



Episode 62 -- **“One and a Half Idiots”**

Release Date: April 15, 2019

Running Time: 47 Minutes

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 Glynn MacKenzie plays)

Sally: Um, the question ... this is me eating crow because I am a full idiot, and so --

Emily: You're eating what?

Sally: Eating crow.

Emily: What?

Sally: You've never heard that? It's like eating shit, basically.

Emily: Whaaaaat?

Sally: It's like when you've done something wrong.

Emily: I've never heard that phrase in my entire life.

Sally: I'm gonna read -- eat -- eating crow.

Emily: Is it a Southern thing? Do you suppose?

Sally: "Eating crow is a colloquial idiom used in some English-speaking countries that means humiliation by admitting having been proven wrong after taking a strong position." OK, so this doesn't totally apply.

Emily: It -- I -- what in the world, though. I'm so confused. The poor crow. Anyway.

Sally: "Eating crow is of a family of idioms having to do with eating and being proven incorrect, such as to eat dirt and to eat your hat or shoe, all probably originating from to eat one's words."

Emily: (distant) I know about eating your hat!

Sally: I've never heard "eat my hat."

Emily: Well, like, "Or I'll eat my hat," y'know? Or "I'll eat my shoes."

Sally: I've heard "I'll eat my shoe." I don't think I've ever heard "I'll eat my hat."

Emily: Maybe I've heard it, like, in terms of Indiana Jones and Mat Cauthon.

Sally: Kay, this is me apologizing for being a full idiot. I'm really sorry.

Emily: You're not.

Sally: I am a full idiot. It's OK.

Emily: (snort)

Sally: Um, Mistwraiths, who is the best, on Tumblr, asked, "For last week's Q&A, which I missed: What was for you the most disappointing part of the series or, alternatively, which made you furious?"

Emily: Umm. Well, I'm interested to hear what your answer is thus far. 'Cause you're in book seven -- eight --

Sally: Seven.

Emily: Well, you're done with book seven.

Sally: I finished book seven.

Emily: You're in book eight.

Sally: I don't have the strength yet to read book eight.

Emily: That's 'cause book eight is a hell hole.

Sally: It's because I can't get through the Mistborn series.

Emily: Well, yeah, that's relatable.

Sally: Because I really hate it.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So -- but I'm like this, so I can't read anything else until I finish it. Um, for me, the most disappointing part has been ... many things. I think the arcs of most female characters have been incredibly disappointing. Um, when I first started doing this podcast, I'd only read three books, and things were going OK, and a lot of people on the internet and -- not just on the internet and also in my real life -- who had read Wheel of Time were like, "Oh, you're gonna love it, 'cause all the female characters are really great," and, like, I just think they all get kind of handed a disappointing lot.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: I also find -- I was also really disappointed in the turn that Perrin's character took, 'cause I really liked him at the beginning.

Emily: Yeah. That's upsetting. Round about book four. He's like, "And now I'm monogamy boy," and it's like, Oh, well, you could have been hammer boy, but --

Sally: Yeah, instead --

Emily: I guess we lost that chance.

Sally: Instead you're angst boy.

Emily: Yeah, instead you're wife boy. Or something. I don't -- that's not to say you can't have a wife. You can have a wife. Like, obviously.

Sally: And be interesting, but --

Emily: And still be a cool person and everything, but sometimes people get married and just, like, become their relationship with their spouse?

Sally: Very annoying.

Emily: And it's like, the secret to having a good relationship is being your own people outside of your relationship.

Sally: Very nice.

Emily: That's a fun hint from me, a person who's never been in a relationship. (laugh) Um. I hate Gawyn, and I hate that he ends up with Egwene --

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Like, especially just everything that happens with them in the last couple books -- it's just incredibly annoying. Um, let's see. Uh, everything that happens to Mat's character in books twelve and thirteen really make me angry, mostly because there's just like a fundamental misunderstanding of his character at work there, and it just, like, really depresses me --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That some people could read him in that way. It's like, oh. So ... um, but there's -- I mean, there's a lot of things to be disappointed about in Wheel of Time. Like, you can have lots of really good expectations, but it just disappoints you in a lot of ways.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, I see red every time a man on the internet tries to explain to me that what happened to Mat isn't rape. Like --

Sally: Ugh. Again, you owe us fifteen dollars every time you say that.

Emily: Yeah. It's reparations.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Hope that answers your question, Mistwraiths? I'd be interested in what yours is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I know everyone has one. Or two or nine, like us.

Sally: We need to buy Carly Rae Jepsen tickets.

Emily: Oh, yeah. Fuck, we do. OK, anyway --

Sally: Pause the podcast!

Emily: (laugh) Pause the podcast. OK, we're back. This is Everybody Hates Rand.

Sally: Proud owners of two Carly Rae Jepsen tickets.

Emily: Yeah. And your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. Proud survivors of a Hozier concert, where we had to stand next to drunk people --

Sally: I got punched in the back.

Emily: Which was fucking ridiculous, because -- a Hozier concert?

Sally: I know.

Emily: Really? That's where you're going to take your drunken slovenliness?

Sally: (laugh) I told Melissa about what happened -- Melissa is my sister-in-law -- and she was like, "At the HOZIER concert?" Like, she was filled with so much rage. (laugh)

Emily: I know, he's just, like, singing, like, Take Me to Church or whatever --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The fuck, and someone's like -- (imitating drunken singing and cheering)

Sally: I know, there was a lot of yelling, which was unfortunate.

Emily: Just, like, calm down. It's Hozier.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh! For -- I forgot. I'm Emily Juchau. (laugh)

Sally: Oh, yeah. And I'm the other one.

Emily: (laugh) You've gotta stop doing this.

Sally: (laugh) I know. Or they don't, and that's fine too.

Emily: No, it's not.

Sally: Yes, it is. I'm not important.

Emily: Yes, you are.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Can you imagine if I was doing this podcast by myself? Just talking? That'd be --

Sally: About the Wheel of Time? I feel like you're funny --

Emily: No, that'd be literally terrible.

Sally: Enough.

Emily: I am not.

