



## Episode 54 - “Asmodean, Play Despactio”

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Generously Transcribed by Ariana Jane Mackenzie

Emily: [softly] Okay, can you just sit quietly?

Sally: Do you know - remember that Tumblr - [laugh].

Emily: [mimicking in a slurred voice] remember the Tumblr.

Sally: I just sounded very intoxicated [laugh].

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: Earlier I hit my hand really hard on the counter and just broke down in hysterical laughter, so I don't know what's going on with me today [laugh].

Emily: Some - a couple of wires crossed [laugh].

Sally: [laugh] Yeah, I guess so. But do you remember that Tumblr post that's, like, it's like one of those story concept ones and the idea is that a bunch of elder gods get sent to this world and they just become pop stars cause they don't know what else to do?

Emily: Yeah, I do vaguely remember that.

Sally: I think about that all the time because that is, like, the ideal book that I wanna write, but I can't, obviously, because it was somebody else's idea. And obviously that's a post based on, you know, Hozier and Florence Welch, though nobody said it.

Emily: [at the same time] yeah, like of - we all knew it was Hozier and Florence Welch.

Sally: Yeah, so it's just, like, on so many layers -

Emily: [at the same time] although Nicki Minaj makes sense too -

Sally: Hmm, yeah.

Emily: Just in a different - a different type of elder god.

Sally: [at the same time] a different type, yeah. Absolutely.

Emily: Yeah, she's very, uh, Greek god [laugh].

Sally: Hmm, it's true.

Emily: Hozier and Florence are, uh, very -

Sally: Celtic.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In their way. Anyway, I just think about that post a lot, so...

Emily: It's a good post. I have surprise for you.

Sally: Is - did you do the titles?

Emily: I sure did.

Sally: Oh, is this what you were doing when I was asking you what you were doing and you wouldn't say?

Emily: No, I really was reading a news article.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] you have to get through 'em.

Sally: [laughing] I can't. I never can.

Emily: That's the only reason anyone thinks they're funny, is cause you're laughing so hard. They're not really that good. I always come up with them while I'm shopping in Target.

Sally: No, they *are* that good, and nobody can understand them cause I have the world's most horrific laugh.

Emily: [laugh] we'll post them later.

Sally: [whispering] oh, that's a smart idea.

Emily: I think we did that with the first one.

Sally: I know, this is why you're the brains behind this operation [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] I'm definitely not.

Sally: You are! Okay - [burst out laughing].

Emily: Here are the alternate titles for *The Dragon Reborn* based upon the list of characters' point of view. There are - usually I do, like, the main six, plus Moiraine, plus, like, one or two others. But *The Dragon Reborn*, for some reason has very few points of view from outside characters so, -

Sally: That's true.

Emily: I just stuck with the basics.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: You gotta do it.

Sally: Okay. I feel like I can't even do the voice for this first one.

Emily: I don't know if I can either.

Sally: Okay [laugh]. So, Perrin is, in the Borat voice: "My wife!" [bursts out laughing].

Emily: My Borat impression is based completely on the McElroy's Borat impression.

Sally: That's fair.

Emily: I've never seen Borat.

Sally: You'd be surprised how often, growing up in my childhood, that Perry and Ian, my older brothers, and their friends, would say that.

Emily: What, "My wife"?

Sally: Yeah, and so I never knew what it was from.

Emily: Yeah, I still -

Sally: Until, like, six months ago. This is not a joke.

Emily: I still have no context.

Sally: I think Borat is probably a stupid movie, so...

Emily: Probably.

Sally: Okay, um, this one's my favorite.

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: Okay the next one is Egwene [laugh] and hers is "Great Egg-Spectations" [laugh]. Which is really funny. Rand's is, "Rand of Brother" [laugh]. I like that it's not "Rand of Brothers".

Emily: No, it's singular on purpose because -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's on his own.

Sally: Alone.

Emily: Being his own brother, and mom, and father, and literally everything else, yeah.

Sally: [at the same time] be your own dad. Um, Moiraine's is "The Babysitter's Club 3: Giving a Twenty-year-old Man the Sex Talk."

Emily: Or failing to give a twenty-year-old man the sex talk.

Sally: [at the same time] I know.

Emily: She doesn't do a great job with Perrin.

Sally: Moiraine is not great in this book.

Emily: No, yeah, we'll talk about it, yeah.

Sally: Um, Nynaeve's is: "Is Nynaeve even in this book?" [laugh].

Emily: Is she?

Sally: I don't think so. Elayne's is: "Bossy Pants" which is correct.

Emily: [at the same time] True. She's so annoying.

Sally: [whispers] I hate her. And Mat's is also very good [laugh]. Mat's is: "To all the Explosions I've Loved Before" [continues laughing].

Emily: Mat has a very explosion-based narrative in this book.

Sally: [at the same time] I know, he's just blowing everything up.

Emily: He just fucking loves explosions. Stupid lunatic.

Sally: [at the same time] King explosion murder.

Emily: King explosion murder, that's Mat.

Sally: God, I wish a new season of My Hero Academia would come out.

Emily: Don't we all? Um, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I'm one of your co-hosts, Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm half of the other co-host, [laughing] Sally Goodger.

Emily: So together we're one and a half co-hosts.

Sally: Yes.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: [softly] what the fuck? The other half is just -

Sally: The other half is missing.

Emily: Floating around.

Sally: Yeah, she's gone.

Emily: MIA since...

Sally: 2018.

Emily: Yeah, I guess. Um -

Sally: [singing] MIA, take it to the house.

Emily: [laugh] what??

Sally: [laughing and singing] that's the way we take it to the house.

Emily: I've had the theme song from That's So Raven stuck in my head forever.

Sally: [singing] that's so Raven -

Emily: Yeah, thanks.

