



## Episode 63 - “Smash Egg”

Release Date: April 22, 2019

Running Time: 46 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)

Emily: One day.

Sally: Only once a year. (laugh) “It's my birthday!”

Emily: You have a one out of 365 -- (laugh)

Sally: I know.

Emily: Chance of being right.

Sally: I'm talking about my little niece, who is -- has a birthday party -- her third birthday coming up in a month and a half -- and she keeps -- every time I see her, she keeps being like,

“It’s my birthday,” ‘cause she’s really excited for her party, and I think she thinks she can trick us into just giving her the party. (laugh)

Emily: Just at any moment.

Sally: Yeah, and every time we have to be like --

Emily: Spontaneous party.

Sally: “Not yet!” (laugh) “It’s not your birthday.”

Emily: God bless.

Sally: We are -- we -- I went to a -- another three-year-old’s birthday party this weekend, because I -- Utah is a ridiculous place, where you go to three-year-old’s birthday parties, apparently, and Liz was like, “It’s my birthday!” (laugh) And we were like, “Oh, no. This must be very confusing.”

Emily: It’s not, homie. (laugh)

Sally: No, buddy, it’s Brooklyn’s birthday.

Emily: Lil’ homie.

Sally: Then she got kicked in the face --

Emily: Oh.

Sally: So Liz did not have an excellent Sunday.

Emily: Yeah, Liz has been, uh ...

Sally: Used and abused. It’s hard being three.

Emily: It is hard being three, from what little I remember. I’ve never been to a three-year-old’s birthday party.

Sally: I mean, I like going to family events, ‘cause it means I get to see my niece and nephew --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, and I also like going with my mom, who gets, um, isolated because she is not married.

Emily: Gotcha.

Sally: Um, and so that tends to happen in our community. And so I like to be there to --

Emily: You're so good and supportive.

Sally: Yield -- field that type of nonsense. Because instead, people are like, "You're young and of child-bearing age? Where's the man in your life?"

Emily: That's a big mood. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I was talking --

Sally: "Where's the man to IMPREGNATE you?!"

Emily: I was talking to Sarah yesterday about how I'm a stomach sleeper, but I, for various reasons, can't sleep on my stomach right now -- oh, hi, Tybalt.

Sally: Tybalt is in his too-tight harness. And he looks very funny.

Emily: Which comforts him, strangely.

Sally: Yeah, it's like, you know those, like, thunder blankets you can get for dogs? Like, dogs that get anxiety during thunderstorms -- you can get these, like, really heavy -- not, like, heavy -- but they, like, have a weight --

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: They're, like, weighted vests that, like, wrap pretty tightly on their chest and it, like, comforts them. It's like that for Tybalt.

Emily: It's very strange.

Sally: Maybe he's just got anxiety.

Emily: Maybe he does. We're a very anxiety-ridden household -- so, yeah.

Sally: He was raised by us, yeah.

Emily: There's a lot of anxiety to go around. Anyway, Sarah was like, "God, I hope you're never pregnant," and I was like, "Shouldn't be an issue."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause let me tell you, not sleeping on my stomach for nine months? That would kill me.

Sally: Listen.

Emily: I love sleeping on my stomach.

Sally: I know. Belly sleeping is the best. I usually sleep in just, like, a little ball.

Emily: Yeah. Little fetal --

Sally: When I do sleep.

Emily: Fetal position?

Sally: Mm-hmm. The fetal position.

Emily: My -- fetal sounded really weird to me for a second, and I was just like, "Fetus position?"

Sally: Feet -- Feet Al'Thor. (laugh)

Emily: Feet Al'Thor. (laugh) Ew, gross. It's like Hand Al'Thor but worse.

Sally: Yeah. Feet are obviously the worse appendage. The worst appendage?

Emily: (groan) Anyway. Here we are.

Sally: What's the worst part of the body?

(pause)

Emily: Well, I guess it depends on the -- what your body is -- (laugh)

Sally: Kay, you can't say genitals. (laugh)

Emily: OK, 'cause I think indisputably, the balls -- (laugh) are the worst.

Sally: (laugh) I mean, yeah. You're right. I wasn't ready for that truth.

