



Episode 61 - **“Q&A: The Adventures of Fish-Pig”**

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Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books. So if you're anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

Emily: Our title is a joke and is meant to be taken as such. In the context of this podcast, “everybody” refers to us and our cat. You are free to feel however you want about Rand, who is a fictional character. Don't DM us.

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Emily: So would you rather fight a bear-sized spider or a thousand -- wait -- one bear-sized spider or one thousand spider-sized bears?

Sally: I would rather fight one thousand spider-sized bears.

Emily: Yeah, that seems like an obvious answer to me.

Sally: Yeah, why would I want to fight a big spider?

Emily: Yeah. Here's the thing. Spiders are dangerous at any size, potentially. 'Cause they could be venomous.

Sally: You're right.

Emily: Bears? When you reduce them in size, are just, like, a cat. Like, what can those teeth and claws do?

Sally: But, like, if they're spider-sized, they're so bitty. They're precious. I would want to keep them.

Emily: Yeah, even if you get -- even if you get, like, Australian-size spider -- bear-spiders --

Sally: Oh, that's true.

Emily: Those are still, like --

Sally: The, like, crate-sized spiders? That's just, like, a little buddy.

Emily: Yeah. That's like a little teddy bear.

Sally: Like a little baby.

Emily: Who might bite you, but bears -- just give 'em some honey. What are you gonna do with a spider? What do spiders like? Ugh, I can't talk about this.

Sally: Emily is deeply arachnophobic.

Emily: (hissing)

Sally: Um, how -- did you ever watch Hilda?

Emily: No?

Sally: I need to finish the last couple of episodes, but, like, there --

Emily: Is there a bear-sized spider?

Sally: No, but there are, like ... there are, like, nittens. They're, like -- you know, like, baby lice are called nits?

Emily: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Sally: And so they have, like, lice-sized kittens that get in people's hair --

Emily: Aww.

Sally: And they call them nittens or something like that --

Emily: That's very cute.

Sally: It's very cute.

Emily: Very whimsical.

Sally: Yeah, Hilda is one hundred percent whimsy, and I love it.

Emily: I know ...

Sally: But I stopped watching 'cause she and her friend were fighting, and it was giving me a weird amount of anxiety? (laugh)

Emily: I can sort of -- when people fight with their friends, that, like, always induces me to --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not want to watch the show. That and love triangles. 'Cause I just don't see the point, you know? It could be polyamory.

Sally: I -- I mean, yes. That is -- that's the hot take.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That's the god-tier take. But I did see a, like, quasi-interesting thread about how the, like -- the YA trope of a love triangle is actually just, like, a representation of, like, people having to decide who they are when they're teenagers.

Emily: Yeah. Like --

Sally: And so you, like, externalize the different paths you can take. But I don't super love that, because then it's like your life is then defined by your romantic partner. So. It can go --

Emily: Yeah, like, I get that. It's just like, why do you have to, like -- why do you have to make the metaphor for your decisions boys.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, for girls -- for -- and girls. That just sort of enforces the idea that your life is going to revolve around men.

Sally: Correct.

Emily: And it's like, mmm. Not necessarily true. Hopefully not. I hope your life doesn't revolve around men.

Sally: Yeah. I mean, you should do --

Emily: 'Cause men stink.

Sally: Everything to stop it from being that way, 'cause inevitably, it just --

Emily: They'll just disappoint you. Sorry.

Sally: Yeah. Well --

Emily: Men. (laugh)

Sally: And inevitably they're just there. You, like, can't escape it, you know?

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: It's just like, men are everywhere. They're in your workplace. They're in your restaurants.

Emily: There's only two good men in the entire world.

Sally: That's correct. (laugh)

Emily: We each have one in our workplace. (laugh)

Sally: Oh my gosh. So, today, when I was on my way downstairs -- this is a fun segue to --

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Talking about our guest experiences this week.

Emily: Oooh.

Sally: 'Cause I told Gethin, a boy at my work --

Emily: I also told Devin -- not Devin -- I told Darek, uh, also, about our Yugioh guest --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) I told Gethin yesterday, 'cause Gethin LOVES Yugioh.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He's, like, way into it. And so I was like, "Gethin. I'm guesting on a Yugioh podcast." And he was like -- (gasp) He was so excited. He basically made that noise because he's a perfect, gigantic boy. I love him so much.

Emily: He's very tall.

Sally: But today, he's --

Emily: Very confused-looking, constantly.

Sally: I know. He had to come into our meeting today, and he was like, "Hello?" (laugh) And we're like, "Gethin, just open the door. What's happening?" God bless him. Might be high, a little bit, all the time. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, he does sort of give off that vibe.

Sally: But today on my way out, he was like, "I have -- I was waiting to ask, in case you don't want other people to know, but how was your Yugioh podcast?" (laugh) It was so tender.

Emily: (laugh) That's so sweet.

Sally: I know. I'm really obsessed with him.

Emily: Anyway, we guest-starred on Sarah McClintock's, uh, Yugioh podcast, which is called Pod of Greed, which -- one of the things we learned --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: On the podcast is that that title is, in fact, a Yugioh reference. I couldn't comprehend how it was, but they explained it to us.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, this is Everybody Hates Rand. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: And --

Sally: Allegedly.

Emily: Oh ... kay. Um, and we're here with a fun Q and A episode, 'cause we literally have the week from heck, as my mom Becky would say.

Sally: "Emily! Don't swear about the Ashcrafts!"

Emily: Or, if she was feeling really bold, she might say "h-e-double hockey sticks."

Sally: Ooh, that's a Utah classic.

Emily: I know. She is so funny.

Sally: H-E-double hockey sticks. That brings me all the way back to, like, fourth grade.

Emily: I know. Anyway, the things we have going on today aren't -- I mean, this week -- aren't bad, there -- just -- there's a lot of them all at once.

Sally: There's many of them.

Emily: And they're all very time-consuming.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So! Here we are with a Q and A episode, which took minimal preparation, as opposed to some of our other podcasting endeavors. Um, but let's hop right in. Speaking of Sarah McClintock ...

Sally: Aww. I love Sarah McClintock.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Did you guys know that?

