsibility in his life he becomes a little bit more manageable, but for, like, an extended period of time Perrin is just, like, this pouty bastard about how he doesn't want to do violence but he's so edgy that he's like, "Violence is an inherent part of the world, bleh."

Emily: He just, like, feels like he's been forced into this situation where he has to kill people, and it's like, Perrin that doesn't mean you have to be rude to people. Perrin inhabits this weird space where, and we see this later in the chapters we read, where he's very concerned about, um, the space he inhabits and whether or not he frightens people or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, he snaps at Min and then immediately is like, "Oh sorry, didn't mean to –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "- do that." And she's like, "You're fine, it's chill."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But then he also is really aggressive about stuff like this and it's just, like, hmm. I don't know. You need to commit to one or the other. Like, either be soft boy or be a dick.

Sally: Yeah! And he's a dick about weird things.

Emily: Yeah, and it's just, like, this is particularly unbearable because, like, as a woman who has had my opinions and views questioned aggressively by men –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, okay yeah, I've been where what's-her-name, Leya is. And of course, because she's a woman and a character – she's a woman written by a man, she can't snap at Perrin or tell him to fuck off.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's just like, "Well, you seem so sad."

Sally: For one so young... it would be iconic if Leya was just like, "Hey, fuck off!"

Emily: "Hey, fuck off, it's not your business."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Hey, I’m not asking you to do it.”

Sally: Yeah, exactly. Well, it’s just, like, such a – like, for Perrin to believe he has a right to be this rude about somebody else’s belief system is unforgivable.

Emily: Yeah, it’s so – it just makes me despise him. I don’t remember how I used to get through this, I was always just kind of like, ugh. But now I’m like, okay that’s particularly – it’s not just immature, it’s just plain, outright, bad behavior for anyone in any age.

Sally: Yeah, and everyone talks about Perrin, being, even in text, they’re like, Perrin is the politest one. And I’m like, no.

Emily: Yeah, Perrin is polite, until he meets a member of the Tuatha’an, apparently. And then he’s a dick.

Sally: Apparently, he’s a little racist.

Emily: Yeah. So, well, that goes to show you. Because it’s like, he’s like, “Oh well, if they’re not going to fight for themselves then I have to be responsible for them.” And I’m like, that’s not how it works.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Pacifist communities aren’t asking you to protect them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They made their choice fully, like, cognizant of how other people may or may not help them out.

Sally: Yeah, and it’s really frustrating because it’s like, Perrin just refuses to believe that these people understand how the world actually functions. Like, he infantilizes them to just, like, a criminal point, basically, in my view. Where he’s just like, “There are children who don’t understand how the world works, otherwise they wouldn’t have made such a childish decision.”

Emily: It’s like, Perrin you are twenty, and have been through three hard things, so please chill.

Sally: Yeah. And again, it’s just like, ugh. Perrin, what other people do has no impact on you. You do not have to let it affect you.

Emily: Yeah, so that’s annoying.

Sally: [at the same time] Be a little bit emotionally intelligent for once. Perrin has zero emotional intelligence.

Emily: Ugh. How is Mat the most emotionally intelligent boy?

Sally: I know.

Emily: That blows my mind every single time, that Mat’s the only one who ever is like, “Oh I understand what they might be feeling right now. I may or may not ignore it, but I do empathize.”

Sally: Yeah, like, “It is my decision whether or not to acknowledge it, but I do understand that they are having *a* feeling.” [laugh] One single, human feeling.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Mat’s just so fucking emotionally clever, and I can’t wait to get into his point of view, but like that scene where the girls are like, “Will you deliver this letter?” and in about .3 seconds he’s like, “Okay, fuck you, what’s actually going on here? This isn’t how you guys operate, I know better.”

Sally: I can’t wait to talk to that scene – about that scene because it’s got the best line of all time, where Elayne’s like, “Will you do this for your queen?” and it’s like, “Mat snickered”.

Emily: Mat’s like, [snort].

Sally: [laugh] Mat’s like, “I, the most anti-monarchist you’ll ever meet.”

Emily: Mat’s like, “Fuck the monarchy.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Fuck you specifically, Elayne.” And I’m like, yes, agree.

Sally: Yeah, Elayne is the devil.

Emily: Anyway, we are not to Mat, *yet*. Tragically.

Sally: Tragically, we have to read *another* Perrin point of view.

Emily: Yeah, we keep going with Perrin, they deliver Leya to the camp, she goes to see Moiraine. Then Min comes up, and is like, “Well, she’s gonna die.” And Perrin is like, “Rough”, and Min’s like, “Yup.” Then they talk about Min’s viewings for a little while, and whether or not she should share them with people around her, and it’s like, boring, we’ve been over this.