Emily: But, uh, disregarding, uh, genitals. Then, yeah, for me I think it might be feet. Feet disgust me on a level --

Sally: I know.

Emily: That I can't really explain to people.

Sally: I've started to wear socks more frequently.

Emily: Oh, that's --

Sally: Because I don't want to just be barefoot around you if it grosses you out.

Emily: It only grosses me -- like, I don't mind if people are walking around barefoot. It just really, like, disturbs me on a fundamental level when I'm sitting on the couch and someone puts their bare -- bare feet next to me.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, close to touching me. 'Cause I'm like, I don't know where your feet have been.

Sally: That's a fair point.

Emily: And they're washed far less reliably than other limbs, so.

Sally: Yeah. Mm, you make a valid point.

Emily: Yeah, I'd be a terrible Jesus. If they were like, "Wash the feet," I'd be like, "No." (laugh)

Sally: Well, I mean --

Emily: "Do it yourself, peasants." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) There's a reason you're not Jesus.

Emily: I'm lady Jesus, and I'm here to teach you self-reliance rather than serving others, I guess. Anyway.

Sally: This is an interesting energy to this cold open.

Emily: I'm sorry. (laugh) I'm so tired.

Sally: No, I'm right there with you. I, uh, meant to say this last episode. But I have mono. (laugh) So.

Emily: Wheeeeeee.

Sally: If EHR communications department -- as we are sort of loosely divided into production, on Emily's side, and communications, on my side -- has been lacking, it's because I have been wasting away like a Victorian invalid.

Emily: And right now her hands hurt really bad. She's currently, like, got a little -- one of those rice heating pads --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Around her wrist, so. Um, yeah, if I'm bored at work, then I'll respond to you, but --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I am also -- I also feel far less guilty about ignoring you than Sally does, so.

Sally: I do feel super guilty about it. 'Cause I, like, can't -- I couldn't read the chapters this week.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Because I can't hold books. (laugh) Um --

Emily: Do you want me to hold the Lightning Thief for you and --

Sally: Maybe. (laugh)

Emily: Turn the pages? (laugh)

Sally: No, then you'll figure out how slow I read, and I'll be embarrassed. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) We could just watch the movie.

Sally: No.

Emily: I know --

Sally: Because it's not like the book at all.

Emily: I'd have to burn my eyes out if I watched the movie "The Lightning Thief" again. I'm pretty --

Sally: Yeah. Did you know I saw it in theaters?

Emily: I did too.

Sally: I was really excited about it, 'cause Lightning Thief was my shit in middle school.

Emily: Yeah, everything was, like --

Sally: Yeah. Everyone was like, "Yes!"

Emily: And also -- OK, we can't talk about this now. We'll talk about it on We Don't Watch Outlander.

Sally: Yeah. Plug for our Patreon podcast, We Don't Watch Outlander.

Emily: But hold that thought. We'll come back to it. OK. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. Why do I always point at the computer when I do that?

Sally: It's like when I look at them. Like, you say something and I, like, side-eye the computer as if they can see me. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh) It's very strange.

Emily: I'm like this, 'cause apparently I do that while public speaking or something. I don't know. Whatever. I'm Emily Juchau. Yes, my last name is spelled like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: It's a gift.

Emily: No, it's a curse. (laugh)

Sally: No, it's a gift. (laugh)

Emily: It's a gift and a curse.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger. My last name is also spelled like that, believe it or not.

Emily: Your name makes sense. Mine is like a sneeze.

Sally: No, it does make sense, but then people are like, "Sally goo-ers?" (laugh)

Emily: Hey, little goblin.

Sally: Hey, little goblin.

Emily: Hey, little gerblin.

Sally: He's just munchin'.

Emily: Just munchin' on his little --

Sally: He's literally the dumbest animal in the world. The other day Emily and I were watching TV, and we look over, and he was trying to eat his kibble with his paw. (laugh) He was, like, scooping it out of the bowl.

Emily: It was very confusing. I wonder if he's seen me eat dry Cheerios that way.

Sally: Oh, yeah. Maybe.

Emily: 'Cause I do that, and, like -- been like, "That's how I eat. I too am a human."