Emily: What a delight.

Sally: Sometimes I just think about how much I love her, and it brightens my day.

Emily: She's just so cool. And she wants to know: "What if everybody loved Rand?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I know, not possible, but in the hypothetical," she says. "Do you have any good things to say about Rand's character journey? Is there any juice in EHR's appreciating Rand Al'Thor cup?" And she says, "I'll go first. He does do a better job than I would've," at, like, being the savior in the apocalypse.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Does he deserve credit for that? We may never know." How do you feel?

Sally: Um. Yeah, I mean, I feel like you always need to have a little bit of, uh, sym -- I dunno, sym -- or, like, patience or understanding for these characters who get given, like, a savior of the world --

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: Arc? Or really, any person in politics who's trying. So, not the current American administration.

Emily: Yeah, no one is trying there.

Sally: But I do want to -- 'cause it's a lot of responsibility to be, you know, in charge of the fate of other people's lives and the fate of the world and the fact that your every decision has the possibility to kill or save people's lives is obviously very stressful, and so, yeah, I think he should be given some credit for even just having to exist in that space.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's very hard. And I think he does occasionally -- like, I -- my problem with this is that I am so tired of reading about, like, monarchies --

Emily: Mm.

Sally: And dictators that it's, like -- Rand's whole thing is like, "Gotta conquer the whole world so everybody's, like, following me," and so it's like, that's why I have a hard time -- at least where I'm at in the story, that's kind of, like, his mindset.

Emily: No, that's pretty much, like, how he goes. And it brings up the interesting question of, like, how could Wheel of Time have been, like -- um, like, how Wheel of Time could have been different if Rand didn't come at his, y'know, savior mentality with the -- this, like, world conqueror aesthetic --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is also a very, like, male way to come at a problem.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, not to dilute it, but this is Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time we're talking about, so.

Sally: Yeah, it's a -- it's -- yeah.

Emily: Yeah, it's just this really aggressive, uh, male, sort of, way of looking at the world. And, yeah, it makes you wonder, like, how this series could've been different or better if Rand, like, tackled things from a different angle.

Sally: Yeah, or, like, tried diplomacy once -- (laugh) in his life.

Emily: Yeah, or just, like, I dunno, was doing, like, more sneakery --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, spy stuff, like Moiraine and Thom kind of, like, seem to be prompting him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Towards in the beginning of the series. No, I think Rand, yeah, deserves credit for, like, being -- like, we are human, and so we have empathy, and so yeah, I can see how --

Sally: So we are dancer. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, we are dancer, et cetera, et cetera. Ugh. Like, Rand is in an impossible situation, and he handles it about as well as anyone could be expected to?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I just, like -- you know, mental health being factored in. Um, my problem with Rand, like, literally becomes less that I hate him as the, like, concept of a character -- because as a concept --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm quite intrigued by him. Like, he has a lot of tropes going on that I'm not, like, mad about.

Sally: No, and they're, like, an interesting conflation of tropes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, they overlap.

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: In really interesting ways.

Emily: And it's, like, doing stuff with this, like, set of character tropes that, like, haven't necessarily been done before or done as well, I guess. So that's, like, not my problem with Rand. My problem, I guess, is Robert Jordan's writing of Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, the weird quirks he gives Rand that make Rand insufferable.

Sally: Yeah. I mean, for me, it really just does come down to, like, his insufferable relationship to women.

Emily: Yeah, I mean, honestly, if you took that out, I wouldn't --

Sally: I'd be like --

Emily: I'd be pretty fine with him.

Sally: Whatever. He's boring, but, like --

Emily: Yeah, like, I could live with it. I mean, there are other point of view characters that are boring, y'know?

Sally: Yeah, like, ynow, Perrin -- I mean, Perrin's pretty boring to read, but he doesn't necessarily frustrate me in the same way that Rand does.

Emily: Yeah. Perrin, like, has his frustrating moments, but I'm like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Usually when I get to a Perrin point of view, I'm like, oh, yeah, whatever --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I just gotta get through this.

Sally: Just gotta, like, muddle through. And that's --

Emily: And with Perrin, I'm often like -- I'm in this for the side characters --

Sally: Yeah, absolutely.

Emily: 'Cause Perrin's surrounded by side characters. And the same could be said of Rand. It's just, like, you can't all have Mat Cauthon characters, who are intriguing by their very voice.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So.

Sally: So yeah. Rand's relationship to women is just sort of insurmountable for me.

Emily: Yeah, it's the wall that can't be climbed.

Sally: I do like that he's tall.

Emily: (snort)

Sally: That's a point in his favor.

Emily: Uh, James asked, "If you could take the characters from one series of books and place them in another book world slash universe, how would you mix it up?"

Sally: Ooooh.

Emily: And I'm like, assuming we need to use the characters or the universe of Wheel of Time. So who would I put in the Wheel of Time universe?

Sally: There are, like, so many possibilities. I think it'd be funny to put the cast of Game of Thrones there, 'cause, like --

Emily: My God.

Sally: The world aesthetic is so different.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And, like, less violent and horrible, generally speaking.

Emily: Yeah, they'd be like, "What? What the fuck?"

Sally: They'd be like, "I can't just walk around chopping people's heads off?"

Emily: "Sex scenes are cutaway? What the fuck?" (laugh)

Sally: "What?" (laugh)

Emily: "There's not full-frontal nudity?"

Sally: "That's ridiculous."

Emily: "Every ten seconds?"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) But -- so that, I think, just for the comedy feature.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But also, I feel like there's some that would actually be, like, pretty interesting. What would you do?

Emily: Mmmm. I'd like to take someone from, like, a very different genre, like, I dunno --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: But you know what -- who would be really funny in Wheel world? Percy Jackson. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) That bitch idiot.

Emily: (laugh) That absolute dumbass.

Sally: I love -- I would die for Percy Jackson.

Emily: Put Percy Jackson in any other universe than the one he's given, and it would be hysterical.

Sally: He can barely deal with the one he's given.

Emily: Yeah. Where would we put the Wheel of Time characters, though?

Sally: Oh, man.