Sally: You are.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: My mom wants to do a podcast. Guys, would you listen to my mom's podcast about places -- (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: I can't even say it.

Emily: You have to get through it.

Sally: My mom wants to do a podcast called Places I've Peed -- (laugh) where she talks about various places --

Emily: I think my mom should guest star.

Sally: In her life where she's gone to the bathroom. And I think it'd be pretty funny, 'cause my mom has lived a pretty wild life.

Emily: She has, that's --

Sally: So anyway --

Emily: An understatement, actually.

Sally: This is -- I'm doing some crowd-sourcing for my mom. Would you or would you not listen to the podcast Places I've Peed? (laugh) Let me know.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: You can tweet me @Sally_Goodger. (laugh)

Emily: OK, fuck.

Sally: See, Emily was like, "We're only talking about one chapter. I don't know if we'll have enough to say." And I was like, I always have --

Emily: That's why I took goddamn notes.

Sally: Things to say. I'm an idiot. I'm a full idiot.

Emily: Half idiot?

Sally: Full idiot.

Emily: I'm half idiot.

Sally: Yeah, we're one and a half idiots. (laugh)

Emily: Out of two people?

Sally: Yeah, one and a half idiots out of two people.

Emily: I think a nicer way to say that is, like, the brain cell math thing.

Sally: Just one and a half idiots.

Emily: You know, like, we have three brain cells among us.

Sally: And Emily has all of them.

Emily: No. And I --

Sally: Yes. Emily brushed our cat today. It was very nice of her.

Emily: He is so mean about it. I'm like, hello, I'm trying to keep you healthy, you dumbass.

Sally: Well, he doesn't deserve it.

Emily: He really doesn't. He yelled at us at 5:30 a.m. this morning -- and earlier, possibly.

Sally: Oh, yeah, I woke up -- I didn't sleep basically at all last night 'cause he kept waking me up.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: First by biting me, then by yelling, then by biting me, then by just sitting on my head.

Emily: Like, what -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) At one point, I woke up, and he was just, like, on my forehead. It was very bizarre.

Emily: Like, what's the deal? I was like, "What do you want?" Like, I woke up -- I legitimately thought this -- I woke up at 5:30 anyway and was like, "Maybe Sally's dead, and he's trying to tell me."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I legitimately was like, "Maybe this is one of those situations where finally an animal proves its worth. Like, Sally's having a -- a medical emergency, and I need to save her." But no - - then I saw him and I was like, "No, he's just stupid." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) OK, anyway. That's Tybalt news.

Emily: OK, speaking of medical emergencies -- Mat Cauthon. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Wakes up and is like, "How the fuck am I gonna get out of this -- still?" And he gets out of bed, and he looks in the mirror, and he puts on his make-up -- (laugh)

Sally: (singing) "Every morning I wake up --"

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: (singing) "Before I put on my make-up. I say a little prayer for Mat."

Emily: Um, and he's like, "Oh, damn, I already look better." This is while he has half a slice of ham in his mouth, by the way.

Sally: Hero.

Emily: Because that's who he is as a person. So he eats all this food, and he gets dressed, and he's like, "I'm just gonna go, y'know, scouting."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause he really wants to test the boundaries of, like -- Sivan was like, "You are not going to be able to leave at all," and he's like, "OK, well, try me, bitch."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And because he's, like, a little lunatic, he's like, "I'll just take my dice cups with me because then if I get out, like, I'll be able to buy myself new clothes." Which is such a fascinating viewpoint from someone who has not yet proven themselves to have an endless supply of luck.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, he's just, like, a normal gambler in his mind at this point. Like, what makes him so confident? Or is he just, like, a gambling addict, and that ...

Sally: By the age of, like, nineteen?

Emily: I know, he's such a little lunatic.

Sally: Where did he even learn how to gamble?

Emily: Literally, in the last two books, apparently.

Sally: From who? Moiraine? (laugh)

Emily: The first time we see him gambling is with, like, Shienaran soldiers.

Sally: Oh, so it's Uno's fault.

Emily: That's probably true. I would like to blame Uno for Mat's gambling addiction.

Sally: Did you guys know I one time won 87 dollars on the quarter slots in Las Vegas?

Emily: That's really cool.

Sally: Yeah, it was cool. I had a Sex on the Beach, which is actually a pretty good drink.

Emily: Ah.

Sally: And it's free. At Vegas, the drinks on the floor are free. But you should still tip your server. They want you to get drunk so you spend all your money gambling.

Emily: That makes sense, yeah.

Sally: It's the same logic behind nonprofit fundraising galas. You go, you bring rich people, you give them a lot of alcohol, and they spend money. Which is why nonprofits are not always as good as you want to think they are.

Emily: The only time I've been in a Las Vegas casino is when I was dropping off my sisters to go to a Celine Dion concert. Then I went down the street to watch a movie.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: It was Batman. I'm sorry. (laugh) I hated it.

Sally: OK, staying on topic. I'm sorry. I'm a little, um, bit the worst today.

Emily: No, you're fine.

Sally: In a bad headspace, and I physically feel like I've been hit by six trucks, so.

Emily: I'm sorry. After this, we can rest and relax.

Sally: After this, I might throw up.

Emily: Um, then he's, like, wandering around out of the Tower, and he just goes down, finds the barracks immediately, and starts, like, chatting up the soldiers -- like, trying to figure out, you know, what the deal is with the restrictions on him. And he's talking to, like, someone who's on the bridge guard, and he's like, "What are the conditions on the other side of the river?" and the guy's like, "I dunno, they're kinda muddy, but either way, you're not getting out of here, 'cause you're Mat Cauthon."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Mat's like, "Excuse me?" And he's like, "Yeah, an Aes Sedai came down and was like, 'Be on the look-out for this boy. He's tall, he's lanky. He looks like he hasn't eaten in nine weeks. Got an impish look on his face.'"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "'He'll probably try and con you.'" Which is exactly what the soldier says --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He's like, "I don't know why they were trying to, like, keep you out of -- like, why they're trying to keep you in the city, like, did you steal something?" And Mat's like, "No, I'm not a thief," and the guy's like, "Yeah, you don't really look like a thief. You look like someone who would con someone else." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "Well, that's a fair assessment, so fuck you."