Sally: He's very dumb.

Emily: I know.

Sally: And I love him very much.

Emily: Yeah, he's so --

Sally: He's very stupid. (laugh)

Emily: OK, speaking of stupid. (laugh)

Sally: Egg!

Emily: Egg. Well, Egg's not -- well, they all kind of are stupid.

Sally: I mean, Egg's sixteen. Of course she's stupid. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, they're all bringing various levels of stupidity --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: To this -- these three chapters. It's three very odd chapters, by the way -- I'm always, like, lost in the headspace of -- it takes me a minute to reset to the idea that, uh, Tel'aran'rhiod isn't this, like, accepted, well-explored --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Notion yet.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That, in this point in the story, like, this is all new to them. So when they're like, "Ooh, we're super freaked out by this ring," and I'm like, I'm used to this ring being, like, another character in the story -- (laugh) Like --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) A main character.

Emily: It's Egg, the ring -- (laugh)

Sally: Egg. The Ring.

Emily: And how they use it to communicate with each other --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And just, like, it's this whole -- it's a whole thing, y'know?

Sally: Egg is the lord of the ring.

Emily: Egg is the lord of the ring. Um. But where we're at, we pick up pretty much immediately after -- like, the day after Egg has had her -- I can't believe we're just gonna call her Egg for -- (laugh)

Sally: Sorry. You guys know what we're talking about.



Emily: Um, after she's had her, like, whole Acceptance trial. So this is right after she's been given, uh, the ring and the creepy hit list that Verin -- (laugh) handed to them.

Sally: (creepy old woman voice) "Here, child, would you like a murder list?"

Emily: (similar voice) "Hello, child."

Sally: (laugh) "Would you like to do a murder?"

Emily: "Hello, child. Would you like this list of murderous instruments?"

Sally: "Do a murder for me."

Emily: "Use the inventory of things that were stolen and wanted criminals. I want you to hunt them down." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "What type of clue is this?"

Emily: It's a terrible --

Sally: "It's a game of Clue."

Emily: It's a terrible clue. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They're, like, poring over these, and Nynaeve's like, "This is fucking useless."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I can't -- like, "You've given me a page out of the phone book."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And an inventory of lost items. This doesn't -- most of which, you don't know what they do."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "What the fuck?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Yeah, just track these women down using this." And everyone's like, "Ummm. How?"

Sally: Listen, I'm no Sherlock Homie -- (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Uh, yeah, so this is the day after Accepted test. Concurrently, Mat is somewhere out on the grounds, kicking Gawyn and Galad's asses. Egwene references that they tried to go to his room and visit him, but he was already gone at that point, because my boy has ADHD and cannot be confined in one room for more than --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: An hour.

Sally: Also -- yeah. Just can't be tamed.

Emily: Yeah. (singing) Can't be tamed! (normal voice) Um, but they are kind of working on this schedule where every meal time, they also have to clean up after everyone and blah blah blah blah blah, but for now they have down time and are using it to pore over these lists, and it's like the stupidest, like, use of time, but they have nothing else to do 'cause they've been given this impossible task --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So it's like, yeah, you just look at the clues you've been given, I guess. It's like when you're trying to solve a math problem, and you just, like, feel like you don't have --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anything to do it, so you're just staring at what you do have, like maybe if I look at this long enough, my brain will put two and two together in a way that makes sense, and it's just, no. 'Cause you didn't learn the math. You slept during that class, or at least I did. (sigh) Um --

Sally: It happens.

Emily: But eventually, Nynaeve's like, "Elayne, put that fucking shit away, 'cause it's useless," and Elayne's like, "I dunno. I've learned from this that, like, of the 13 women on this list, they're all so different -- like, it can't be -- like, it has to be, um, intentional."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, there's no woman who's the same age or even -- you know, there -- there's a young one, there's an old one, there's, like, a middle -- , like, middle ground -- everyone's from a different country --

Sally: Different Ajahs.