Emily: That's like -- does it have to be another fantasy world, or could it be an iteration of our world? 'Cause I think it would be really funny to put them in rural Virginia looking for Glendower, the dead king. (laugh)

Sally: Oh, yeah! You could put them in the Raven Boys.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That would also be another hilarious set of characters to drop in Wheel world.

Emily: Oh my God, yeah. Ronan Lynch? Where are the cars?

Sally: But think about Ronan in Tel'aran'rhiod.

Emily: Oh maaaaaan.

Sally: That would be fascinating, right?

Emily: Tel'aran'rhiod would end up being, like, Ronan's actual psyche. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Ronan's like, "Oh, my dream world is just the dream world of another universe. It's fine." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. It -- it turns out.

Sally: "I'm God." (laugh)

Emily: "NBD." (laugh)

Sally: And Adam would be like, "Yeah. That tracks." Um -- but yeah, Ronan. No cars? (laugh)

Emily: No cars? I know. The tragedy.

Sally: Yeah, that would be pretty upsetting.

Emily: Um, Rob Christianson -- or is it Christianson?

Sally: I think it's Christianson, but I dunno.

Emily: OK.

Sally: So, Rob, correct us.

Emily: Yeah, correct us, Rob. "What movies or stories traumatized you as a child? Creepy or oddly innocent films are acceptable."

Sally: Chicken Run.

Emily: Chicken -- Chicken Run is a disturbing one.

Sally: Chicken -- I can't -- I still, to this day, have not seen the entire movie because I started crying so hard every single --

Emily: It's the decapitation stuff.

Sally: Yeah! Every single -- my brothers really liked it, for unknown reasons --

Emily: That scene where they're, like -- a chicken get it -- a chicken gets its head --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Chopped off for, like, being a bad chicken?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is so -- and you, like, see the axe descend? The, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Shadow? That is -- ugh.

Sally: It's horrifying!

Emily: Absolutely terrifying.

Sally: And when the chickens are, like, launching themselves over the barbed wire fence or whatever to try and get free? Like --

Emily: Yeah, and, like, they could get impaled on barbed wire?

Sally: That movie fucking horrified -- horrifies me to this day.

Emily: That -- yeah. I'm with you.

Sally: I can't do Chicken Run.

Emily: Do you want to ask the next question, from -- do you have your -- geometry failure --

Sally: Oh! Geometry failure.

Emily: Yeah, on Insta, they asked --

Sally: I love you, bb. Um, "Favorite Egwene moment?"

Emily: Oh, that -- oh. I know I gave you that question -- I know I handed you the phone and was like, "Ask this question," and then I didn't even have an answer. Um.

Sally: All of them?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: She's perfect?

Emily: I have a really -- a good moment when -- I can't remember which book it is, even. It's later in the series -- it's, like, book, uh, eight or maybe nine? I think it's nine. When she, um --

throughout the course of, like, that book and the book or two previous, she's been, like, getting a handle on manipulating the Hall of the Tower. Like, the rebel hall.

Sally: Oh. Cool.

Emily: And she has this incredible scene where it all, like, finally comes together, and she walks into the Hall of the Tower and is like -- like, manipulates them into declaring war, and then she's like, "Excuse me, can you read this law, please," like, this obscure law, to one of the Aes Sedai, and the Aes Sedai starts reading it, and it's like, in martial law, the Amyrlin has complete power.

Sally: Oh, nice.

Emily: So Egwene, like, gets complete power in one fell swoop, and she's like, "Fuck y'all."
(laugh)

Sally: That's amazing.

Emily: It's just, like, a really good scene.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- that's my girl.

Sally: I know, Egwene --

Emily: Top me, top me, top me.

Sally: Yeah. True.

Emily: Honestly.

Sally: I love her.

Emily: Yeah. What's your favorite Egwene moment so far?

Sally: I --

Emily: 'Cause you're only six books in -- seven --

Sally: I'm seven books in.

Emily: Excuse me. Sorry.

Sally: Um, I feel weirdly like the Egwene moments that I really love, so far, have involved other characters.

Emily: Yeah, that's fine.

Sally: So I don't feel, like, super confident being like, "This is my favorite Egwene moment." 'Cause I just think she and Mat have some really, like, beautiful interactions.

Emily: I know, their very touching scenes together.

Sally: Yeah. Like, when he -- when, like, nobody's giving her respect, and he, like, makes his whole army kneel to her.

Emily: Kneel to her, yeah.

Sally: But that's more like a favorite Mat moment.

Emily: Yeah. Very sweet.

Sally: I just really love that. What is my -- making that --

Emily: No, I mean, like, up until book, like, eight or so, she very much, like, doesn't -- almost doesn't have her own plotline.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know?

Sally: Yeah. So I don't know.

Emily: Like, she --

Sally: Sorry, Egg.

Emily: Yeah. Egg. What's the next question?

Sally: Um, Alyssa asks, "What are your casting thoughts? All unknown? Some famous people? How about casting diversity depending on different nations' real-world parallels in the Westlands?"

Emily: Oh, yeah, and, like, the next person also asked a casting question.

Sally: Oh. Yeah. Robin asks, "Who would you cast to play Matrim Cauthon, and why is it Robert Sheehan?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "And the rest of the gang, I guess." I feel like Robert Sheehan's a pretty good one for Mat.

Emily: He's a pretty good Mat choice. I don't know if I, like -- my thing is, if you're gonna cast the Wheel of Time, you might as well just get, like, a bundle of unknowns.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: I think it would be, like, too weird to have people -- 'cause it's like Game of Thrones. I really like Game of Thrones' casting for just, like, casting a bunch of weird British people who, for the most part --

Sally: (cough) With the exception of, like, Sean Bean.

Emily: Yeah, were, like -- weren't super well-known. And, y'know, Sean Bean then gets killed off in the first season. Spoiler alert --

Sally: (simultaneously) Spoiler alert! (laugh)

Emily: If you haven't somehow missed that spoiler for the first season of Game of Thrones. (laugh) Um. So, like, I don't know, maybe you gotta get in one star power --

Sally: Yeah, no.

Emily: To, like, play someone who dies really early.

Sally: I was gonna say the same thing. And Lord of the Rings sort of -- sort of -- took the same approach.