Sally: Yeah, first of all: you're right. Second of all --

Emily: First of all, you're right.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, then he just keeps wandering. He runs into who he thinks is Else Grinwell, the horny farm girl from two books prior. (laugh)

Sally: Good for her.

Emily: I know. Honestly. She's just, like, really randy for Rand.

Sally: Oh my God. I can't with the word "randy" for horny.

Emily: I couldn't either. That was the first time I've used it --

Sally: It was funny.

Emily: 'Cause of the wordplay.

Sally: It was funny. Randy for Rand. I'm sorry I ruined your joke by how uncomfortable that word makes me.

Emily: It is a very uncomfortable --

Sally: Just say horny.

Emily: Word. Horny. I --

Sally: What's wrong with horny?

Emily: Already did. It was -- I didn't want to repeat myself. OK, so. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Only, Else Grinwell's like, "What are YOU doing out and about?" and Mat's like, "Um, I'm just out here? Like, do you remember me? How -- how's it going?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And she's like, "Get away from me. Go -- like, stand in the dirt on the other side of the path while I move past you," and he's like, "OK?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And he does, and anyway, that was Lanfear in disguise. (laugh) Or something. I don't know. I just, like --

Sally: I just always thought it was Else and she was being, just, a bitch.

Emily: Which would be amazing.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But I think it, like, comes out later that it was Lanfear.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: But also that, like, brings up the question of where the actual Else Grinwell is. Like, did she actually go to the Tower? I'm a little bit confused about that.

Sally: Is she dead?

Emily: Is she -- is she dead? I guess she is at the Tower 'cause, um, like, in the last book, Elayne was like, "Oh, yeah, two other girls here know Rand. There's Min and this girl named Else Grinwell who's kinda stupid." And Egwene was like, "Oh, cool," and then they never actually talked to Else.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So ... I assume that was actually Else, but honestly, could've been Lanfear. Obsessed with Rand, a little bit stupid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Both of those characteristics match with her as well. Anyway, then Mat walks along to the sparring yards, and he, like, quickly deduces that it is Warders and Warders-in-training.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he, like, notices that a bunch of ladies, like Aes Sedai and Accepted, are watching one particular -- (laugh) uh, pair of sparring students, and Mat is just like, "OK, whatever." Sits down and starts to juggle because he's a lunatic.

Sally: I know, he just picks up some rocks and starts juggling.

Emily: It's, like, a very ADHD thing to do. Like, you sit down and you immediately have to occupy your hands.

Sally: Yeah, your hands.

Emily: You're, like, braiding grass. Whatever.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Anyway, so he's sitting there, and he's kinda like, "I'm not tired exactly, but it's nice to be sitting down. Like, I'm getting -- like, walking is starting to be a pain." Then he, like, looks at them, and he's like, "Oh." Like, "Fuck me if that isn't Gawyn and Galad, who Elayne won't shut up about."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And she's like, "Gawyn's perfect, and Galad's the devil." And Mat is like, "In my own personal assessment, Gawyn sounds like a normal guy, and Galad sounds like a decent guy --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "But he is very pretty." (laugh) Which is, like, big gay energy. Good for you, Mat.

Sally: Yeah. Although there is some unfortunate forced heterosexuality later in the chapter, where Mat and Gawyn are like, "We just don't GET why he's always being fawned over."

Emily: Oh, I -- like the teacher's like, "He's not THAT handsome," and Mat's like, "No, he's not," and Gawyn's like, "OK, you guys. I've lived with him. I know he's that handsome."

Sally: "I know. Listen. I know."

Emily: Anyway. Um, like, that line would be so much -- would, like, fit if you changed it just slightly for, like, the teacher to be, like, doing a heterosexuality bit and Mat to be, like, forcing down his feelings of, like, attraction.

Sally: be like, "Yes. He's not handsome."

Emily: Mat's like, "No. He's not." The way I'm like -- who do I think is a -- who's a man who's attractive? ... Like, if I were to be like, "Thor? Not that good-looking."

Sally: Chris Hemsworth is always your go-to.

Emily: 'Cause he's the only man I ...

Sally: I find -- I find that very interesting. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He's, like -- he --

Sally: I just need to do, like, a case-study of this.

Emily: It's, like -- (laugh) Here's what happens in my brain --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's like there's a Google search, like --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Searching for attractive men," and it's like --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Fill in the, like, attractive man qualities," and then I, like, latch onto that scene of Chris Hemsworth in Ghostbusters where he, like, pushes his glasses back up -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: By sticking his eyes -- his fingers through the lenses.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, "Yeah. I find that attractive." (laugh)

Sally: Emily does love 'em big and stupid.

Emily: That's -- yeah, my ideal type of man. Women ...

Sally: Maybe small and stupid.

Emily: I do actually prefer small and stupid.

Sally: Small and stupid men, large and very intelligent women. (laugh)

Emily: If I actually met Chris Hemsworth, I don't think I'd really be attracted to him in person. I just like who he is in Thor ... So basically --

Sally: So just Thor. Is --

Emily: Basically, I like Thor, OK?! You caught me. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Fuck! Anyway, then Mat's just sitting there, and Gawyn and Galad stop and come over to him and are like, "Oh, hey, you're Mat," and he's like, "Yep. 'Tis I. Everyone fucking knows who I am, I guess." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Correct."

Emily: They're like, "Yeah, Elayne told us all about you." (laugh) Mat has this funny moment where he's like, "Am I supposed to call Gawyn 'My Lord'?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "I don't call Elayne anything, so I'm not gonna do her brother any better." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "fuck you."

Sally: Which was so good.

Emily: Nobility.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And he's just chatting with them. Like, Gawyn, of course, is like, "How's your good friend Rand?" And Mat's like, "Uhhhhhh." Like --

Sally: "Last I heard."