Sally: Like, a hundred times.

Emily: Then Loial comes up and there’s a, you know, fairly cute comradery-filled conversation. Again, Min generally, like, has so much potential to be a good character and in her interactions with Perrin or Mat, she’s a normal person. It’s just when she is interacting with women who are also romantically interested in Rand, or Rand himself, that she becomes *the most* insufferable character on the page.

Sally: [sadly] I know, and so it’s just, again, really sad that her love interest deteriorates her character instead of lifting her character.

Emily: Hm-hmm. Love interests should make you better, not worse. That’s a rule in life and in writing. Otherwise it’s boring to read and I want it to be called out for being toxic.

Sally: Yeah, if it’s not intentional, if you’re just like, “Look at my love interests, they’re fighting” and I’m like –

Emily: I’m like, okay great, I love it when I see marriages doomed to divorce. Like –

Sally: Oh my god, I know.

Emily: Come on.

Sally: I'm sorry, I just think *Wheel of Time* has a lot of toxic marriages –

Emily: Yeah, it does.

Sally: Perrin's being first and foremost.

Emily: Yeah, yeah. Perrin has a – yeah, Perrin and Rand do not have a healthy relationship among them. And, you know, Mat is on the border there. We'll talk about it more when we get into Tuon. Okay.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: Fucking hell. So uh, then Rand storms out [snickers] and is like, "Meh I'm angry" and there's this weird thing where all the Shienarans are like, "Hello, my Lord Dragon, let us serve you." And Rand is like, "Okay, no," and runs away. And Perrin is like, "Alright, well he's gonna be emo, I better go talk to him." Which is, like –

Sally: A good Perrin moment.

Emily: Good for you, Perrin.

Sally: Yeah. It's basically exactly what he says, too.

Emily: [laugh] I know. Perrin's like, "Am I even still his friend? I don't know, but I knew him before, so I guess I have to talk to him. Whatever."

Sally: Unfortunately.

Emily: "So I guess I'll do the emotion labor in this outfit." And it's like, you never have before in your life, so yeah, you might as well get started now. Give it a shot.

Sally: Give it the ol' college try [laugh].

Emily: So, uh, Perrin goes and finds Rand in his favorite hiding spot and they have a conversation about how this whole stay in the fucking mountains in the winter is pointless, and it's filling Rand with guilt cause shit is happening on the Almoth Plain. What's the, um – oh, Alsace-Lorraine?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, that's the equivalent of the Almoth Plain, apparently, that, like, these two countries are constantly fighting over it, so that no one really knows –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who's it is or if it is anyone's. Uh, so anyway, there's still fighting on the Almoth Plain, only now added to the mix are these people who are like, "We love the Dragon Reborn and we are fighting for him". And Rand's like, "I'm in the mountains and can't care for you, and also, I'm twenty and couldn't care for you anyway, cause I'm stupid... um, and don't have the resources."

Sally: Yeah, "I'm stupid and poor."

Emily: "I'm very poor. Look, I have six Shienaran soldiers and Moiraine. And, I guess, Perrin."

Sally: He's like, and [pause] Percy [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] what's his name? Percy? Mark? And Percy.

Sally: Mark? Mark and Percy.

Emily: Ah, this is the scene, too – earlier is where Loial is like, “I think I'm gonna write a book.”

Sally: Oh my godddd.

Emily: And he's like, “No, they're gonna make fun of me,” and Min is like, “That's great!” And I'm like, good for you Min.

Sally: If Min was a purely platonic character with everyone, I think I would like her a lot.

Emily: Yeah. Exactly.

Sally: Or if she was a lesbian.

Emily: [whisper] ugh, oh wow, consider that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who would Min be a good lesbian with? Elayne?

Sally: Yeah, I was about to say that.

Emily: The two worst characters.

Sally: Yeah. Then maybe they'd improve each other.

Emily: Yeah, then maybe they'd, you know, offset each other.

Sally: And then Egwene and Aviendha can be in love.

Emily: [at the same time] then Egwene and Aviendha could be in love, and Rand would end up with... probably it's better if he doesn't end up with anyone [laugh].

Sally: Yeah, I think Rand needs to take care of Rand first.

Emily: Yeah, Rand –

Sally: Before he starts impregnating people.

Emily: Focus on yourself, and the voice in your head, before –

Sally: Yeah, you start a relationship.

Emily: You start getting teen mothers pregnant.

Sally: [whisper] I know.