Sally: [singing] it's the future I can see.

Emily: [at the same time] forty-eight hours.

Sally: [singing] that's so Raven.

Emily: Yep. And I can hear it in her voice.

Sally: [singing] it's so mysterious to me. [laugh] you know what other Disney Channel theme song slapped? Phil of the Future.

Emily: [singing] Phil, Phil, Phil of the future.

Sally: [singing] keeping it together just as best as he can!

Emily: That's a good one.

Sally: [singing] Phil, Phil, Phil of the future, he's a twenty-second century man. On holiday in history [starts laughing].

Emily: Okay, we don't need to go through all of it.

Sally: I do remember that entire theme song.

Emily: I believe you. Um -

Sally: Thanks.

Emily: So -

Both: [laugh].

Emily: We're back at it with Perrin.

Sally: [deep sigh].

Both: [laugh].

Sally: We have like, two more episodes with him, too.

Emily: No, just one. Seventy-five - we're - after this episode we're seventy-five percent of the way done with Perrin's intro to this entire book. Then we're with Egwene with ninety-eight episodes, so...

Sally: Great.

Emily: Yeah, great. Uh, this is your spoiler alert: we will be discussing spoilers, especially with these chapters, cause there's a lot of foreshadowing.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Also, your titular PSA, the name of our podcast, Everybody Hates Rand, is a joke and is meant to be taken as such. Don't DM us with your feelings about Rand because it doesn't really matter. Nothing matters.

Sally: Nothing matters, go outside.

Emily: God is dead, everyone's dead. I don't actually - I'm not actually a Nietzsche fan. [Laugh] Nietzsche fan, I take it back. Rewind.

Sally: Alternately, just delete that and submit that scene from Keeping Up with the Kardashians, where Kourtney is like, "Kim there's people who are dying."

Emily: Yeah, exactly. That one.

Sally: [laugh] that's what happened.

Emily: Okay, [laugh]. This -

Sally: [laugh] it's just a really funny scene.

Emily: [laugh] that's a really good scene.

Sally: "Kim, there's people who are dying."

Emily: Okay, we are discussing chapters six and seven. Chapter six is titled The Hunt Begins and there was the exact same chapter title in book two, when it actually made sense, because that was titled *The Great Hunt*.

Sally: [at the same time] yeah, now they're hunting for Rand.

Emily: Now they're hunting for Rand, because the greatest game, as we know, is man.

Sally: It's true, *The Most Dangerous Game*.

Emily: Oh, is it *The Most Dangerous Game*?

Sally: Yeah, where they hunt men on that creepy island.

Emily: Yeah, I got those two things mixed up because they came at me, uh, in very similar -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Similar times in my life. *The Most Dangerous Game*, the short story was read to me - not me, personally -

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: But my entire fifth grade art class, by our art teacher Mr. Faulk, who was -

Sally: Your art teacher?

Emily: Yeah, he was and absolute absurdity. Don't know what was going on. We would just be sitting there doing our art, and I guess he'd just be bored and be like, "Well, I don't have anything to grade cause I'm a lunatic, so I'll just read these children a disturbing short story." Anyway, a couple years later I then saw the movie *The Greatest Game*, which was about golf.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: With Shia LaBeouf. And I'm here to testify, based solely on that movie, golf is not the greatest game.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Yeah, I think we all knew that.

Sally: Um, a man won a million dollars on a hole-in-one competition that he then used that million dollars to buy out the company that he worked for, then becoming the CEO, and I know this because he called the aviary today, looking to partner with us.

Emily: He did, personally?

Sally: Yeah, and we were all like, what's going on?

Emily: On the one hand, I have to respect that as a power move.

Sally: I know, like, if you, like - if I -

Emily: I wouldn't have the foresight. I'd be like... cause -

Sally: If I won a million dollars the first thing I'd do is quit my job, not buy the company.

Emily: Yeah, but he was like, "I guess I can make more money being the CEO of anything."

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Theoretically.

Sally: Theoretically.

Emily: Also, every man wants to be a CEO. I don't know what the deal is.

Sally: I cannot roll my eyes hard enough.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, on - okay, we don't wanna talk about that.

Emily: Okay, yeah. Anyway.

Sally: I mean we do, but -

Emily: Speaking of men who want to be CEOs... of the WORLD.

Sally: Rand.

Emily: Rand!

Sally: Rand al'Thor.

Emily: Rand al'Thor. He fucked off in the night. Lan wakes Perrin up and is like, "Rand's gone." And then Perrin takes his sweet ass time, getting out of bed.

Sally: [at the same time] I know. Perrin's like, [mocking voice] "I'm so hungry and tired."

Emily: [at the same time] it's actually hilarious.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: I was cracking up reading this, because there's no sense of urgency at all.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Perrin's just like, "Well, this might as well happen."

Sally: Perrin's like, "Yeah, that makes sense."

Emily: Perrin: zero concern about Rand's actual safety.

Sally: Right?

Emily: Zero concern about his sanity. That never comes up.

Sally: Well, I know, cause Lan is like, "Rand is gone." And it's like - Perrin's like, "Does that mean he left? Does that mean he's been taken? Does that mean he's dead?" He's just like, "Yeah whatever." We'll get there.



Emily: If someone came to me and was like - I'm trying to think of a person who was previously my best friend, but I now have a convoluted relationship with. That doesn't really - usually I have former best friends who are still good friends or no relationship.

Sally: You can talk about me in that way if you'd like.

Emily: Yeah, but I'm still good friends with you, so -

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: If we grew apart and someone then came to me and was like, woke me up - first of all, waking me up? A mistake.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm an angry sleeper.

Sally: Like a bear.

Emily: Like a bear [laugh]. Second of all, if they woke me up and were like, "Sally's gone." I'd be like, "What? Tell me - no, tell me more. You don't just get to leave."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I need more info.