Emily: Different Ajahs, yeah. It's all, like, very evenly split. And she's like, "If it were unintentional, like, then there would surely be, like, coincidental, like, I dunno, groupings."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know? Just statistically speaking, this is incredibly improbable. And Nynaeve's like, "Oh, that was surprisingly smart, for you," and Elayne's like, "Thank you." (laugh) "I did learn from my mother, the queen." And everyone's like, "Shut up." (laugh)

Sally: Everyone's like, "We hadn't forgotten."

Emily: And everyone's like, "OK, great, thanks." Um, and then they're like, "OK, well -- well, all that tells us is that there are more Black Ajah in the Tower." And it's like, we been knew, y'know? I guess? Although that still creeps them out.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then they just start talking again about all the women who they think might be Black Ajah, who, spoiler alert, most of them are --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For whatever reason, 'cause Robert Jordan was just like, "I guess all the Aes Sedai introduced early on will be Black Ajah."

Sally: You know. Foreshadowing.

Emily: Y'know? Yeah, foreshadowing.

Sally: Chekhov's gun or whatever.

Emily: Except Alanna, who isn't Black Ajah -- she's just weird and creepy.

Sally: She's just evil. But not, like, Satan evil.

Emily: I know, I've been meaning to look up --

Sally: Just rapist evil.

Emily: What happens to her, and, like, what her story is, 'cause I feel like it comes out in book fourteen --

Sally: Alanna?

Emily: Alanna, yeah. Alanna ...

Sally: Her story is that I hate her.

Emily: Google "Wheel of Time ..."

Sally: (snort)

Emily: Duh duh duh duh duh ... I'm on the wiki. She is between 35 and 55 years old.

Sally: OK, that's a very large cap, Robert.

Emily: Yeah, thanks a lot. Current status: dead. That's a spoiler. I forgot that.

Sally: I don't care. I'm glad she fuckin' dies.

Emily: But, yeah, I'm glad she's dead, so.

Sally: Perish.

Emily: Don't really care. "The Last Battle. While Rand was confronting Shai'tan at Shayol Ghul, Nynaeve discovered Alanna in the Pit of Doom."

Sally: What? (laugh)

Emily: Oh, it was so that -- um, the Dark One was like, "I'll just kill this lady that Rand is bonded to so that it will, like, shock him --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Like, and that'll make him be defeated or something." So Nynaeve tries to Heal her, but she ends up dying.

Sally: Hmm. Well, I don't love that plot for her death, but I do appreciate that she dies.

Emily: It's very stupid -- like, the general vibe with Alanna, as it is with several other characters, um, is that Robert Jordan intended for more to be done with her --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And just changed his mind.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Partway through. Like, this very strange behavior of Alanna's in this book is, like, never explained.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And that's very frustrating, as a reader, 'cause, like, if you're going to call attention to it so many times, then you want there to be a reason that you invested any of your thought into it, y'know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, it's one thing for a character to behave oddly and everyone to think, "Oh, that was weird," and it to, like, not come back, 'cause people do behave oddly sometimes. But if they're like, "We're in this state of paranoia, and every little thing is going to be micro-examined --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then, yes, I would like an explanation, please.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Why Alanna is so interested in what's going on with the girls.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Especially because it's not like she has any, really, relationships with them --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For the rest of the series. She goes with Verin to the Two Rivers after this. And it's like, "OK."

Sally: Yeah, it's weird.

Emily: To what end?

Sally: Why?

Emily: What -- what's the point?

Sally: Is she just a pervert?

Emily: Yeah, is she just a pervert? That's sort of the over --

Sally: That's kind of the vibe I get.

Emily: Yeah, that's sort of the reigning idea, I think.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Women can be perverts too. (laugh)

Sally: Lest you forget. (laugh)

Emily: Equal-opportunity perversion, here in the White Tower. (laugh)

Sally: Everyone in the White Tower is a pervert, pretty much.

Emily: Yeah, that's more or less true. I'm trying to think of anyone who's not a pervert. Hmm.

Sally: Egg, maybe.

Emily: Egg --

Sally: I mean, she does want to have sex with Gawyn, so.

Emily: Egg's pretty vanilla, yeah -- mm, yeah, that's a perversion --

Sally: That's a perversion of its own.

Emily: Of its own, yeah. Verin? She's pretty chill.

Sally: Yeah. Good for you, Verin.