Emily: Yeah, you've got, like --

Sally: Where, like --

Emily: Ian McKellen, and then everyone else is, like, a bunch of weirdos.

Sally: Yeah. Like Elijah Wood.

Emily: Orlando Bloom? That was his first role.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Elijah Wood? That was his first role.

Sally: And so, yeah, I like that approach. I think some, like, unknowns. But, like, good actors.

Emily: Yeah, I like --

Sally: Like, please don't do the Teen Wolf thing, where, like, only Dylan O'Brien is a good actor. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, God. God bless him.

Sally: Um.

Emily: But, like, I just feel like if you are signing on to play Wheel of Time, and if it's good, then that's, like, gonna be the character you're known as --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For forever.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I'm like -- what's that guy's name? He's just Jon Snow, y'know?

Sally: Oh. (pause) Kit Harrington.

Emily: Oh. Yeah, see? I never would've guessed that.

Sally: But yeah, and it's -- what's fun about these franchises, I think, in terms of, like, actors, is they're, like, the franchises that make actors --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Who then go on to do really interesting things. Like, I'm really excited to see what, like, Maisie Williams and Sophie Turner do after Game of Thrones --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 'Cause they're both really amazing actresses. Like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's been fun to see what Daniel Radcliffe does, and Emma Watson, and all these people who came out of Harry Potter, and, like, obviously it was super fun to see what, like, Orlando Bloom --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Went on to do and, like, stuff. So I think that, like, yeah, it would be unfortunate for an already-famous person -- for their career to be warped by Wheel of Time as opposed to, like, Wheel of Time putting them on the trajectory.

Emily: Yeah, and I also think, like, Wheel of Time needs to cast new people primarily because a lot of your main cast is, like, really young --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it would be really good if they could, like, stick to that, in a way. Like, actually casting young people.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, it's really cool that, yeah, Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams got cast young, and now they're grown-ups.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they have their, like, acting -- all these notches on their belt.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, as for, uh, like, various ethnicities, I -- yes?

Sally: Yeah. I think if it didn't happen, I would probably not watch the show.

Emily: Yeah, I think if, uh, they're asking, um, like, particular ethnicities, I'd say, y'know, like, obviously Saldaea has, like, Asian vibes, I guess. Like, in terms of how they, like, describe the characters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And a lot of the Borderlands have very, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. I'd really be interested in having, um, Tear and Illian be, uh, like, brown people. Like Mediterranean brown people.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Greek.

Emily: Yeah. Greek.

Sally: Turkish.

Emily: Turkish, Middle Eastern, et cetera.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. God. I don't think anyone from the Two Rivers should be, like -- I think everyone from the Two Rivers should be ethnically ambiguous except for Rand.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's just, like, here's a white boy, I guess.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. Ethnically ambiguous would be interesting.

Emily: I always think of Arad Doman as, like, people being kind of, like -- like, Indian, a little bit, looking?

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, like, Saldaea has always given me, like, Mongolian or, like, Southeast Asia vibes.

Emily: Yeah. No, yeah, Mongolia's --

Sally: 'Cause they've got the, like, horses?

Emily: Horseback riding, yeah.

Sally: Yeah. And then, like, yeah, Shienar is, I think, pretty heavily influenced by, like, Japan.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: And stuff like that. So it'd be really interesting, especially in a series that, I think, unfortunately, grabs kind of what it wants from Asian culture?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: That, like, to see different Asian countries and cultures and ethnicities portrayed would be -- not, like, it wouldn't redeem that, but at least it would be, like, a good step in doing a little better.

Emily: Yeah, and, like, the Sea Folk are canonically mostly Black --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I think then you might actually be able to do something interesting with the Seanchan, because the Seanchan, canonically, are, like -- don't have -- like, geographically aren't separated --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: By race, y'know? You just get this conglomerate of people.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, like, Tuon's Black --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And everyone else is -- like, Egeanin is white, and just, it's like, there's no -- race has no bearing on --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Your position within the hierarchy or where you're from, really. It just, like, doesn't come up.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, this cool conglomerate of people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So. It'd be interesting.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What's a movie or set of movies we feel should've been a TV show instead?

Sally: Um, I -- this answer is based entirely on a conversation I had with our friend Lee. Uh, so, Lee -- (laugh) I doubt you're listening, but if you are, my sweet angel, this is a shout-out to you - is that I really love the book "Cloud Atlas," and I really love the movie "Cloud Atlas" --

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Even though -- actually, I don't really love the movie "Cloud Atlas," it was just, like, the first movie of that kind that I had seen, and it has a lot of things that appeal to me, like multiple points of view and, like, different timelines and different -- like, a really interesting structure for -- even though I think it did kind of, like, fuck up the book -- the book has a really interesting structure, and it didn't translate in the movie -- but anyway. Lee and I had this conversation about, like, why the movie is good and also really problematic, and then she said the really brilliant thing that, like, the Wachowski sisters were, like, trying to get at something that they then got at in Sense8, when they were given more, like, time to, like, explore how lives interacted --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So -- not saying -- because I love Sense8, I wouldn't give it up for Cloud Atlas, but. I do think that, like, Cloud Atlas would have benefitted from lots of things, including more time.

Emily: Yeah, that's a good -- you right, you right. I don't know what I'd do. Mad Max, maybe?

Sally: That's just 'cause you're a slut for Mad Max.

Emily: I -- I am a big slut for Mad Max, but, like, genuinely, that's a universe I would, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Be interested in seeing expanded upon and, like, the exploration --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of the world ... Like, I'd really like to see, then, Charlize Theron's character, like, go out into the world --

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And go exploring, and see what --

Sally: Yeah, that would be a good one.

Emily: Is out there.

Sally: You're so smart, Emily.

Emily: Not really. Rob says, "What are your favorite songs aside from Tubthumping?" (laugh)

Sally: Um, well, "Work Song" by Hozier --

Emily: Classic.

Sally: Is my ride or die.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Um. "Beekeeper" by Dessa --

Emily: Love Dessa.

Sally: Is one of my faves. Um, in fact, let's pull up -- let's pull up my Spotify.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: I have -- I listen to a lot of music, so.