Sally: Tell us please.

Emily: Where? Do you know where? Do - like, gone is such a, such a verb to use.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Such a vague verb. Gone.

Sally: [at the same time] *Gone Girl*, baby, *Gone Girl*. Rand did *Gone Girl* himself.

Emily: Rand did *Gone Girl*, he even left a -

Sally: Fuckin note that's like, [gravelly voice] "When you find this, I've been murdered by my husband with this fake diary that I made -

Emily: Dreams.

Sally: [gravelly voice] "In this shitty stupid book that pretends that it's interesting but - [bursts out laughing]. That's *Gone Girl*."

Emily: I didn't read that book or see that movie.

Sally: Oh my god, the book is - this is not a podcast about *Gone Girl*, but I did not like it, so...

Emily: Yeah, yeah.

Sally: And Ben Affleck is in the movie, which is, like, why?

Emily: Why is Ben Affleck in any movies, at this point?

Sally: I know, why is Ben Affleck -

Emily: Has Ben Affleck ever been in a good role? I can't think - I've always known Ben Affleck existed, but I've never - I can't think of a single, loveable role that he's been in. Even actors that I'm, like, otherwise neutral about, they have a role that I'm like -

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: I did like that role, I did like that thing they did. Chris Pratt, who I absolutely despise -

Sally: Yeah, he's a shit.

Emily: As a human being, I did like Andy in Parks and Rec.

Sally: I know, he was fun. This morning, for some reason - this morning I'm sick, shocking, I know.

Emily: Wow.

Sally: It's been six minutes, so you can assume I'm sick again.

Emily: [snort].

Sally: [laugh] but this morning I was like, I don't know what made me think of it, but I was cracking up about that scene in Parks and Rec where he's like, "Leslie I googled your symptoms and I think you have a Network Connectivity Error."

Emily: That is the single funniest -

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Line of all time.

Sally: Okay, let's talk about *The Dragon Reborn*.

Emily: Yeah, whatever.

Sally: And not talk about some other stuff.

Emily: Okay, so Perrin then, you know, languidly -

Sally: [softly] I know.

Emily: Walks to Moiraine's cabin. Just, you know, stops to smell the roses, stops to talk to Masema -

Sally: Well, I find that moment with Masema really interesting cause at first Rand is like - first of all he says, "Why ever, Rand has left." And I'm like, what? Who are you, William Shakespeare? Um, and then he immediately, like, Masema doesn't -

Emily: Why ever Rand went - that must be a typo. It has to be.

Sally: I think Robert Jordan was like, "Tired Perrin becomes Elizabethan" [laugh]. Wheresoever Rand went, whilst he -

Emily: Rand hath gone.

Sally: Rand hath gone into the ether, he hath gone. Wherefore art thou, Rand al'Thor?

Emily: Yeah, honestly.

Sally: But then he, like, switches to Masema's weird rhetoric and is like, "The Lord Dragon is doing things according to his plan."

Emily: Yeah, this is - I mean, Perrin and Masema are going to interact later in this series, after Masema's gone full, um, zealot. I don't know, is there a good parallel between what Masema is and what he becomes?

Sally: Hmm...

Emily: I mean, historical parallels?

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: Basically, he's a cult leader.

Sally: Yeah, zealot, terrorist.

Emily: Yeah, hard to - hard to say. Um, anyway, before - this is, like, before Masema goes full - drinks the cult Kool-Aid. Although, he has drunk the Kool-Aid now, it's before he has the power to -

Sally: Make other people drink the Kool-Aid.

Emily: [at the same time] make other people drink the Kool-Aid. Um, and, yeah, it's just weird, because there's this moment here that's so casual - because I too have done this, if I'm talking to someone in a - like, if I'm in a conversation with someone and they're, just, totally, we're not on the same wavelength at all, I'll, like, switch over to their wavelength just to end the interaction faster.

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Like, it's just a way to end this awkward interaction and to, like, get them to calm down.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know? But, like, the more people do this with Masema -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, the more it becomes - like, the more it grows.

Sally: Yeah, it's like that - to use a shitty metaphor, it's like when you're at Thanksgiving with your racist family and you just, like, don't say anything.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And it just is, like, kind of like builds in an affirmation to their mind -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That they can continue to say these types of things and can continue to think this type of way. Because nobody's - it's not - like, with - when you're not talking to your racist family, which you should, and be like, "You're a racist piece of shit."

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Um, it's like, obviously, like, not saying anything you're affirming them, but when people talk to Masema this way it's very much, like, "The way you are thinking is correct and valid, and you seem to be the only one doing it."

Emily: Masema's like the poster child for people thinking that he's not gonna be an issue, and that he's just kinda weird and he needs to be left on his own to sort things out.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And get over his weird issues, and then he immediately becomes, you know, basically a person - like a person with a gun in a crowded area.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that is Masema's general effect on the population.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And it's just wild because we have so many people here who could try and take - like, try and prevent this from happening.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Like Rand especially, perhaps has a responsibility here to be like, "Listen..."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But even, you know - there's also the implication that Masema, just like, cannot be reasoned with.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is all just, like, confusing and convoluted and, I think, speaks to, like, the heart of fanaticism and terrorism, that sometimes people literally cannot be reasoned with.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But we still have a responsibility to try.

Sally: Yeah, especially Rand.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, I know Rand is...

Emily: Busy. Traumatized.

Sally: Has fucked off both physically and [laughing while talking] psychologically at this moment, but at some point in the future you have to be like, Randal, please stop fucking around the Waste.

Emily: Rand, stop making out with Elayne for one minute and talk to -

Sally: One singular minute that you take your tongue out of Elayne's mouth.