Emily: "Last I heard, he's fine, but let's not go on a witch hunt for my former best friend right now."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And sort of, like, to distract them, is, like asking them about swords and whatever, and they're like -- actually, I can't remember now what actually happens -- but basically he's like, um, "Yeah, I don't do swords, but, like, quarterstaffs are pretty good. Like, I'd probably be able, to, like --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Take -- do fairly well against one of you." And they're like, "Mmmmmph. You stupid peasant." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "You absolute ninny." And Mat's like, "Um? No, really." Like --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He just gets mad immediately --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is like, "OK, I'll bet you --" (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It's funny 'cause he has this monologue --

Emily: Hilarious monologue --

Sally: Where he's like, "Maybe it's because all these women are looking at him, or maybe it's because I've just not won anything." He's like, "No, I just think it would be funny." (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "I just think it would be hilarious."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Gawyn's like, "I cannot take your money," and Mat's like -- (snort)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Won't be a problem."

Sally: Yeah. Both Gawyn and Galad are like, "But you're so sickly. It just wouldn't even be fair."

Emily: It's, like, a very charming sequence, 'cause I was reading it this time, and I was like -- many other writers and characters, this would be a huge turn-off for me.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, this idea of, like, "I'm just going to challenge someone to something --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That's kind of -- you know, way outside the realm of possibility, and then, wow, I'm gonna win." Y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's the exact quality I hate in the dude from "The Name of the Wind."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But with Mat, there's, like, this element of, A) He's not, like, actually just bragging; he's not, right off the bat, like, "I could take both of you at once."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Yeah, if you got me a quarterstaff, I could probably, like, fight one of you." He doesn't -- he's not even like, "I would win."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's just like, "I'd do pretty well." And it's only when they're like, "Um, excuse me? Kiss my boots?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That he's like, "OK."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Fuck everyone."

Sally: It's a very, like, Robin Hood going to the archery kind of thing, you know?

Emily: Well, speaking of!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Did you read my notes?

Sally: No, I just know that that's where you always go.

Emily: 'Cause of Robin Hood. Listen. Since we are only reading one chapter today, I did some research on Wikipedia today while I was at work, 'cause I was incredibly bored. (laugh)

Sally: You could come do my job.

Emily: I would love to.

Sally: No, you wouldn't.

Emily: Well, I'd like to hang out with the birds and Gethin.

Sally: I have a fun Gethin story --

Emily: Ooh, OK.

Sally: But we don't need to have Gethin news every week on the podcast.

Emily: I want to hear about it -- anymore. OK, anyway, so a lot of my research, I said, is Wikipedia, but also, everyone should read, um, the Thirteenth Depository's essay about Mat's character parallels. They do -- they do that with all of the major characters, but Mat's was particularly informative for this one. So, obviously Mat's got Robin Hood parallels. Um, Robin Hood, for the record, first appears in ballads -- ballads?

Sally: Ballads? (laugh)

Emily: Ballads. It's 'cause I still have Galad in my head.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In ballads in the thirteen -- the fifteenth century. If he was a historic figure, it was probably in the thirteenth century. And they've actually identified, like, eight different people who he could have been.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: 'Cause, like, Robin was a really, like, common name in those days --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, it wasn't that odd to have a dude who was, like, an outlaw. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Or, like, was like, "Fuck the rich," y'know? Um. And it's weird, 'cause his, like, whole legend has changed over the years. In the -- like, his earliest versions, he's definitely, like, a poor person or part of the middle class. He was actually probably, like, a yeoman, which is, like, its own class in medieval England of, like, a woodsperson -- like, someone who lived in the forest and, like, cared for the, uh, king's property type of stuff.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Um, but in the earliest stories, he has, like -- (laugh) He's known for his archery, obviously, like he's this really amazing archer. He's anti-cleric, which is just, like, fuck the -- um, fuck the religious as well. And he's also known for his quote unquote special regard for women. Which is like, what could that possibly mean? Dunno. It could mean he's chivalrous in, like, a certain way.

Sally: Or it could mean he's real slutty.

Emily: It sounds like he's real slutty.

Sally: (laugh) Good for you, Robin Hood.

Emily: I dunno. Good for you, Robin Hood. Anyway, the whole thing has, like, changed over the years. Nowadays, like, there's a lot of -- like, over the last century or so, people have kind of tilted toward, "Oh, maybe he was actually, like, a member of the nobility and, like, was in the Crusades and then came back and decided to fight for the poor on behalf of King Richard while Prince John was trying to usurp King Richard, um, while King Richard was being kidnapped." (laugh) Which was a thing that happened.

Sally: Dang.

Emily: English history is wack. Yeah, he got --

Sally: What happened to King Richard?

Emily: He got kidnapped coming back from the Crusades, and they were like, "We're holding you for ransom," and England was like, "We don't even want him that much." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "But the alternative is his, like, terrible younger brother --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So fine. We'll pay it."

Sally: (laugh) "Fiscally speaking, that would be ideal."

Emily: Yeah, "Fiscally speaking, you can keep him. We don't even like that." Anyway. Um, and sort of also in, like, the last century -- maybe in the last two centuries -- it's become kind of a thing of, like, he's not just -- it's not just a classism thing in terms of lower class against the upper class. It's, like, Saxons against the Normans.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: The Saxons were the -- not even the aboriginal, like, group in England, but they were more aboriginal than the Normans, who invaded in the, um, twelfth century and were oppressors, of course, as every invading force is. Um, that's particularly in Ivanhoe. Um, yeah. Ivanhoe is all about Saxons versus the Normans. It's very odd.

Sally: I've never read Ivanhoe. I also had no idea what it was about.

Emily: It's about a dude who's, like, a knight.

Sally: I thought it took place in America. So.

Emily: Oh! No, it's about a guy who's a knight, and he actually comes back from the Crusades and, like, falls in love with this girl named Rebecca, who's Jewish, um, and he, like -- there's, like, lots of little tournaments with, like, jousting and stuff. Robin Hood makes an appearance.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Rebecca is gonna get burned at the stake at one point for being a witch, but then I think some -- someone saves her. And there's a creepy guy. That's the extent of my memory of Ivanhoe. You're welcome. I watched the BBC miniseries while I was in high school. I don't know why. Just really fuckin' loved swords. Anyway. Um. (laugh) Fun fact: in 1953, the state of Indiana banned Robin Hood from text books because they were like, "He's promoting communism."