Emily: Yeah, good for you, Verin. OK.

Sally: Even though you do send children to do your murders.

Emily: Oh, Verin.

Sally: (laugh) I don't --

Emily: Oh, Verin ...

Sally: I don't understand --

Emily: You fool.

Sally: This plot, and it's fine. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) It's such a dumb plot. Like --

Sally: It's so weird.

Emily: Robert. Come up with something better. Um -- there's also the idea that over these three chapters and the last chapters, ex -- like, incredibly little time has passed --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Between when Siuan gives them the mission, quote unquote, and when they decide to go out of the White Tower.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's, like, three days.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Well, we keep waiting for Siuan to come and talk to us, and she hasn't yet, so we're just gonna leave," and I'm like, bitch, she's busy. Like --

Sally: She's busy running the country.

Emily: It's been 48 hours. What -- do you think she really thinks that you three idiots have come up with anything?

Sally: No.

Emily: Like, homies. Little homies.

Sally: (laugh) 'Lil mamas.

Emily: 'Lil mamas, come on.

Sally: 'Lil mamas, use your brains.

Emily: Yeah, anyway, they're just, uh, sitting there chatting. They do resolve -- like, they take out the dream -- the ter'angreal dream ring -- and are like, "OK, well, one of us has to use it, and it's gonna be Egwene," so she's gonna, uh, wear it when she goes to sleep tonight and basically just see what happens, because that's where we're at. Oh, they do also -- I wanted to point this out -- they are looking at the list of ter'angreal, um, like, that were stolen by the 13 ladies, and many of them, including the ring that Egwene now has in her possession, were last studied by this one particular Aes Sedai, who, like, kind of has some mysterious -- we don't quite know what happened to her -- and it's implied that that's actually Setalle Anan.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: That she, like, burned herself out studying ter'angreal and then left the Tower.

Sally: Oh, that's very interesting.

Emily: I know, and I bring this up only because I'm really mad that that isn't, uh, looked at more in-depth --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, made canonical. I meant to look that up also, whether that is canonical --

Sally: Huh.

Emily: Because I just really like Setalle Anan?

Sally: Yeah, she's rad.

Emily: She is, like, one of my favorite characters of all time. Setalle Anan ... Wheel of Time ... it says she's an innkeeper. "She was a former Aes Sedai of the Brown Ajah whose ability to channel was burned out while studying a ter'angreal. Her birth name that she used as an Aes Sedai was Martine Janata." Which is, like -- but it could've been this lady.

Sally: Yeah. That would've been so rad.

Emily: That would've been rad. Also, like, a cool thing about Wheel of Time is that you have this opportunity to bring up, like -- we've talked about this before -- there's, like, this in-grown mythology in the series of, like, various characters that have the opportunity of being, like, I dunno, presented for our characters to meet. And, like, the most obvious example is, uh -- God, I always forget his name -- Noal?

Sally: Oh. Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, Mat's friend in, um, Ebou Dar, who ends up being the -- uh, Jain Farstrider. Who -- it's, like, such a wild thing because these books that everyone has in their household, you know, it -- like, you kind of don't think of them as contemporary books, but, oh, they are contemporary books.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, you have this opportunity to do a similar thing here with having this woman who has kind of, like, been lost to history, but she was an Aes Sedai, so she could've been living for a really long time.

Sally: Yeah. Absolutely.

Emily: And, like, have her be presented again --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As just this rando who helps Mat keep his life together after --

Sally: Which is --

Emily: All the bullshit that happens to him.

Sally: Not an easy task.

Emily: Not an easy task. She's like, "OK."

Sally: "I guess this is my son now."

Emily: "This is my adopted child now, along with all my other children. This is the ninth or whatever." (laugh)



Sally: "This is my eighteenth child --"

Emily: (laugh) "This is my eighteenth child --"

Sally: "He's my favorite, and he's the dumbest." (laugh)

Emily: Mat Cauthon. I have to hold his hand constantly."

Sally: "Such an idiot."

Emily: "He's so stupid."

Sally: "But God, I love him."