Emily: [at the same time] this boy. Why are you so stupid? Okay, um, yeah so then Perrin goes into Moiraine's cabin, reads Rand's emo letter of betrayal and is like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: It's like, [doom voice] "What I do I do whence, whilst doing whence."

Emily: "There are lies and dreams and death, but dreams hold truth too." And it's like, alright, clue. Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench, like -

Sally: I've had to edit that poem in a college workshop.

Emily: Basically, yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We've all had to edit that poem in a college workshop. Some time we'll tell you guys about our college poetry class -

Sally: [deep sigh].

Emily: Which had some... probably terrorists in it.

Sally: There were some Masema's in that class for sure.

Emily: Yeah... White men with a love of guns.

Sally: [gagging noises].

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, the meat of this interaction is them figuring out where Rand went, and eventually Perrin is like, "Well, I've had these weird dreams, too, like, that Rand mentions. And I've had them about *Callandor*." So, Lan goes to, like, investigate and find out if anyone else has had weird dreams because, hey people who can channel, it turns out, can touch other people's dreams, der de der de der.

Sally: Which is creepy.

Emily: Um, there's a really interesting paragraph here wherein Perrin is like - oh, actually prior to that Perrin is like, "Hey maybe Rand being, you know, Jesus or whatever, actually knows what to do better than you do."

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: And Moiraine's like, "Consider this: no." [laugh].

Sally: Basically.

Emily: “Consider this: I also have to keep him alive when all of these threats are out there, and so, like, even if he does wanna, like, fuck off and do his own thing, I kinda need to be there.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Although - then she conveniently mentions - she’s like, “Hey, some of the Forsaken could be loosed”, and then she conveniently mentions all the ones that will, in this book, canonically -

Sally: Make known their presence.

Emily: Except for Asmodean, who will show up in the next book.

Sally: Asmo-deen!

Emily: As-mo-deen.

Sally: I love that Asmo-deen.

Emily: Yeah, the best of the Forsaken.

Sally: And gone before his time [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] gone too soon. Anyway, then dreams, blah blah blah blah -

Sally: I know we want to cast Lin Manuel Miranda as Valan Luca because that’s perfect, but a secondary option would be -

Emily: They would both be very good.

Sally: [laugh] Yeah. I know we also think that Leslie Odom Jr. would be a really good Asmodean.

Emily: They could switch, and also -

Sally: Just like, all the time [laugh]. It’s just constantly -

Emily: I’m saying either one of them could be either role.

Sally: That’s true.

Emily: But also, yeah, it would be hilarious if about halfway through the series they just -

Sally: Switch roles.

Emily: They just switched and there was no comment made on it ever.

Sally: Yeah. Sorry, I didn’t mean to interrupt with that nonsense comment, but I just think it would be funny.

Emily: I just feel like Lin Manuel Miranda has more, like, gay circus vibes.

Sally: You’re right, you’re absolutely correct.

Emily: And Leslie Odom Jr. has a lot of, like, um, angel of music vibes.

Sally: Hmm, you're right. I forgot that we'd already cast Leslie Odom Jr. before I started talking, so -

Emily: No, it's - they could both be perfect. Cause imagine Lin Manuel Miranda playing the ukulele in the background to every scene.

Sally: Just staring into the camera while Rand talks to people [laugh].

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: [laugh] why would it be the ukulele?

Emily: I don't know. Cause I couldn't remember what a lute was [laugh].

Sally: [wheezing].

Emily: They're similar, right?

Sally: [laugh] Asmodean play - play Despacito on the ukulele.

Emily: Yeah, okay, that's another thing that I want from the *Wheel of Time* television show, is I want Asmodean constantly - like I want, you know, everyone's got their flutes and their harps and whatever, and Asmodean rolls in with, like, a kazoo, a harmonica, like the weirdest musical instruments, and just no one knows to comment on it. They're just like, "Okay."

Sally: Like a xylophone.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: A fucking didgeridoo [laugh].

Emily: Yeah. And I want the musical instrument he's using in the background to switch every scene. Sometimes within the scene, no comment.

Sally: Yeah, puts down the ukulele and picks up a -

Emily: Yeah, just, like, no continuity. The camera flashes away and suddenly he's back with a didgeridoo [laugh].

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: And the music always comes out sounding like Carly Rae Jepsen.

Sally: Yes. This is so sad, Asmodean play Cut to the Feeling by Carly Rae Jepsen [burst out laughing].

Emily: [laugh]. Okay, but: this is so sad, Asmodean play Despacito is a very good meme.

Sally: [laugh] Asmodean play Despacito.

Emily: Okay, fuck. Let's just get through this stupid thing

Sally: Sorry. We need to get through mant - mant [laugh].

Both: [laugh].

Sally: [clapping to emphasize each word] I'm having a rough time. Basically, Perrin and Moiraine have a battle of wheels - wills - wheels - wills [laugh].

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: For like ten pages.

Emily: It's -

Sally: Perrin's like, "Fuck you!" And Moiraine is like, "No, fuck you!"

Emily: It's very annoying. I mean, they just fight about every little thing, and then - on the one hand, it's like, yeah this is a - this is a way to write this scene so that all the information that we, the reader, need gets dispensed. But it's also kinda like, out of character for Perrin.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Although, you know, it's sort of written to be like this is his snapping point. This is the book where he's suddenly gonna start being a rebellious teen rather than an obedient teen.

Sally: [at the same time, under her breath] and therefore ruin his character.

Emily: It's just, um - oh, one more thing first. Moiraine does have a paragraph here where she, like, mentions a bunch of shit that Rand's gonna do in the Karaethon Cycle and, literally everything she mentions is, uh, you know - she's got this vague stuff like, what does it mean that he shall slay his people with the sword of peace and destroy them with belief? That's what happens with the Aiel and the revelation with the Tuatha'an. What wounds of madness and cutting of hope has he healed? That's when he, um, you know -

Sally: Cleanses Saidin.