Emily: I know, we can't talk about it. Uh, anyway Perrin and Rand have this heart to heart about Rand being frustrated and Perrin being frustrated, and it doesn't really go anywhere, and then Rand makes an earthquake.



Sally: Yeah.

Emily: [chuckle] cause he has no control over his magical power.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And it's all very, um – this is kind of our, one of, like, three Rand interactions we're going to get before he fucks off.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So, this is, like, the only outside indicator of what's going on with Rand before he fucks off.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, Rand in this sequence is just like, it's like he's not there. It's very sad.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's just like, walking around, talking, but, like, is somewhere totally different.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, which is, again, sad and upsetting. But also, really well written, for – it kind of immediately conveys that Rand is having some serious psychological issues.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And it's unfortunate that that's kind of weighed down by the legacy of male channelers, so that Perrin's not just like, "Oh, he's traumatized." It's, "Oh, he might be going crazy."

Sally: Yeah, yeah.

Emily: And that's a line that is a little bit interesting to play with, especially as we get, later into this book, when it's through Rand's point of view. But like, it can be a little frustrating too, because it's like, I do just want Rand to get the therapy that he needs.

Sally: I just want all of them to go to therapy really bad.

Emily: I know. I know. They'd all –

Sally: Especially Rand.

Emily: Especially Rand. Um, anyway that's the extent of the plot and –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That we read.

Sally: Yeah. It's – like, if we're talking about how *The Eye of the World* has this, sort of like, naïve country energy of kids going out into the world, and *The Great Hunt* has this, like, really dark and creepy energy that's very violent, *The Dragon Reborn* sets us up to have a whole lot of confused [laugh while talking] energy I think.

Emily: Confused and traumatized energy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's just, like, a lot of – I – when I was putting the reading schedule, was like just looking at who has the majority of the points of view, and it's almost entirely Perrin, Egwene, and Mat, with Egwene, I think, coming in first, Perrin in second, and then Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is really interesting, because Egwene has gone through a major trauma, Mat's gone through a major trauma, and Perrin is sort of constantly in recovery from a major trauma.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is still sort of coming to terms with it. And all of that is surrounding Rand, who's actions are, uh, driving the plot forward, and he's also just been through a major trauma. It's just very interesting. Like, we don't get a lot of Nynaeve, who hasn't been through something –

Sally: Yeah, Nynaeve's –

Emily: She's been through stuff but it – not to the extent of what happened to Egwene.

Sally: [at the same time] to Egwene, yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah, it's interesting to think about, like, the levels of trauma that we're getting. We're getting trauma on like, a geo-political scale, when we talk about what it means to have people believing that Rand *is* the Dragon Reborn, not a False Dragon. And we see trauma on a very personal scale with what's happened to Rand, and we see, you know... then we start to see trauma on, like, a textual level, where the book itself actually functions as a traumatized text, where the points of view –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, points of view that we've been relying on disappear. And, like, the Rand points of view that we have are really sporadic and really disjointed and we get Mat sort of having this point of view that springs up in the middle of the story with, like, absolutely no background to it. So –

Emily: And with, yeah, literally no context to support Mat.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, he just sort of springs to life on the page in a very, like...

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So, it'll be interesting to talk more about *The Dragon Reborn* as, like, a physically traumatized structure in addition to everything that's happening with the characters themselves.

Emily: [at the same time] Yeah. I think it's one of the reasons that it is so compulsively readable.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, it's a really well written traumatized narrative. Like – and that can be really interesting to read.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It isn't always *fun*, but it is really interesting. Although, generally speaking *The Dragon Reborn* does a great job of balancing fun, a.k.a. Mat blowing up the Stone of Tear or kicking Gawyn and Galad's asses –

Sally: Yeah, and just gambling across Tar Valon nonsense –

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Mat is just having his Lotus Eater moment.

Emily: Mat really brings the manic energy in [laugh] in this.

Sally: I just love Mat. Guys, I'm sorry that we talk about Mat so much, but I don't know if I love a character as much as I love Mat [laugh].

Emily: Okay. Um, anyway that's where we're leaving off for now. Next week we'll be back, kind of with – obviously more Perrin, but you know, there will be a Trolloc attack, and I think where we finish off Rand will disappear, so –

Sally: Nice. We're gonna lose our boy.

Emily: [chanting tone] Lose the boy. Lose the boy, lose the world. Save the cheerleader, save the world.

Sally: Save the cheerleader. Rand, the cheerleader.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Shave the shep – shave the [laugh].

Emily: What? [laugh] shave the shepherd.