Sally: Hell fucking yeah he is.

Emily: (laugh) Isn't that wild?

Sally: That's amazing.

Emily: The McCarthy era was buck wild.

Sally: I -- yeah. The Red Scare in the United States -- (laugh) was bonkers.

Emily: Yeah, anyway, everyone is still obsessed with Robin Hood, which is really interesting. Disney, like, made him a sexy fox, and in Ivanhoe, he's basically like a hero of the Horn in terms of, like, he's already taken on this mythical quality within the bounds of Ivanhoe, so when he appears, it's like, "Oh, it's Robin Hood." Y'know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, people know who he is, and it's sort of, like, a nod to the reader, who definitely knows who he is. And then kind of, like, more recent iterations have had him just be, like, this sufferer of PTSD, like, coming back from the Crusades. Like, that's the Russell Crowe version and the BBC version. I'm well-versed in Robin Hoods. Haven't seen the most recent one, though, 'cause I heard it's basically the Dark Knight but Robin Hood. And I was, like, not into that.

Sally: The one with that kid from the Kingsmen?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Who I --

Emily: Hate? Yeah, me too.

Sally: The Kingsmen was such a terrible movie. I'll fight anyone on that.

Emily: Anyway, the best iteration of Robin Hood, hands down, is Robin McKinley's version, of course. She's my mom. But she wrote a book called "The Outlaws of Sherwood," in which Robin is just, like, anxiety™. And that's very relatable. Anyway, everyone likes Robin Hood because he's, like, this, uh, folk hero in terms of being a symbol of the, uh, lower class fighting against the upper class, which is exactly what's happening here with Mat and continues to happen with Mat throughout the rest of the series? He's just, like, anti-nobility, anti-nobility, anti-nobility throughout his entire arc, which, like, kind of makes sense because the first nobility he met was Elayne. So, like --

Sally: Who wouldn't be?

Emily: Who wouldn't be, y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You'd be like, "Yeah, fuck all of them. Get out -- get out the guillotine."

Sally: Which does make me kind of sad that Mat is then forced into the nobility in a variety of ways, first being forced to live in the palace in Ebou Dar --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And then through his marriage into the Seanchan nobility. It's just, like, why couldn't he have just had, like, a cute little farm wife.

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, one of those things that -- um, it becomes -- like, that part of Mat's, like, character archetype merges with other character archetypes because of, like -- he, like, had to end up in a position to, like, get the world back on-track and so, like, marrying back into the nobility, I guess, was the best way Robert Jordan could come up with that. But I don't know. I think he should've, like, pulled some sort of loophole to make Mat still a farm boy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Even if his wife is, like, the Empress of an Empire or whatever. Y'know? Just, like, let Mat be.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Let him not be the nobility.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Although having a noble love interest is also common with Robin Hood. Maid Marian. Um.

Sally: Also a sexy fox.

Emily: Also a sexy fox. Or just sexy, period, in the BBC Robin Hood. I think she's so cute, and I love her a lot. Um. And in Robin McKinley's Robin Hood, she's also very good, and she's actually the one who goes to the archery contest --

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Disguised as Robin Hood. And is like --

Sally: (laugh) "I'll be shootin' for me own hand!"

Emily: "I'll be shootin' for me own hand." Anyway, the whole notion of, like, culture heroes is something that Mat embodies in terms of -- uh, the most obvious ones are, like, Prometheus -- like, in terms of, uh, championing -- being the champion for, like, um, I dunno, the, like, majority of people.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Men. There's also the idea that Mat invents cannons --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, like, that's sort of quote unquote fire.

Sally: Steals fire.

Emily: Yeah, and they're, like -- the Prometheus thing goes on. Perrin has a dream of Mat where he's, like, naked and bound to a rock.

Sally: What the fuck?

Emily: Which is really creepy. Yeah. And, uh, Rand, one of whom's parallels is Heracles, saves Mat from death twice.

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: So. Just, like, fun little Prometheus facts. Mat also, um, is a parallel to Br'er Rabbit, who appears in the -- I guess a lot of people would know it if you've been on Splash Mountain?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But, like, the -- (laugh) 'cause Disney was like, "Sure, we'll just continue to have our incredibly racist movie The Song of the South as part of our Disneyland ride." My family doesn't understand why that's my least favorite ride. And I'm like, "I can't handle the storytelling." Anyway, Br'er Rabbit is like, um, the, uh, symbol in, uh -- in African-American stories, like within American slavery, Br'er Rabbit was, like, the culture hero who, like, constantly outwitted Br'er Fox -- uh, Br'er Fox and Br'er, um, Bear, who were, like,

representatives of, like, white men. And just, like, you use your wits instead of, like, brawn to defeat them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Stuff like that. And also, like, uh, C-Coyote's a Native American symbol for tons of different Native American tribes, especially the Navajo, though he's kind of, like -- and it varies whether he's, like, evil or a good guy, but either way, he's kind of a trickster and usually has a hand in, like, presenting humans with some form of, like, technology or life or, like, having a hand in their creation.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And ... what the fuck else is on my notes? Oh, yeah, Reynard the Fox. There's a whole, like, cycle of Reynard the Fox, and that's all about, uh, like, the peasantry in medieval Europe, and he's, like, the hero of the peasantry. So what I'm saying is Mat has a lot of character parallels with, like, uh, actual myths and folklore, and it's just really interesting that he, like, embodies that in this moment, when he kicks Gawyn and Galad's asses and is like, "Fuck the nobility." (laugh)

Sally: Hell yeah, baby.

Emily: Interestingly, um, in a lot of Robin Hood myths, there's -- when you are introduced to Little John -- this happens basically beat for beat in Robin McKinley's version, but it's also just, like, a story -- is that Robin Hood will be walking along and get to, like, a bridge where only one person can cross, and he'll get halfway across the bridge the same time Little John is coming halfway across the bridge, and then they both get mad at each other and fight, and Little John kicks Robin Hood's ass with a quarterstaff. (laugh)

Sally: Nice.

Emily: And then Robin Hood's like, "That's the type of guy I want on my squad."