Emily: Cleanses Saidin. What chains has he broken and who put into chains? Like, millions of people, honestly, at this point.

Sally: It mentions the Nine Moons, right? The Seanchan?

Emily: Yeah, it mentions he'll bind the Nine Moons to serve him, which actually, you know - which implies that he'll get Tuon to kneel to him. But what's interesting is that the Seanchan then have their own version of the prophecy, and they're like, "No, Rand will be - the Dragon Reborn will be subservient to us, of course."

Sally: Hm-hmm. Yeah, OBVIOUSLY the Seanchan are on top.

Emily: "Obviously we're in charge." So, it's just, like, a kind of interesting thing that I don't think gets delved into enough, which is that prophecy, uh, does come from specific people with agendas -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who might warp it to fit their agendas.

Sally: Some Seanchan asshole is like, "Everyone bows to me."



Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "I'm fucking - I'm Artur Hawkwing's -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "...bitch."

Emily: Anyway, Perrin and Moiraine's relationship in this whole thing is like - I don't even know what to say about it, really. I just have such a hard time with the way the boys react to Moiraine. Like - like, this will come as no surprise, but Mat is the most understandable to me because his instinct is to just, like, put space between them, cause he's kinda freaked out by her.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But he's not really - and, like, he kinda thinks it's fun to annoy her.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But he's not just, like, total asshole all the time.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whereas Perrin and Rand have, like, this warped sense of, like, "Moiraine's at the center of our lives, ruining our lives, so I have to fight back against it because Moiraine represents my fate."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In this really weird way. And it's just, like, really annoying to me. Uh, we've talked already about how it's annoying because Moiraine's a woman and, you know, then there's a whole, um, there's a whole gender at play here, that women as authority figures, for some reason, cannot be taken seriously.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: But also, up until this point in the book, I just don't comprehend what Moiraine has done that's so bad.

Sally: I know.

Emily: It's like, she hasn't - she just hasn't forced them into anything. She's like, "You should leave cause people are gonna die," but it's not like she's like, "I'm gonna tie you up and take you." And obviously there's a, you know, there's an emotional, uh, forcing there. But it's like, she's just laying out the options for you as they are.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's not really her fault that they're so one-sided. And she's doing her best to keep you alive.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I just, like - I guess I just don't - what annoys me is that Rand and Perrin, and Mat to a lesser extent, just refuse to take responsibility for their own actions. Refuse to be like, "I too had a part in this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “I went along with it; I’m still going along with it.” And it’s only, like - it’s like they forget that they’re people until book three, and then they’re like, “Meh, I have to be an asshole about this.”

Sally: Yeah... No, it’s really just - like [sigh] and at this point it’s just really exhausting. And I get it, you don’t like Moiraine -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like - and what’s really upsetting is that - that Perrin having this snapping moment at this point, it’s like, this is the first point in the scene, where, like, you - the first point in the series where you understand that you are on a cosmic trajectory towards something bad. Like, if anything you should be like, this is a realization where you’re like, “Moiraine has been helping me get prepared for this moment.”

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: “Like, without Moiraine I would be dead.” And so it’s just like - feels - I could get, in the first two books, where they’re, like, yeah having this, like, teenage reaction where they’re like, “You, as a manifestation of my fate are the only place where I can address, like, direct this angst.” It doesn’t make it correct, but it makes it a little bit understandable because they’re dumb teen boys. But, like, when you’re starting to get this realization that your friend Rand is the Dragon Reborn of prophecy, which means you are on a trajectory towards the literal end of the world, it’s like, maybe step up and be responsible and be like, “Moiraine is going to be the most competent person, able to take care of us.” Like, I’m sorry that your ego is so offended by having someone tell you what you need to do, someone more intelligent than you. It’s so annoying.

Emily: Yeah, if the end of the world is nigh and I feel like I’m gonna be in the middle of it, like, I don’t, I - when you start a new job and you don’t know what to do, aren’t you asking people constantly?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cause I do that and I just, like, can’t understand when people are like, “I know better.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It’s a mindset that I totally can’t comprehend. I’m like, “No you don’t, you’re twenty.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it’s like, if they’re like, “Well Moiraine has an attitude problem, cause she doesn’t tell me anything,” I’m like, maybe she’d tell you more shit if you were respectful -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, spoke to her like a human being?

Sally: Yeah, if you tried to, you know, cultivate that relationship. Like, admittedly, I do think Moiraine is one of - like, has the most frustrating mentor trope.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where she withholds a lot of information.

Emily: That is very annoying.

Sally: It's very frustrating and, like, it's a plot device that Robert Jordan relies on way too heavily...

Emily: [at the same time] way too much, yeah.

Sally: Um, and so like I get that that's annoying, but instead of just, like, freaking out about it, like - it's like that thing when you're a teenager and you're like, "Ah my parents don't treat me like I'm an adult." And I'm like, well you're acting like a child.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And when you start to, like, take responsibility for yourself and, like, you know, get a job and start, you know, handling things maturely, your parents then, like, react to you in a different way.

Emily: Right.

Sally: It's like Moiraine has three fourteen-year-old children instead of three twenty-year-old allies and it's very annoying.

Emily: Yeah. Like, at this point in the series I just want everyone to be kind of, like, treating each other like there's not a power differential.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: Like, it's - it's a two-sided thing. We can all admit that Moiraine is not doing the best that she could be doing here.

Sally: Oh, of course.

Emily: She's also - she's returning asshole-ry for asshole-ry.

Sally: Yeah, and Moiraine also is, like, in terms of Aes Sedai that, like wield their power...