Emily: Um. Um, then Else Grinwell just, like, appears in the doorway, and they're like, "Bitch, did anyone ever teach you to knock?" And she's like, "I have a message from the Amyrlin." And they're all like, "OK. Well, what is it?" And she's like, "The things that were stolen from -- the things that the ladies who left left behind is found in the room on the bottom of the stairs to the left of the nineteenth storeroom back -- out back by the library; just follow the road and take a left at the --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Ash tree." And it's like, "Whaaa?" How does anyone remember that?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then she runs away. They're like, "What --"

Sally: (snort) That doesn't sound like a trap at all.

Emily: They're like, "What the fuckening," but also, she's, like, known as a huge gossip and a blabbermouth, so they're like, "OK, why would this -- why -- we have to go talk to her and get her to not repeat this everywhere." So Egwene literally sprints after her, and then is following her, but then she rounds a corner, and it's not Else; it's Lanfear. And -- only, she's not known as Lanfear. And it's a very odd confrontation with, uh, some poor writing on Robert Jordan's part because he was a coward and was afraid to, like, commit to Egwene being like, "Damn, that's a sexy woman."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And instead was like, "Oh my God, I feel so inferior to this woman." And I was like, "Robert Jordan, women know that other women are beautiful."

Sally: Yeah. Also, lesbians exist. So.

Emily: Yeah, do you think if I met Brie Larson, I would be like, “Oh my God, I feel so inferior”? I’d be like, “Damn. Top me.” (laugh) “Lady.”

Sally: Yeah. Exactly. “Hey. Hey. Hey.” (laugh)

Emily: “Hey. Hey hey hey hey hey. Hey. You’re so beautiful.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Exactly.

Emily: It’s how women work.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, we know. We know that --

Sally: I had a --

Emily: The female form is incredibly beautiful.

Sally: Yeah. I have eyeballs.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Egg has eyeballs.

Emily: Egg has eyeballs. If she met Lanfear, the canonical most woman -- beautiful woman in existence --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egg, too, would be like, “Damn.”

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: “Damn, son.”

Sally: Yeah. “I’d hit it.”

Emily: Even if she’s straight as a board. She’d be like, “Yep.”

Sally: Yeah. “Straight as a board.” (laugh, snort)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: It’s just a funny saying.

Emily: Um. (laugh) Ugh. But anyway, Lanfear’s like -- (laugh) And Lanfear’s like, “What do you want?” And, uh, Egg is like, “I’m looking for this girl who was running away?” Like, “Here’s her description,” and Lanfear’s like, “Oh, yeah, I saw her, but she was running super

fast, so you'll never catch her." And Egg's like, "OK?" And Lanfear's like, "Now get out of my sight." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And Egg's like, "I'd rather not?" And then Lanfear disappears.

Sally: Poof.

Emily: Poof. Like dust on the wind. Which is odd, because how -- like, what the fuck? Lanfear has so many powers that are never, like --

Sally: Explained?

Emily: Explained. She's just, like, mystery woman over here. And also, like, why is she running around the Tower, disguised as Else Grinwell, giving the girls this information?

Sally: I know.

Emily: 'Cause it clearly didn't come from Sivan. It was just Lanfear being like, "Check this out."

Sally: I know, and it's also frustrating -- we've talked about this before, how, like, Lanfear exists in, like, a weird and unnecessary spot in this, like, portion of the book, because, like, she -- other characters exist to give characters information.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And so, like, why, instead of giving them this list, wasn't Verin like, "Here's this list, and also here's their belongings if you want to look through them." It's very weird to me.

Emily: Yeah, and just, like, period, why is Lanfear there? We're never --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Given, like, an explanation of that, exactly. It's this very confusing thing, especially as we get, like, later into the books and find out that Lanfear doesn't have any particular interest in the White Tower.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, as the Forsaken kind of start setting up their quote unquote domains, like, that's where, like, Mesaana makes camp.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Lanfear's like, "Dur dur dur dur dur, I'm just over here stalking Rand, literally."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, why isn't -- why isn't she stalking Rand currently? It's just this very odd thing where -- where Robert Jordan was like, "Here, I'm gonna give you this mystery woman whose motivations are never properly explained," and I'm like, that doesn't work.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, a femme fatale eventually will, like, have her motivations explained to us, the readers.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And what she's doing here in the White Tower is, as far as I can tell, just wandering around hazing people.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Insulting Mat.