Sally: [clapping] save the shepherd, save the world.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Save the shepherder, that sounds like cheerleader, kind of.

Emily: Yeah, it does actually.

Sally: [laugh] save the shepherder, save the world.

Emily: [at the same time] shepherder, cheerleader, sure.

Sally: It's, like, a slant rhyme.

Emily: Okay, we'll go there.

Sally: Save the shepherder, save the world.

Emily: We'll work on it [laugh].

Sally: It's a work in progress [laugh].

Emily: We'll workshop it.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Okay, uhh, housekeeping. We will be back next week with a, uh, episode proper. Also, sometime in the future our, uh, episode with the White Tower podcast will be released as well. Uh, it's not gonna be on our normal schedule. It might be for the White Tower, but –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For us it'll just be a bonus.

Sally: Yeah, just a super exciting thing. We're really excited to sit down and talk with them, really excited they're willing to have us, so look forward to that. You might get a double dose of EHR next week or in the weeks coming. Um, ah I can't talk. Uh, in think – talking about reading next week, be sure to go over to [everybodyhatesrand.com](http://everybodyhatesrand.com) where you will be able to find *The Dragon Reborn* reading schedule if you wanna read along with us. That, of course, is a living document; Emily set it up as, sort of, our guidelines for the season, but you never know what's gonna happen, so it'll be updated regularly if you want to read along. Finally, making a more serious announcement, we are really interested in commissioning somebody to make us a theme song. We'd love to have something, I know a lot of you out there make really wonderful stuff, so if you're interested in talking more about that, please email us at [everybodyhates@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyhates@gmail.com) – is it [everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com)?

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: I'm sorry, I'm confusing it with our Twitter handle, EHRpodcast. Or you can DM us on Twitter, or Instagram, or Tumblr, or however you wanna get in contact with us, but we'd love to pay somebody to make us some jazzy tunes.

Emily: Yeah. Otherwise I *will* be forced to download music-making software and do it myself, and you don't want that.

Sally: I think... you're right.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: Not one of my talents, people. Music? No.

Sally: [at the same time] Emily and I are musically very stupid.

Emily: Okay, though.

Sally: I think that's it.

Emily: Yeah, that's it.

Sally: Um, I do also want to, one last housekeeping thing. I think you all should start submitting sign offs. I think it would be fun.

Emily: Oh my god.

Sally: Cause I think it's very cathartic to share the embarrassing and traumatic things that happen to you. Not to be dramatic, but I think my confidence and ability to move through the world has improved over the last year, when I'm like, "Oh, if something bad happens to me, I'll just share it on EHR" and then it actually becomes kind of funny. So, I think you should do it. I think it'll be fun. You can also email those to [everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com), there's a contact form on our website. Just submit it, with the, you know, subject line, "Sign off" and your name, or something.

Emily: And if you want it to be anonymous, it totally can be.

Sally: Yeah, oh yeah, just let me know. I'm probably *too* annoying about asking people whether or not they want to be anonymous but non-profit fundraising has that drilled into the front of my skull... like a lobotomy.

Emily: [shakily] gross. Well for now, you can sign us off.

Sally: I didn't, um – fuck.

Emily: Do you not have one?

Sally: No, let me think for a second. Bad shit happens to me all the time.

Emily: I can think of one, too.

Sally: I got nothing.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: I got nothing.

Emily: I'll sign us off. This week I rolled into work, and one of my co-workers was like, "Did you hear?" – I work in Park City, and it is Sundance Film Festival the weekend that we are recording this, um, and one of my co-workers was like, "Did you hear that the Marvel men will be coming to our workplace for cocktail hour on Monday?" Monday is the day we are recording this. And I was like, "I did not hear that, and I do not care." And he was like, "What? How can you not care?" And I was like, "Who do you even mean, the Marvel men?" And he was like, "You know, like Robert Downy Jr." And I was like, "The last thing I want on this cold, stark earth is for Iron Man to roll into my workplace, cause then I will personally have to kick his ass back to 2009 where he belongs."

S: Hmm.

Emily: Anyway, I'm pretty sure he dreamed that and then, just, like, was willing it into reality, but then it infected me, because last night I had a dream about a variety of celebrities coming into my workplace. And the entire time I was just sitting there thinking, will they tip me?

Sally: Oh yeah, that's a big question, will they?

Emily: Will Iron Man gave me a decent tip?

Sally: Probably not.

Emily: Yeah, I don't remember. I woke up before the dream ended. So, anyway, happy week...?

Sally: Happy week!

Emily: Bye.

Sally: Byeee!