Sally: Didn't they see each other going across the bridge?

Emily: It's, like, a weird, like, thing.

Sally: Is it, like, a curved bridge? Or are they just men? (laugh)

Emily: The Robin McKinley version is really funny. Robin has his head down, 'cause he's just, like, thinking and has, like, anxiety, and he's just kind of, like, on autopilot. And Little John is, like, already a quarter of the way across the bridge when Robin Hood gets on it, and he's like, "Well, fuck." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Now I'm just mad at this motherfucker." So then they meet in the middle of the bridge and have this really hilarious conversation and just, like, fight.

Sally: OK.

Emily: anyway, Little John's kind of, like, the quarterstaff guy. But quarterstaff is just, like, a -- in general, a, uh, symbol of the common man.

Sally: Well, Mat uses a bow too, right?

Emily: He does also, yeah. Especially in the first couple of books. The bow is his, like, weapon of choice. Then, um, kind of as we get into later books, he basically sticks with his, like, spear slash quarterstaff.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's very interesting. He does do a lot of innovation, though, in later books, about, like, finding, uh, faster crossbow cranks to, like --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) To, like, give, uh, the men in his army an advantage. Uh, but, yeah, all three boys kind of have, like, their little archery thing to be, like, their peasantry roots.

Sally: Remember that they are peasants?

Emily: Yeah. Like --

Sally: They use bows.

Emily: Remember that they're peasants. They're -- (laugh) just stupid common folk. Then you have Mat, who's just, like, Wile E. Coyote over here.

Sally: You should do that more often, that was really interesting.

Emily: I can do it for more next time we have a chapter that's just, like, a random Perrin sequence that we don't have much to say.

Sally: I just think -- you're so good at it. I think you'd be a really good lecturer.

Emily: Oh, OK. Thank you.

Sally: And I really enjoyed that, and I found it very engaging.

Emily: OK. Thanks.

Sally: I would give you ten out of ten stars.

Emily: OK. Did you, um -- when I was in eighth grade French class --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: We had to memorize a, um, poem --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Called "The Raven and the Fox." And it's, like, one of Aesop's Fables, and for whatever reason it, like, translates really well to, like, be a French poem.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: But it's all about a raven up in the tree with a bit of cheese --

Sally: (whisper) Nice.

Emily: And the fox, like, passes beneath and tricks the raven into dropping the cheese so that he can have it, which is just also a really funny, like, symbol of Mat, the fox, interacting with the Seanchan, the ravens --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where he's just, like, "I'm just gonna trick you into giving me --"

Sally: "Your cheese."

Emily: "What I want. I fuckin' love cheese." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "I just love cheese!"

Emily: "I just. Love. Cheese." Anyway, so that's all interesting to remember with Mat, although it's also interesting to remember that a lot of, um, these, like, legends and, um, folk tales come from oppressed groups of people --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is why I think it would be really interesting if, uh, Mat, in the television series, was cast as a person of a color rather than white.

Sally: White boy.

Emily: Because, yeah. You kind of -- it's a little bit ...

Sally: Yeah, it's a little bit appropriative.

Emily: Yeah. Optically, it's not great if you have a white boy who's just, like, embodying all these narratives of, like, Anansi and Coyote and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, Br'er Rabbit, of course. Y'know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. Especially 'cause, like, Gawyn and Galad aren't particularly oppressing Mat. And generally, Mat doesn't get oppressed --

Sally: (simultaneously) Oppressed. (laugh)

Emily: By any of the nobility. He just doesn't like them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It would be, like, a different scenario if he was coming out of the Two Rivers which is, like, being taxed within an inch of its life or something --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Andor's basically been like, "Who?"

Sally: "Who is that?"

Emily: "West Virginia? Never heard of her."

Sally: "I have no idea what you're talking about."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Our kingdom is here."

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: "No, your Majesty, it ends over there." (laugh)

Emily: She's like, "What? What's over there?"

Sally: "I've never seen a map in my life."

Emily: "Does the sun even touch that?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "As you know, anything the light touches is my kingdom, but I don't think the light goes over there." It's like, that's 'cause of Rand. He just sucks -- (laugh)

Sally: So tall, he just blocks out the sun.

Emily: Um. Anyway, then Mat has a fight with Gawyn and Galad, and it's actually a very well-written little fight sequence --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, it's very clear what's going on, which is a hard thing to achieve in a fight sequence, but I appreciate that about Robert Jordan's, uh, writing. He can portray hand-to-hand combat really well.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Or, I mean, in this case, close range weapons combat. But basically Mat K.O.s Gawyn in, like, ten seconds flat.

Sally: I know. (laugh) I was about to say -- it's so good.

Emily: And then Galad's like, "Oh, fuck."

Sally: Galad's like, "Oh, shit --" Yeah, this is when -- oh, shit. London Bridge starts playing.

Emily: Yeah. Oh, shit!

Sally: The sirens in Galad's head. (laugh)

Emily: Especially because, like, Mat looks incredibly sickly --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, he just looks like a corpse --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Galad's like, "What the fuck?" Like, his quarterstaff is thicker than he is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And, like, Mat is feeling sick --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, he knocks out Gawyn and is like, "Oh my God, I'm about to collapse." (laugh) "But I have to do this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Cause I cannot lose my money!" Just motivated by money.

Sally: Little goblin.

Emily: I know. He's just such a little troll bridge -- he just fuckin' loves money. Um. (laugh) Uh, but then the fight ends and, um, Galad gets swarmed by people who want to Heal him, and Mat's like, "OK." Mat, like, collapses, and everyone's like, "Fuck you."

Sally: "Excuse me. Galad."

Emily: Yeah, and then the fun Warder teacher is like, "Hello? Do you all recall? Who's the greatest swordsman of all time?" And they're like, "Jeffrey," or whatever his name is.

Sally: I think it's like Jer -- Jerome?

Emily: Jerome or something?

Sally: Yeah -- but of course it's spelled particularly --

Emily: But basically it's, like, I dunno, Randland's Ip Man, y'know? Just this legendary fighter.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And, uh, they're like, "Yeah, it's this guy," and he's like, "OK, well, he fought ten thousand times in his life --" which, first of all, is an insane number --

Sally: (laugh) The Crusades were just like that, Emily.