Emily: Confusing people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Being imperious.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's basically Elayne, but hotter.

Sally: Maybe that's her whole point. She's like, "Listen up, princess."

Emily: She's like, "I heard -- I heard there was a princess around here, and I need to put her on the correct level --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm better than you." (laugh)

Sally: "I need her to know her place."

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: "In the hierarchy, I'm on top."

Emily: And it's like, why does Lanfear want the girls to go to Tear after the Black Ajah? Like, is she helping the Black Ajah? It's just so goddamn confusing.

Sally: None of it makes any sense. Yeah.

Emily: Like, I just don't know. This whole plotline. I know we've said the Dragon Reborn is a perfect text, and mostly it is --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Except for the girls' weird plot.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Except for this. Like, once they get out of the Tower, I have no problem, but it's like Robert Jordan, instead of just having them leave the Tower, was like, "Gotta make it complicated."

Emily: Yeah. And it's like, they're clearly miserable at the Tower right now --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's this very odd thing where they're like, "We desperately want to get out," to the point that, like, after what happens in these chapters, they're all like, "We're gonna sleep together for comfort."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "We don't want to be alone in our own rooms." Like, that means you're real scared, homies.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So yeah, it's totally reasonable that you want to get out.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it's just like, it's also been two days.

Sally: (laugh) It has also been 48 hours.

Emily: It's also been three minutes. (laugh)

Sally: So maybe ... chill.

Emily: So maybe chill. Um, anyway, they then go to the place where all of the, uh, missing Black Ajah's belongings are being held, and there's this hilarious scene where they -- like, there's a lock on the door, and Egwene's like, "Duh duh duh duh duh, I think I could just, like, unlock this, 'cause actually I have, like -- I'm really strong with metalworking, basically, and I can just do shit with the Power," and then Nynaeve makes a crowbar out of thin air and is like, "Move aside! I will open this door."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Egwene's like, "OK, lady. Crazy loon."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But they get in, and it's like, dur dur dur dur dur, they look through all the belongings, and everyone is just like, old clothes and shoes and then one --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Single item in each woman's pile of belongings -- (laugh) that points to Tear.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: and they look at these, and Nynaeve's like, "So clearly this is a trap," and Egg's like, "Oh." (laugh) "That's what that is."

Sally: God bless her.

Emily: (laugh) I know. Just --

Sally: So stupid.

Emily: "I just thought everyone was really invested in Tear this time of the year." Like, homies. Come on.

Sally: At least Nynaeve has learned something from their kidnapping in book two.

Emily: I know, Nynaeve's like, "Well, ain't gonna fool this bitch again --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, but you are.

Sally: Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me 87 times -- (laugh)

Emily: Fool me 87 times, as happens with Nynaeve.

Sally: (laugh) Shame on me. Absolutely. I'm foolish.

Emily: It's also a little bit, um -- I dunno, because early on in this book, you are presented with the idea that Tear is going to be endgame --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Similar to how, at the beginning of book two, we're presented with Falme --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: As endgame. And the question just then becomes, how will everyone get there?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And so, having the girls go on this convoluted search for the Black Ajah, and eventually they're like, "Alright, we're going to go to Tear" -- I'm like, OK. Fine.

Sally: Yeah. I get it.

Emily: If this is what it takes. But please just go already.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Um, but then they wash some dishes and go up to their room, and Egwene goes to sleep with the ter'angreal ring, which is, like, super dumb in retrospect, now that we know how scary ter--the, like, Tel'aran'rhiod is. Oh, she also tells us about how -- some of her dreams, which I forgot to --

Sally: Oh, yeah, at the beginning.

Emily: Go through. Yeah, at the very beginning of this sequence, she's talking about some of her creepy dreams. She has dreams about, um, basically, uh, Aes Sedai getting enslaved by the Seanchan and then being used against the White Tower, which for sure happens. Um --

Sally: There's a -- it's a bunch of foreshadowing. It's like, Mat's eye on a scale --

Emily: Yeah, there's --

Sally: And Perrin with some wolves ...