Emily: I know. I've gotta pull up my musical selection. "Cut to the Feeling" by Carly Rae Jepsen.

Sally: Oh, yeah. Classic.

Emily: Absolute classic.

Sally: Um -- uh, "Secondhand News" by Fleetwood Mac.

Emily: Ooh. Good one.

Sally: Also, "Monday Morning" by Fleetwood Mac is another one of my favorites. Um, this is a stupid answer, and I don't think any of the rest of his music is good, but "In the Air" by Crank Dat, featuring T-Pain is my, like --

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Number one feel-good song. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) My God.

Sally: I really like that song. I'm sorry. (laugh) Um ... "Boy Problems" by Carly Rae Jepsen.

Emily: I know. Carly Rae -- she's just so good.

Sally: Everything by Carly Rae Jepsen, basically.

Emily: Everything from the "Into the Spider-verse" soundtrack --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is incredible.

Sally: Um, I really like "I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues" by Elton John.

Emily: OK.

Sally: That's one of my weird faves. And also "The Longest Time" by Billy Joel is another one of my all-time favorite songs.

Emily: Oh, Billy.

Sally: Um, I've recently gotten into Lizzo, and I'm obsessed with her. "Juice" is an incredible song. I also like "Water Me" and "Boys" and, of course, you know, the classic, "Truth Hurts." Such a good song.

Emily: I love, um, "Which Witch" by Florence + the Machine ...

Sally: (whisper) That's a great one.

Emily: That's a classic. For some reason, I have a lot of Goo Goo Dolls on my --

Sally: Oh, yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And I can't really explain that. I also have a lot of Halsey. I'm a slut for Halsey.

Sally: I do love Halsey. I'll admit it too. I really like "In the Middle" by Dodie. It's a song about a threesome. (laugh)

Emily: Ooh -- oh, yeah, you've shown me that one.

Sally: (laugh) It's a really fun song.

Emily: "Steps" by Handsome Ghost always makes me think of London.

Sally: Oh, that's a good one -- "Gay Pirates" by Cosmo Jarvis.

Emily: Yeah, of course.

Sally: Is an absolute classic. Oh my God, we --

Emily: Otherwise known as “Yo Ho Sebastian.”

Sally: Yeah. We haven’t even gotten to Lady Gaga yet, you guys. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) We’re just scrolling through our music libraries.

Sally: I’m sure this is really fun listening. Um --

Emily: You’re getting all these good music recs, though, so --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Don’t be afraid to embrace what’s happening.

Sally: Um, Lianne La Havis has a really good cover of “Say a Little Prayer for You” or whatever that song is called, and also “What You Don’t Do” is one of my favorite songs -- her songs. It’s really good.

Emily: “Africa” by Toto, obviously.

Sally: Oh my God, Emily. (laugh) Um --

Emily: (laugh) What? It’s legitimately one of my favorite songs.

Sally: No, it’s a good song. It’s just funny. Um, “If I Could Turn Back Time” by Cher is another really one -- another one of my faves.

Emily: Everyone should listen to “Brat Pack” by the Rocket Summer

Sally: Mm. A good one. “Judas” by Lady Gaga is legitimately one of MY favorite songs.

Emily: You do love “Judas” by Lady Gaga.

Sally: I do. (laugh) Oh, also “Teeth” by Lady -- these are my Lady Gaga recommendations.

Emily: OK.

Sally: Judas. Teeth. I think these are all from the Fame Monster -- no, of course not. And then -- ‘cause we haven’t even gotten to Art Pop -- um -- (laugh) Venus on Art Pop is one of my faves. Um, Sexxx Dreams, on Art Pop, is also a really amazing song.

Emily: That is a classic.

Sally: Um -- (laugh) Have you even heard that song?

Emily: I have heard Sexxx Dreams.

Sally: Well, she has driven in a car with me, so I'm --

Emily: Yeah. I've gone on a --

Sally: Sure that she -- (laugh)

Emily: I drove across the country with you. I've heard Lady Gaga's entire discography, I'm sure.

Sally: Yeah. So good. Boys, Boys, Boys is also really good. And Money Honey. Where's my Lady Gaga playlist? Here it is.

Emily: Oh my -- "Where's my Lady Gaga --" (laugh)

Sally: Oh. Bad Romance. A classic. I do like Perfect Illusion a lot. OK. That's it. I'll stop talking about Lady Gaga now.

Emily: Um, Don't Trust Me by 3OH!3.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Tell your boyfriend, if he says he's got beef .."

Sally: "That I'm a vegetarian --"

Emily: "And I ain't fuckin' scared of him." (laugh)

Sally: You bet.

Emily: That's a life-changing --

Sally: It's a -- it did change many lives, mine included.

Emily: Along those lines, Rob also wants to know: "What was the last song you sang aloud to?"

Sally: Oh. What's currently playing? "Juice" by Lizzo was the last song I played. That song is ...

Emily: Uhh. "Semi-Charmed Life" by Third Eye Blind.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: And when I was, like, fifteen, I memorized all the lyrics to that song. It's about crystal meth, but for some reason, I relate to it. (laugh)

Sally: Why not?

Emily: I dunno.

Sally: One of my favorite songs by Hozier is about heroin, so.

Emily: That's true. Hozier, you funky little lesbian.

Sally: I love all Hozier songs, though.

Emily: Uh, Amanda, on Instagram, asked us to "combine your Chinese zodiac and astrology sign to make your true fursona." So that was a deeply disturbing thing, especially 'cause I'm a Libra? So, like, scales?

Sally: Interesting. What's your Chinese zodiac?

Emily: A rooster, I think.

Sally: So you're a rooster on top, balance scales on the bottom? Interesting.

Emily: Doesn't really -- doesn't really make sense.

Sally: You're like a -- you're just, like, a cyborg. Which is cool.

Emily: Sure, yeah. You're a fish --

Sally: I'm a fish-pig ... baby.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I'm a fish-pig, baby."

Sally: You --

Emily: It's the new Dreamworks classic.