Emily: Just a second, I have to figure out how many -- if you fought --

Sally: Battles a day?

Emily: If you fought every day --

Sally: OK, but we have to figure out, what was the life expectancy --

Emily: That's 27.39 years of you fighting every day.

Sally: Oh, wow. So he had to have lived to at least be 27.

Emily: Yeah, that's not discounting weekends -- he had to live to -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He was fighting -- (laugh)

Sally: Took you a second. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) What the fuck.

Sally: Came out of the womb, just, "Slash slash, bitch."

Emily: Slash. "Give me a knife."

Sally: "Gimme a knife." (laugh) OK, fine. He lived to be at least, I don't know, 37.

Emily: 47?

Sally: If he started fighting at the age of 10 ...

Emily: OK, anyway, the point is he only got beat once, and that was by a farmer with a quarterstaff. Whose name isn't even mentioned. You'd think that guy would get, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A name drop in the history books.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Come on. Who's the fucking peasant who was like, "I'm not taking any more of this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I could kick this guy's ass with my --"

Sally: Big stick.

Emily: With my eyes blindfolded.

Sally: So there's another little -- one of those -- you know, Wheel of Time has these, like ...

Emily: Yeah, like, mythic figures, kind of.

Sally: Yeah, it's like, the characters connect both to, like, mythology from the readers' schema and mythology to the world's --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Schema.

Emily: Which -- I wish we had a few more of these --

Sally: Interesting.

Emily: Because they're quite interesting.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I wish we heard more about Jerome.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, what's his story?

Sally: And the farmer that beat his ass.

Emily: Yeah. Maybe they fell in love afterwards. Oh my Godddd.

Sally: What if this was when Mat and Gawyn -- Galad -- (laugh)

Emily: I'm so good at making -- (laugh) If I was making this TV show, then yeah, Mat and Galad would exchange very, like, intense eye contact from across the field as Galad is, like, getting up from being surrounded --

Sally: Being, like, swarmed by women, and Galad's like --

Emily: He'd be like, "Oh my God, that's the hottest boy --"

Sally: "Wait. Hold on."

Emily: "He's so weird-looking right now, but."

Sally: "I'm into it."

Emily: "I'm into it. It turns out I like having my ass kicked. Guess that's my kink."

Sally: Mmm. Galad's definitely a bottom.

Emily: (cackle)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Have I told you about -- one time -- (laugh) One time, I was walking somewhere with some coworkers -- this was back in New York -- and we were walking to dinner on our, like, dinner break, and someone turned to our, like, um, very gay, like, friend and was like, "Hey, I have a question." And he, without looking up from his phone, said, "I'm a vers." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Completely unfazed. It was the single most legendary thing that I have ever witnessed. I was like, "Holy shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "What a power move that was." She was like, "That wasn't what I was asking?" and he was like, "It was, though." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Amazing.

Emily: So anyway, I love the gays. Um. But yeah, then Mat collects his money and is like, "OK, well -- peace out," basically? Like, that's the chapter.

Sally: Yeah, he basically is just, like, hobbling back to his room.

Emily: Yeah, just hobbles back to his room, like --

Sally: He keeps the staff, though.

Emily: He keeps the staff, which is important, and -- y'know, interestingly --

Sally: (whisper) Because he's going to use it to pole vault later.

Emily: I know. What a little lunatic. And he almost -- he comes really close to killing Galad here?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is foreshadowing for the moment when he will -- he will actually kill someone with this very staff, and it's the first person he, like, kills. Intentionally, y'know?

Sally: Yeah. He almost hits Galad in the throat, right?

Emily: Yeah, which is a really freaky way to kill someone, just by the way. Um. But yeah, this is also the one and only interaction that Mat has with Gawyn and Galad canonically. (laugh)

Sally: Sad.

Emily: Obviously in my heart, he -- (laugh) sees Galad all the time.

Sally: In my heart, he and Galad are married. (laugh)

Emily: They might actually see each other in book fourteen, but I have no idea. I can't remember that far ahead. Um, but that's, like, wild.

Sally: It is wild. At least he doesn't have to interact with Gawyn.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Mat's the only character that is saved from that fate.

Emily: I know. Like, imagine if Mat met Gawyn while he's dating Egwene. Mat would be like, "What?"

Sally: Mat would be like, "Girl. Egg. No."

Emily: "Egg?!"

Sally: "Egg, girl, no."

Emily: "You could do so much better."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She'd be like, "I know ... but I'm horny." (laugh)

Sally: But it's like, you could be horny for so many people.

Emily: It's like, you could have a vibrator. It achieves the same function --

Sally: More or less, yeah.

Emily: As Gawyn. It's significantly less annoying.

Sally: Significantly less annoying.

Emily: Yeah. Doesn't bother you, doesn't disrespect you ...

Sally: Doesn't speak.

Emily: Doesn't speak. Unless you have a -- (laugh) really sentient vibrator. Horrifying. I'm really sad I went down that train of thought.

Sally: That's OK. It's an interesting new cartoon concept.

Emily: It's because I've been thinking about the Brave Little Toaster all day.

Sally: OK, I don't love --

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: The transition from Brave Little Toaster to sentient vibrator, but this is where we are right now. So. (laugh) I really don't like the animation of that movie and how it's translating to be a sentient vibrator.

Emily: (laugh) I remembered how much that movie fucked me up as a kid.

Sally: Yeah, I saw your Tweet.

Emily: It was very disturbing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I -- then I went and looked up the synopsis of the movie to, like, make sure I wasn't remembering it wrong, like, with my child brain. No, there's legitimately a scene at the end where the, like, dude who owns the appliances, who's, like, a college-aged kid, is about to get, like, crushed in a car compressor.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But the brave little toaster throws itself in the gears and is mangled and pretty much dies, but then he gets, y'know, like, rebuilt or whatever. But, like --

Sally: That movie is fucking weird.

Emily: What the fuck?