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Problematically, I think Moiraine is at the heart of that. And, like, she was raised as a Cairhien noble. Like, I think that's just sort of her background is being in charge and not having it questioned. And so, yes, she's coming at it from, like, a pretty aristocratic way, like, "I don't owe you -

Emily: An explanation.

Sally: "...an explanation for what I, the Aes Sedai, am doing." And that's just, kind of, a generally annoying attitude, but also [whisper] the boys are so annoying about it.

Emily: I know, I just get - I get bored after a certain point, with character who are supposed to be on the same side having relationships that are, um, uh, what's the word?

Sally: This fraught?

Emily: Yeah, it's like, you can have a troubled relationship but, like, an antagonistic relationship with people you're allied with it just, like, kinda bores me.

Sally: Well, yeah, because it's like - like, I have worked on teams with coworkers that I just, like, have a hard time with. But it's like, I'm working closely with that person.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So, in order to make this bearable for anybody and make the job work you have to, like, figure out how to work with that person. And, like, that would be an interesting arc. Like, have people on the world saving team that just don't get along but are trying really hard to, like -

Emily: Have a working relationship, yeah.

Sally: Build a better relationship. Yeah, like, it's called a working relationship for a reason. Like, you don't have to go get drinks with Moiraine every Friday...

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: But like, you've gotta figure out something out, you can't just, like, be this antagonistic. It's just, like, it's honestly really irresponsible. And it goes back to what we talked about before, about how, like - and you mentioned it earlier, about how the boys don't wanna, like, take responsibility for their actions. And the boys, ESPECIALLY, like, Perrin I think, for some reason - like, Mat has a weird relationship with fate in that he, like - it's just, like, I don't always wanna excuse Mat. I know we're, like, big mat people here but, like, obviously Mat acts like an idiot. But, like, Rand and Perrin in particular just, like, push against their fate in, like, really - without understanding how destructive it is towards other people and the way that Perrin is treating Moiraine is a problem for the world, it's a problem for the team... Um, where, like, Egwene and Nynaeve and Elayne and Min, sort of, to an extent, and Aviendha and all these women are, like, embracing the fact that they have responsibility that they need to live up to, and the boys just, like, don't. And so it's again, it's this narrative that lets men get off the hook for their responsibility, and, like, how destructive to other people that, like, their inability to, like, do anything is... that was confusing but hopefully there was some nugget in there that is interesting.

Emily: No, it's just, like, more gender stuff that's very -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, you know, it's often written off to be, like, a battle of the sexes thing, which Robert Jordan just fucking loves to write about. Which can get annoying even though it's at the center of the series it's, like, battle of the sexes or not, like, we don't have to have literally every relationship between men and women be this fraught.

Sally: Yeah, based on this.

Emily: I think, um - I was thinking this as I read, I think the difference between Mat and Perrin, maybe Mat and Perrin and Rand, is that when Moiraine asks Perrin or Rand to do something they'll verbally fight back against it in the moment. Mat will say, "Yeah, sure" and then fuck off and do whatever he wants.

Sally: [laugh] Yeah.

Emily: Like, which is exactly how this book ends, which is really interesting. Moiraine is like, “You gotta stick around.” And Mat’s like, “Sure,” like, already planning his -

Sally: Yeah, plotting his escape.

Emily: His escape. And just, kind of like, it’s fate more than Moiraine herself who sort of reigns him in.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't know, it’s just, like, sort of a more interesting way of looking at it, I think.

Sally: Yeah, and it’s just is, like... I don't know, again like with Mat it exists outside of his specific relationship to Moiraine cause Mat does that to everybody.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: People be like, unless you, like, have a legally binding contract with Mat, he’s like, “Peace the fuck out, motherfucker.”

Emily: He’s like, “Bye!”

Sally: “I’m gonna leave.” Like, he tries to leave Cairhien but ends up with an army, like, that just happens with everything. But specifically, with Rand and Perrin and Moiraine it is, this, like, battle of, like, “Fuck you, you’re not in charge of me.” And Moiraine is like, “I’m not actually trying to be in charge of you. I just know - I do know what is correct I’m just bad at being, like, not weird about it” [laugh].

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, exactly. You’re right, it’s just, kind of, a mishmash of bad writing tropes -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Kinda combined in these three characters in a really annoying way.

Sally: Yeah, and Robert Jordan uses, like, interpersonal conflict a lot for exposition.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, when characters are arguing, that’s how we get...

Emily: Information.

Sally: Information. Which is, like, a weird - a weird thing. I’m trying to think of other books that do it as much as Robert Jordan does but I just -

Emily: Yeah, it’s hard to say. It’s just, like, we don’t necessarily need every scene to be combative just to, like, get information. Like, I think Robert, and maybe a lot of other writers, tend to think it’s boring if characters are just talking.

Sally: [softly] that’s... bad writing then.

Emily: No, it’s like, you can still have characters talking in an interesting way. Like, your characters ought to be strong enough to, like, carry themselves through a conversation.

Sally: Yeah, or, like - I think the implication is that, like, if you have multiple characters in the scene you need to have the character speak so we don't forget that they're there.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And it's like, nah, if Moiraine just needs to, like, lecture for a little bit I'm chill to sit down in Perrin's point of view and just listen.

Emily: I'm, yeah - I'm totally happy with that.

Sally: But I can't imagine being told that, like, the Forsaken, these, like thirteen evil demons -

Emily: [at the same time] bastards [laugh].

Sally: Are back and being like, "Well, fuck you!" Instead of being like, "What are we gonna do about this shit? I'm frightened."

Emily: Yeah, like -

Sally: "Lanfear and her tits are out for me."

Emily: "Tell me more."

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Anyway... yeah, so the scene kinda ends with Moiraine being like, "Okay, well Min's gonna go to Tar Valon" and Min's like, "No, I wanna go to my boyfriend!" And Moiraine is like, "No, I need you to go to the Amyrlin Seat, you asshole."