Sally: Yeah. Fish-pig. (laugh)

Emily: Fish-pig. The adventures of --

Sally: The adventures of fish-pig. It's like Avatar: The Last Airbender. Y'know? Like platypus-bear.

Emily: "Platypus-bear? No, just a -- just a bear."

Sally: "What?" That's, like, one of my favorite scenes in the whole show.

Emily: Uh, the next one's from Joe.

Sally: OK. Joe! (laugh) I'm really excited for this. Joe writes -- on Twitter, asks: "We just hit this on Twitter, but I have to ask: What specifically does Emily dislike about the Name of the Wind? No judgment. There are definitely parts that I dislike, but overall, I thought it was such a

different story and a lot of fun, so I'm just curious if there is a specific aspect of it or if it just isn't your thing."

Emily: I intentionally didn't think about this beforehand --

Sally: Good.

Emily: So that everything would come off the cuff. You need to time me.

Sally: I am gonna time you --

Emily: You -- give me a time limit.

Sally: You get -- you get two minutes. I'm about to put two minutes on the clock. And you can tell us in a hundred and twenty seconds or less --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Why you hate The Name of the Wind.

Emily: It might be less.

Sally: Alright.

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: Counting you down.

Emily: Kay.

Sally: Three, two, one. Go.

Emily: The main character's name is an unintelligible series of consonants? I don't know why he's fucking named that. It's the stupidest thing. He also has the worst, like, set of tropes for his, like, backstory of, like, "Oh, my parents were wandering people, and then everyone got killed, and I was left alone to, like, do music." Why are protagonists always like, "Here's my guitar"? "It's a magical --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I'm so good at playing the fucking guitar." Anyway, then he, like, lives on the streets like some Dickensian orphan or something, and he, like, gets really good at pickpocketing, but then he goes to magic school, and it's all just, like, a series of, like, him doing really good at shit --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And I'm just not invested in that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I don't care if you're just, like, this guy who is good at everything that he does. Y'know? He literally never fucks up. Literally. Never. Fucks up.

Sally: I don't like that.

Emily: Also, the only male -- female characters that I can think of in the entire series are his mother, who dies early on -- uh, there's a woman who he's, like, obsessed with -- his girlfriend, sort of? This, like, mystical woman who, like, pops in and out of his life -- I don't remember anything about her except she probably has red hair because that seems like something that would happen --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then there's, like, a couple of gals at the magic school who serve no purpose, basically, except to kind of flirt with him on the side. It's very disturbing. Anyway, also the magic system is dumb.

Sally: What is the magic system? You have 37 seconds. What's the magic system?

Emily: I -- I don't need to say anything else. It's just dumb.

Sally: OK. Are you done?

Emily: Ummmm. I don't like that he -- the frame narrative is that he's tending bar and is down on his luck and is like, "I'm so sad. All these bad things have happened to me. Here's the story about how good I was in adolescence." I'm like, I don't care. I just didn't care for any of it. That's the easy answer.

(phone dings)

Sally: OK.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Alright. With nine seconds remaining, that is Emily's answer.

Emily: Augggggghhh.

Sally: It sounds pretty bad. I'll admit it.

Emily: It's like -- I can understand why people like it --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In a sort of, like, conceptual way in that, like, I, as a person, could never like it --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So I'm sort of like a robot, trying to relate to human feelings --

Sally: (laugh) Robots can have their own robot feelings.

Emily: In understanding how people like it.

Sally: You -- if you're a robot, you don't have to have human feelings.

Emily: OK, well my robot feelings are that this book is, like -- it sort of, like, it came out of a machine. In terms of, like, tropes, and just, like, stuff happening.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Like, one after another, of just, like -- it just really bothers me that there's this protagonist who -- every, like, situation he's in, he comes out on top and is kind of, like, smug about it?

Sally: Mm. No.

Emily: He's actually -- he's really smug about it. There's, like, this scene where he, like, doesn't like a teacher, so he's all like, "I could teach this class better than you," and the teacher's like, "OK, well, get up and teach it, then," and then he does, and, like, does a good job. And I'm like, there's nothing -- like, this is just, like, male fantasy, in terms of, like, this is what the type of men who go to college classes and think that they're smarter than everyone else, like, this is what they want to be.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And as someone who has been suffering from that, like, presence of men like that in my life, it's just, like, why would I want to read about more of them?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Men who are just like, "And then I'm good at everything, because I don't know, I have a magic dick, and I'm, like, good at magic."

Sally: I saw your thing on Twitter about how, like, in the second book, he, like, fucks some girl so well that she, like, sees Jesus --

Emily: Not even a -- like, a sex goddess.

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: Like, the version of Aphrodite. He, like, fucks her, and she's like, "You are so good at that. Oh my God." And I read that on Wikipedia and was like, "I guess I'll just drown myself in kerosene now, because what's the point of being alive?"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) You make a valid point. It's the end of times, my friend. Kiss your cats goodbye.

Emily: OK. Anyway, I have, like -- I harbor a lot of hatred, but I, like, try not to, like, let that loose into the world, so. Too often.

Sally: That was your platform for your hate.

Emily: Yeah, that was my platform for my hate. If you do like it, I don't necessarily think less of you. Only if you fit another certain amount of characteristics do I then begin to --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Think less of you.

Sally: You get --

Emily: Are you a man? Mm. Mark against you.

Sally: Sorry.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: Um, you get -- Emily -- like, the annual hatred of women quota we discussed last week, you -- Emily's got a quota for whether or not she hates you, so.

Emily: I just hate, like, people who are, like -- (laugh)

Sally: Full stop. (laugh) We get it, baby.

Emily: I can't go on anymore --

Sally: You're in a safe space. Everyone here hates people too. (laugh)

Emily: Auuugghhh! Anyway, then -- Kaela, then, wants to know why you like Frankenstein so much. She said, "I know Frankenstein is beautiful, but do you want to explain your obsession with it? How does Mary speak to your soul?"