Sally: Why did somebody make a movie about a toaster? (laugh)

Emily: I dunno. Apparently it was based on a book. And I was like --

Sally: Why would someone write a book about a toaster? (laugh)

Emily: I was like, I didn't even know that this could get weirder than it was. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK. Well, anyway, that's the synopsis of this chapter, and we'll be back with more Egg next week.

Sally: Egg!

Emily: Egg.

Sally: She's a brave little toaster.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: (laugh) She's very little, right? Isn't she our shortest baby?

Emily: Yeah, she -- she's quite smol. She's not as smol as Moiraine --

Sally: That's right, Moiraine is ... I just wish more women were, like, eight feet tall.

Emily: I know. It's real cowardly that Aviendha isn't seven feet tall, fully. That Aviendha isn't, like, "Yeah, I'm taller than most NBA players."

Sally: And we were all like, "Top me. Top me." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, that would be super hot. Um. So anyway, what do we have to say?

Sally: Um, well, I -- we would like to say, first and foremost, thank you to everybody who got us to meeting our most recent Patreon goal. We were looking for 150 dollars a month; we now have 157 dollars a month. Thanks to these amazing folks. Um: Nathanael and Taylor and Glenn and Erin, Jessie, Robby, Alyssa, Andy, Trond, Paul ... um, and then some people upgraded their pledges: Sarah, Abigail, Peter ... Um, if I'm missing anybody, I apologize, but we thank you all so much for your generosity. It's so amazing. Um, and on Patreon -- speaking of Patreon -- our

next goal is going to be 300 dollars a month -- or -- and some change, possibly -- because we are going to look into creating Everybody Hates Rand merchandise.

Emily: Whoooooo.

Sally: Whooooooo!

Emily: Hopefully this is the last episode I record using Audacity, the software that came straight from the devil's asshole.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) So thank you to everyone who has enabled me to finally get a real person software. But now this means we can look at making something that we'll, like, give back to you in a significant way, besides audio quality.

Sally: That's true. That's basically --

Emily: Obviously, yeah.

Sally: All we've been fighting for for a year.

Emily: I know. So sad. Um, but we're hoping just to start off with, like, making buttons and stickers.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: More information forthcoming as we get closer to our goal, but obviously we want some Larry the Good Trolloc merch --

Sally: Baby.

Emily: And, um, I dunno, maybe some The Grave Is No Bar to My Yeet merch. We'll find out.

Sally: Slap that on your laptop, baby.

Emily: Yeah. Only --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Just confuse the hell out of everyone. Be like, "What the fuck is that?" and you're like, "There's too many levels of interpretation here, I can't --"

Sally: (laugh) "There's too much I'd have to explain."

Emily: "It's too much." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, but we're super excited for that. So.

Sally: Yes. We would also appreciate it -- just to sort of get a sense, um, of what the interest level is -- is we're gonna put out some polls and some questions on our various platforms, or you can just email us letting us know that you'd be interested and what you would find interesting. If you would not ever in your life purchase The Grave Is No Bar to My Yeet merch, let us know, or if that's, like, all you've ever wanted, also let us know. That -- so look out for those polls and questions in the coming weeks, days, stuff like that.

Emily: Yeah. Um, thank you to Glynn MacKenzie for the use of our theme song -- it doesn't have a name, does it?

Sally: No, it doesn't have a name.

Emily: I was just doing a Griffin McElroy voice there, and I'm sorry, I'll try not to get into that habit. But thank you, Glynn, for making and letting us use the theme song. It is awesome. We love it so much.

Sally: Jazz jazz jazz. (whisper) Jazz. Jazz jazz jazz ... jazz.

Emily: And so, here we are. Do you have a sign-off prepared for us?

Sally: Oh my gosh. So the aviary got a new eagle -- we do have some sign-offs --

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: Um, but we do have some sign-offs saved from listeners, I'm sorry, this was just insane.

Emily: Yeah, I want to hear. Go for it.

Sally: Um, but the aviary's ... a lot of birds at the aviary are at the aviary because they come from wildlife rehabilitation centers, and they can't be reintroduced into the wild -- that's, like, a significant portion of our, like, collection practices -- including our eagles. We have two golden eagles and now we have two bald eagles, but before, we just had one, and all of them are non-flighted due to injuries.

Emily: Ohh.

Sally: And -- yeah. And so we built them this new exhibit that allows them to be at a higher elevation because it is an important psychological preference for predator birds to be higher than the human eyesight.

Emily: Nice.

Sally: Um, just because they're like, "We don't know what to do with this." So we got a new bald eagle so that our bald eagle would have a companion -- have a little buddy.

Emily: Aw.

Sally: Um, but this bald eagle -- (laugh) We asked the -- all these other places for a non-flighted eagle so that she would kind of pair up with her companions, but we got one that was a little bit more flighted than anticipated. And so the exhibit was built, obviously, for birds that can't really get any upward momentum, which is not the case for this bird, who was on exhibit for the very first time in her life today. She's actually never been on exhibit, so of course she was stressed. Very nearly escaped into the pelican pond, and our, like, lead agriculturist, who's the best, is there with, like, leather gloves all the way up to her shoulders, 'cause apparently catching a bald eagle is, like, the most impossible thing in the world. They just get super gnarly.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So she's there, like, in leather gloves and, like, coveralls, like, just standing -- she had to stand there the entire day because the bald eagle almost escaped. (laugh)

Emily: Oh --

Sally: So she was just, like, standing over the exhibit, like --

Emily: My God.

Sally: Trying to stop -- she didn't. She settled down. Y'know, she calmed into the exhibit. But it was pretty funny. (laugh) You could, like, see the little pile of wood chips where she jumped and didn't quite make it -- (laugh) and fell back down. There was, like, an eagle-shaped splat --

Emily: It's the fuckin' Great Escape --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: The Shawshank Redemption up in here. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It was funny, though.

Emily: It's Count of Monte Cristo. Jesus.

Sally: That was a really long sign-off, I'm sorry.

Emily: No, it was incredible, and I loved it.

Sally: You did learn some bird facts, though.

Emily: Yeah. Bald eagles. Baaaaald eagles. (laugh)