Sally: It's like, "You are the only messenger I can trust."

Emily: Yeah, cause all the Shienarans are on death's door or whatever.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Except for Uno, who clearly needs to be there to dab them all.

Sally: Yeah, it's really sad that we have to leave Uno behind.

Emily: I know, I'm like, hello? Consider someone else so that Uno can be there and meet Gaul.

Sally: Leave Perrin behind [laugh].

Emily: Obviously... So Moiraine is like, "Just me and Lan and Perrin and Loial are gonna go after Rand." Just gonna cut down the fellowship, right away.

Sally: Just gonna slice it by about a hundred and fifty people.

Emily: Yeah, so then they, uh, leave and Min's like, um - hah! Min has some good moments here. Min's like, to Lan, "Do you have any messages you want me to carry, to Nynaeve, perhaps?" And Lan's like, "Does fucking everyone know about my secret relationship?" And Min's like, "It's not a secret, bitch. You're so obvious."

Sally: I know.

Emily: And furthermore, so is Nynaeve. She's literally the most obvious woman on the planet.

Sally: You're both very heterosexual.

Emily: Yeah, you're both very obnoxious.

Sally: They really do have the most annoying relationship.

Emily: I know. Um, anyway then Min's like, "Hey Perrin, like, you're going on this journey and I saw some new stuff about you that you need to know." She says, an Aielman in a cage, Gaul.

Sally: She starts with Gaul, lest you forget.

Emily: Yeah, important.

Sally: The most important.

Emily: The Tuatha'an with a sword, which will be Aram, which won't be until the next book, so whatever. "A falcon and a hawk, perching on your shoulders, both female, I think". And that's Faile and Berelaine.

Sally: So Faile is the falcon.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Berelaine is the hawk?

Emily: Yeah, they -

Sally: I never understood the hawk symbolism with Berelain.

Emily: Uh, I think it's, like, the Mayene thing.

Sally: Oh, is that, like, their symbol?

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, their crest. I can't remember off the top of my head, but I know it's, like, side-eyed at some point.

Sally: Wink, wink. Do you get it? It's a hawk, wink, wink.

Emily: Do you get it? It's a hawk. And that's, like, really annoying to me because I'm just, like, annoyed by the fact that the love triangle between - the non-existent love triangle -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Between Perrin, Berelain, and Faile is, like, a thing.

Sally: I just don't get it.

Emily: I just, no, I just can't comprehend it. Why is it - it doesn't move the plot forward in any meaningful way. It's stupid.

Sally: Yeah... I don't - I genuinely don't understand why it has to be, like - and it's also Berelaine not respecting Perrin's consent so it's like -

Emily: Oh yeah, so annoying.

Sally: Why is this here?

Emily: Um, she's also like, "If you ever meet a woman, the most beautiful woman you've ever seen, run." And Perrin's like, "What? Why?" Min's like, [whispers] "You stupid asshole."

Sally: [whispers] it's Lanfear.

Emily: Because it's Lanfear. Um, then there's the most iconic paragraph of all time.

Sally: Oh my god, I know.

Emily: [snort] "Perrin did not like jumping to conclusions. It was one of the reasons some people thought him slow-witted, but he totaled up a number of things Min had said in the last few days and came to a startling conclusion" [laughs].

Sally: [laugh] fucking moron.

Emily: He's like, "Min, uhhh... uh, you're really just a friend. You're like a sister to me." And Min's like, stares at him for a full thirty seconds and is like, "Okay, that's fine."

Sally: No, I love it when she's like, "Oh, Perrin don't you know that I love you."

Emily: And he's like, "Ahh!" And she's like, "Like a brother, asshole."

Sally: [at the same time] like a brother [laugh].

Emily: You stupid idiot. And he's like, "Oh. If not me, then Rand." She's like, "Yes, tragically that is so."

Sally: I know, her response is pretty good, where's she's like, yep - well, she basically says, "Yes, tragically."

Emily: Yes, tragically [laugh]. She's like, unfortunately yes.

Sally: Unfortunately, it is that asshole.

Emily: And then Perrin is like, "At least you'll be safe in Tar Valon." And she's like, "Meh, you think Tar Valon is safe?" And he's like, "If Tar Valon's not safe, then no where's safe," which is FORESHADOWING!

Sally: Yeah...

Emily: Cause Min will be in the middle of the Tar Valon nonsense, which is the next book.

Sally: That's right, the breaking of the tower.

Emily: Yeah, the breaking of the tower.

Sally: [only pronouncing the consonants] the breaking of the tower.



Emily: Um, anyway so that's chapter - that chapter. Then, they kinda just -

Sally: Then it's a travelling chapter.

Emily: Yeah, then it's a travelling chapter and truly nothing interesting happens. They're just...travelling. Literally, Perrin says, "In the beginning at least, it was a boring journey." And I'm like, the entire thing is a boring journey.

Sally: It's six pages of shit.

Emily: You just -

Sally: Including a dumb argument about how Moiraine is like, "Oh look I can catch all these fish," and Perrin's like, "Well, it's really hard." And she catches a bunch of fish, and I'm like, this is the most, like, "Well my dad didn't have daughters, so he taught me to catch fish" moment that I've ever seen.

Emily: I know, I was like, first of all what the fuck?

Sally: Why does Moiraine need to catch fish?

Emily: Is she just doing magic?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, one of those scenes that would be so much better if, again if Robert Jordan wasn't writing their relationship to be so fraught.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If Moiraine - like, Moiraine comes down and does the exact thing that Perrin has been complaining that she doesn't do, which is, like, help out around the camp.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "I'll help catch fish." And he's like, "Fine". But she does it better than him cause she uses magic or some shit, and he's like, "Bah, isn't it so annoying how she doesn't do any of the chores?" And everyone is like, "Not really..."