Sally: Um, I also didn't think about this because I -- just trying to let it be emotional, because my connection to the text is, like, predominantly, um, emotional? The best way I can explain it is that, like, Frankenstein just sort of planted itself in my emotional and intellectual architecture, and it has framed the way that I think about the world in a lot of ways. I had the great pleasure of reading Frankenstein by Mary Shelley and Autobiography of Red by Anne Carson within a

couple weeks of each other. And they're both monster narratives; they're both beautifully written. Um, and they were both taught by pretty good professors. One -- Anne Frank -- Anne Caron's -- I almost said Anne Frankenstein -- (laugh) Anne Carson's *Autobiography of Red* was taught by my -- one of my favorite professors, Susannah, and Frankenstein was taught by, um, Andy Franta --

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: Who I know a lot of people had problems with him, but I thought he was a really good professor.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Um, and Frankenstein -- there's just a lot of themes that I really love. Frankenstein's, uh, subtitle is "The Modern Prometheus," and Prometheus is my favorite Greek myth. Um, for, again, reasons I can't really explain, this idea of, like, human daring and this idea that we're sort of challenging the universe and what that means and, um, sort of the balance of hubris and imagination ... like, I think Frankenstein was the first time I really thought about what imagination means and, like, what a gift it is that the human mind can conceive of something that doesn't exist in reality, and, like, our constant striving to make that true, be it through science or fiction or science-fiction or however we seek to alter our reality. That was just, like, a really sort of paradigm shift in my thinking about how creation happens. Um, I also really love the way that Frankenstein is put together; I'm a slut for a good structure, and Frankenstein has a perfect nested frame narrative that you have, um, the Arctic explorer whose name I can't remember -- Arctic -- also, Frankenstein is wild. The fact that, like, a key plot point is Arctic exploration is just, like -- what -- that's insane to me, and I love it. But you have the Arctic -- Arctic explorer, then Frankenstein, then the creature, and then Frankenstein, and then the explorer. So you get this perfect mirror with the creature down the middle. It's perfectly symmetrical, which is in direct opposition to the creature himself, who is horribly disfigured, and that is, like, his whole issue with the world, is that they can't accept how ugly he looks. And I think that sort of juxtaposition is really beautiful and really makes you think about how human bodies -- bodies themselves, human or otherwise -- move through space and move through our society. And, um, I just really love it. I love monsters. I love thinking about the body, how the body is put together. What it means to be a monster, what it means to have a body, what it means to create a body, be it yours or another. So. I dunno. That was a lot. But, I just --

Emily: No, it was so nice.

Sally: I can't really -- I dunno. I know I said a lot of stuff, but I feel like I can't actually put it into words. Like, this book has changed me fundamentally, and I just -- I just think Mary Shelley kicks ass, and the fact that she wrote this basically to tell Lord Byron to go fuck himself is just, like --

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: -- The perfect background, yeah.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: I just -- I just really love it, and it makes me cry.

Emily: I love how much you love it.

Sally: And I just think about it and talk about it way too much.

Emily: It's so nice.

Sally: Constantly. "Emily, have you thought about monsters today?" And she's like, "Please stop talking to me."

Emily: I do think about monsters -- like, my thoughts about monsters have increased by, like, 300 percent --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Since Sally came into my life. (laugh) I hear the word "monster," and I'm like --

Sally: "I must tell Sally about it." Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (inaudible) OK, we've got some quickfire ones.

Sally: Kay.

Emily: Regan asked, uh, who my favorite character is in the Foxhole Court. Andrew. Also Jeremy Knox, who you haven't met yet, but he's the team captain of USC, and he's just so bright and bubbly and everyone's in love with him.

Sally: Jeremy Knox.

Emily: Jeremy Knox. Good for him. Um. Then Robin asks: "What are your thoughts on the Two Rivers tabac trade and its parallels to global capitalist economy?" Easy. I have none. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Do you have thoughts?

Sally: No. (laugh) Except that capitalism is evil.

Emily: Yeah, capitalism is evil.

Sally: And that we should eat the rich.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And that also it's an interesting parallel to Lord of the Rings. I dunno why --

Emily: Yeah, that's my only thought.

Sally: Why we sort of, like, brace our sort of, like, homely down-to-earth in the sale of tobacco or things that you smoke?

Emily: I wonder if it's to do with the American South --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At least, for Robert Jordan, that makes kind of sense to me.

Sally: Yeah. But then I don't -- yeah. Yeah I guess that makes sense.

Emily: 'Cause I think he's from, like, Charleston or something like that?

Sally: Yeah, he's from Charleston, South Carolina.

Emily: Uh, Rick asks, "Do Perrin and Faile stay together in book five?" Which is where he's at the series. "I know it's a spoiler; just tell me." Yes, Rick. Tragically they do.

Sally: They stay together forever.

Emily: Mm-hmm. Peter asks, uh -- "G'day." (laugh) 'Cause he's Australian. Peter, I love you.

Sally: Hi! Yeah, we're obsessed.

Emily: And I apologize for my Crocodile Hunter accent. I know it's offensive.

Sally: (laugh) I forgot about that.

Emily: I just can't help it. I love saying "crikey." Uh, "I know you've mentioned and recommended many books on the podcast, but I wonder if you would consider," uh, "maybe Tweeting --" I guess we'll talk about it here -- "a small number of books or series you would recommend to someone who has primarily read male authors --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: and needs some help seeing worlds of fiction from new perspectives." Um, Nnedi Okorafor --

Sally: Yeah, that was gonna be my first one too.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Who Fears Death is a really good one for that.

Emily: Who Fears Death is, like, very good and also incredibly intense --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So if you want to, like, ease into it a little more, she also has a YA series, uh, called --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Akata Warrior is the first one? Or is it Akata Witch?

Sally: Yeah. I think Akata Witch is the first one, and then Akata Warrior. All of her work is really good.

Emily: Yeah, but it's about a Nigerian girl who kind of discovers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She has, like, super powers, magic powers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is really interesting.

Sally: That one's fun.

Emily: Umm. This is sort of a cliché, but honestly, if you read anything in the Rick Riordan Presents --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Series? He's putting forth, like, a lot of diverse authors and honestly, children's fiction is doing more to promote, uh, diverse voices --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And cultures than a lot of other genres these days, so.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That'll help, like -- learn all about Indian mythology and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What it is like to be a little Indian girl in --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is she in South Carolina?

Sally: I think she's in Georgia.

Emily: Something like that.

Sally: Um, kind of another cliché one, but Octavia Butler --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Sort of, like, a canonical voice, um, against -- she's in the, like, science and -- science fiction and fantasy canon, but she also has done a lot of work to make that more interesting, I would say.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Um, she's really good. Uh --

Emily: J.Y. Yang --

Sally: Ooh.

Emily: Has produced, uh, a series of, like, novellas, so they're a really quick read, and also, uh, I dunno, J.Y. Yang just has, like, this incredible perspective both on, like, uh, Asian, uh, cultures as well as, like, what it means to be trans or non-binary and, like, how you can incorporate that into fantasy worlds.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, gender identity and stuff like that?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So that one's really cool.

Sally: Um, this is not fiction, but *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay --

Emily: Yeah, that's a must-read, just for everyone.

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause she both, like -- I think that book was pretty fundamental in my feminist thinking. Um, 'cause Roxane Gay does not pull her punches, which is --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Good for her. And she also does write about a significant amount of fiction in that book, which is just sort of a training for how you should be thinking about the media that you're consuming. Oh, Ruth Ozeki -- is that her name? *A Tale for the Time Being*?

Emily: (distant) Yeah, she's incredible.

Sally: That's a really good one. A Tale for the Time Being is amazing in every conceivable way.

Emily: (distant) Mm-hmm.

Sally: Emily's taking a gander through our bookshelf.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I'm trying to think ... um, I have not read this book, but, um, The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin is another one --

Emily: Yeah, everyone says that's really good.

Sally: That's put in this, um, realm.

Emily: Uh, anything by Jesmyn Ward. That's not necessarily, um, fantasy or anything like that, and it's not even necessarily fiction. She has a memoir. But that'll just, like, broaden your world --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a really interesting way. She writes about the rural South and what it is to be Black in the rural South.

Sally: Mm-hmm. I'm trying to think of more global stuff. I have a tragic lack in --

Emily: I know, me too.

Sally: Um. Uh, what is her name? Chimimanda Adichie --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: Who wrote Americanah, famously. I don't -- I've read two of her books. I think Purple Hibiscus is more interesting than Americanah, but Americanah is also very interesting. Um. She's Nigerian. Um, if you're -- like, anything Angie Thomas writes. The Hate U Give is a really great way to understand race politics in America, if that's something anybody's interested in. I also really am obsessed with her. I'm gonna go look at my bookshelf in my room real quick. I feel like there's something key that I'm missing. Um, this is also not fiction, but Samantha Irby is an essayist who -- I think her books are really good at talking about -- I mean, I don't -- this is not just "I think," it is a fact -- talking about disability and chronic illness and fatness and queerness and Blackness, um, and I love her, and she's hilarious. So. I would also recommend that. There's Meaty and then We Are Never Meeting in Real Life are her -- she might have one more, but I'm not sure.

Emily: Yeah, so that's kind of your quick and dirty guide to --

Sally: What we think is --

Emily: Expanding your worldview a little bit? How we have?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We're not --

Sally: Yeah. We're definitely not the end of that --

Emily: We're not finished, yeah.

Sally: Conversation. Still learning and unlearning, as --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Gloria Steinem once put it.

Emily: Uh, Rob asked, "Has Ben Affleck ever had a good role?"

Sally: No.

Emily: Yeah, I have now scrolled through his IMDb page, and I can confirm: no, he has not. Uh, Rob asked, "If you could combine two creatures into the perfect Shadowspawn, what would they be?"

Sally: Pig-fish.

Emily: Oh, God, you're so right.

Sally: Fish-pig.

Emily: There is, in the Shadowspawn, a surprising lack of, like, bird -- like, water --

Sally: Yeah. Birds. Oh my God.

Emily: Or creatures. They do have the Draghkar --

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: Who can fly, like, a little bit. But it's like, I want something that will attack from the sea. I want, like --

Sally: Yeah, give me, like, a Loch Ness monster.

Emily: Ooh. Yeah.

Sally: Or, like, a shark.

Emily: Give me Nessie. And -- ooh! A shark! Yes.

Sally: Little shark boy.

Emily: Trolloc sharks. 'Cause -- I mean -- ah, I guess they don't have to be Trollocs. Trollocs are, like, human-animal hybrids. I don't know what anything else is, in terms of Shadowspawn.

Sally: Like Street Sharks. Did you guys watch that show?

Emily: What?

Sally: I think it was Street Sharks. It was Biker Mice from Mars and Street Sharks are --

Emily: I can't go down the Biker Mice from Mars wormhole with you --

Sally: (laugh) Not again!

Emily: Not again.

Sally: Please, Sally. We can't keep doing this. (laugh)

Emily: We cannot keep doing it.

Sally: But it'll be fun. Then Larry can have a friend who's a Trolloc shark, who can -- who's amphibious, who can be on land or in the water. And he's like, "Yeet, yeet, motherfucker."
(laugh)

Emily: (laugh) OK. Uh, we have one last question that we will, uh, maybe use as our wrap-up like our sign-off.

Sally: OK.

Emily: It came in a long time ago from Fran. But first, let us just say, thanks for listening. Sorry this is a weird episode, but we'll be back next week with a Mat chapter as he kicks Gawyn and Galad's asses. It is very good.

Sally: It's pretty much a spiritual and sexual experience.

Emily: Yeah, we'll be having, like --

Sally: Come prepared.

Emily: We will reach enlightenment during that episode --

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And so will you, so that's sort of what we're advertising.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um -- (laugh) Follow us on Twitter, Insta, Tumblr, whatever.

Sally: Check out our website.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Recommend our podcast. Rate and review our podcast on iTunes --

Emily: Yeah, that helps us a lot.

Sally: If that's where you listen. It really -- like, I know it's, like, a hokey thing, but it really does help with visibility and stuff like that, so.

Emily: OK, Fran asked, "In the event of a Randland democracy, do you think Rand, as the dragon-themed messy icon of the Wheel of Time series, should be able to vote?"

Sally: No.

Emily: No. (laugh)

Sally: No, I don't.

Emily: Goodbye.

Sally: (laugh)