Sally: She just caught, like, a huge - like, a bunch of fish.

Emily: It's just like, I don't know, I don't know. Like, I too would probably be annoyed if my mentor figure wasn't, like, pulling any of the camp weight.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But also, I'm kinda like, she probably has other shit going on.

Sally: Yeah, she's probably warding you from monsters and shit.

Emily: Yeah, like -

Sally: She just didn't wanna tell you that you're being hunted.

Emily: Yeah, like, there's other stuff going - I just -

Sally: She's communing with nature.

Emily: It's just anno - yeah, speaking of communing with nature, Perrin's like, "Can't wait to get to a city so I can get rid of the wolves." Little does he know, cause he's stupid...

Sally: Wolves go everywhere.

Emily: Yeah, wolves go everywhere.

Sally: Well, speaking of communing with nature, this is another one: I think Lan is the worst character of all time. Sorry guys. Line drawn in the sand. I think he's literally so ridiculous and stupid.

Emily: [laughing in the background].

Sally: But when they're like, there's like, "Lan could track Rand by the shifting of one single pebble," and it's like, I'm gonna kill myself [laugh].

Emily: Like, I don't care.

Sally: It's literally so stupid.

Emily: What's way more interesting is how Lan, like, [laugh] - Lan just, like, leaves little signs for Moiraine to follow him. And Moiraine just, like, has this, like, dictionary of signs and what they mean. It's like, "I'll just got right cause Lan bent a twig that way." And it's like, what the fuck kinda weird relationship have you guys cultivated in the last ten years?

Sally: I think Lan and Moiraine have a stupid relationship.

Emily: I do too.

Sally: I think Lan could literally be deleted and the series would be better.

Emily: Yeah, probably. Lan serves - I have now reread the series and I'm in book thirteen, and so far Lan has not served a single purpose, and he's forced to serve a purpose in book fourteen. And like, forced, just, like, literally someone else should have done it. And they just have Lan do it so that Lan's point as a character will have been made.

Sally: It doesn't exist.

Emily: Yeah, it's like - consider this: delete Lan, have Mat kill that particular person, because he should have -

Sally: Like, you could give Nynaeve a vibrator and it would serve the same purpose.

Emily: [snort].

Sally: [laugh] I stand by that.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Anyway...

Emily: So, fuck that. Okay... We'll be next - back next - we'll be next week [laugh].

Sally: [laugh] we'll be next week. Back at this kitchen table with more shit.

Emily: We'll be back next week with absolutely more Perrin -

Sally: [gagging noise].

Emily: Who is just gonna talk about dreams and wolves and people going crazy.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Yeah, which at least will be slightly more interesting than this.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Um... that's it. Any housekeeping?

Sally: Um, just - ah, it would be super awesome if any of you use iTunes to drop by that iTunes podcast app and just rate and review the podcast. It's a big help in increasing visibility. And of course, we want more people to watch the podcast - watch the podcast [snort].

Emily: [loud frustrated noise].

Sally: [laugh] listen to the podcast. We are now officially on YouTube, I figured out whatever glitch I was having, so starting Season Three you can find us on YouTube if that's, like, a convenient way to listen at work, or wherever you are. That's where I listen to podcasts because I don't do my job.

Emily: Who does?

Sally: Um, still working on Google podcasts, so sorry that's been weird. I really don't know what's going on but I'm trying to figure it out. Um, as always, we're on the internet. Please check us out on Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, we'd love for you to check out our website. I've been writing a few blogs there if you want more EHR content. Trying to get us on a weekly schedule but for now it's kind of biweekly. Or bimonthly? I never know what to say.

Emily: I don't either. I think they both, technically, are the same.

Sally: English is a fake language.

Emily: Yeah... English was made up.

Sally: By a bunch of... losers.

Emily: Remember that scene where Thor's like, "All words are made up."

Sally: All words are made up.

Emily: It's, like, the smartest thing anyone's ever said.

Sally: I know, how is Thor so good?

Emily: How is Thor smarter than Iron Man in one sentence?

Sally: "It's like a pirate had an angel -

Emily: [laugh] had a baby.

Sally: Oh my god, what is happening to me?? I'm having a stroke.

Emily: You're okay.

Sally: [whispers] I'm not.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Oh, I need to sign off.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Nobody sent us any sign offs yet. But just so you know, if you wanna send us sign offs you can and share your trauma with us. I had a really funny one. [sigh] I can't remember what it was though. Eh, what's yours? Go ahead, Emily.

Emily: Um, today me and our friendly neighborhood maintenance man decided to go through our lost and found bin, which I didn't know existed until two weeks ago, and which I'm pretty sure everyone else forgot about, so there's just, like, a lot of stuff in there.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Including, um [laugh]. Derek pulled out - and he looked me dead in the eye as he did this - the most, like, convoluted mass of black lace I've ever seen, and stared me dead in the eye and was like, "Do you think this would look good on me?" [Laugh].

Sally: [bursts out laughing] did you tell him, "Yes, Derek, you're beautiful"?

Emily: I was like, yeah you should put it on. And he was like, "I think I'll get herpes from this." And I was like, you probably would. And that was the end of that, kids. Basically, if you lose something at a hotel it's lost forever, so give up.

Sally: Yeah, it's like - yeah, that's the nightmare scenario. I was really hoping you were gonna say dildo.

Emily: No, that would have been very interesting, but no, it was lingerie, it was lingerie.

Sally: Good for Derek, I hope he kept it.

Emily: Derek's very confident in his masculinity.

Sally: He sounds like it. Derek sounds like an absolute fucking unit.

Emily: I love him.

Sally: Be more confident in your masculinity!

Emily: Unlike Perrin.

Sally: That's your challenge this week.

Emily: Bye.

Sally: Byee.