Emily: Yeah, um ... "a dream about Whitecloaks binding her father's hands" -- obviously the Whitecloaks are going to be in the Two Rivers in a little bit. Um, "Rand reaching for a sword that seemed to be made of crystal, never seeing the fine net dropping over him," which is ironic because the exact same goddamn thing happens to the girls, and they're like, "What? A net? Whomst?" Um, and then, one where he's "kneeling in a chamber, where a parched wind blew dust across the floor and creatures like the one on the Dragon banner, but much smaller, floated on that wind and settled into his skin," which is, like, his going to Rhuidean and getting his tats. Uh, "a dream of him confronting Seanchan --" Happens. "Walking into a great hole in a black mountain." Happens. Shayol Ghul. Um, Mat and Perrin: Perrin has the whole hawk -- hawk and falcon thing, which continues to annoy me, that it's such a relevant, like, such a --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Part of the plot. Like, could we seriously not think of anything else for Perrin to do but, like, have to find his way through two women scheming over him?

Sally: I mean, Perrin is the marriage character, so of course there has to be the temptation, or threat, of adultery.

Emily: Which is so fucking ironic --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause Mat's name is literally three letters off from "matrimony."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- (laugh) come on.

Sally: It's so stupid.

Emily: Um, and that dream of Perrin, "with a beard," exclamation point. Egwene is SHOCKED -  
-

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: By the goddamn beard. She's like, "I've never seen a beard before. What could this mean?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What -- what's the symbol? Let me look at my Tarot cards, see what, um --

Sally: Beards mean.

Emily: Yeah, let me examine my dream-catcher and figure out what a beard could mean. "Leading a huge pack of wolves, stretched as far as the eye could see." Yeah, then there's "Mat, placing his own left eye on a balance scale." Happens. Metaphorically, anyway. "Mat hanging by his neck from a tree limb." Happens. "A dream of Mat and the Seanchan too, but she was willing to dismiss that as a nightmare, just like the one about Mat speaking the Old Tongue." And it's like -- she's like, "These are all just nightmares," and I'm like, girl.

Sally: That's a lot of prophecy.

Emily: That's a whole goddamn bunch of nightmares for you to be having. Especially -- I don't remember my nightmares. I don't know. Like, maybe for a little while, but.

Sally: It's just -- yeah, it's just a lot. Especially 'cause Egwene's like, "People been telling me that I have the foretelling in my dreams. Oh, must just be a bunch of nightmares." (laugh)

Emily: Well, it's also so, like -- people have been like, "Oh, maybe you're a Dreamer. But also maybe not." And it's like -- it -- you couldn't be more confusing about this whole thing. So, like,



I kind of understand where she's coming from in the whole "I don't wanna make nothing out of -  
- I don't want to make something out of nothing," but, like, girl, it's time --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To make something out of this, because you've been having these dreams consistently of, like, creepy shit happening. Like, what's it gonna take? Does -- when Perrin finally grows a beard, is that when you'll believe you're a Dreamer?

Sally: (laugh) "Oh, fuck."

Emily: Can you imagine that day in the Stone of Tear when she passes Perrin, hasn't seen him in a few days, he's got a full beard, she's like --

Sally: "Oh my God."

Emily: "Fuck, I am a Dreamer."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Perrin's like, "Are you OK, Egg?" And she's like, "No."

Sally: "No."

Emily: "Where's Mat? I have to tell him to guard his eyeball."

Sally: Yeah. "Is Mat's eye OK?"

Emily: (laugh) "His poor 'lil neck. Jesus."

Sally: Yeah, he do have neck scars, right?

Emily: I know, yeah, lots of little neck scars.

Sally: It's why he wears his sweaty scarf.

Emily: His very -- I always picture that scarf as so goddamn sweaty.

Sally: And just disgusting --

Emily: I know.

Sally: Like, does he wash it?

Emily: Just all of him. How can Mat be an appealing character, but I also consistently picture him as just very sweaty? (laugh)

Sally: Just, like, so greasy. Just -- sweat pouring down. His hair is matted to his head with sweat.

Emily: He's just a sweaty boy. (laugh)

Sally: Like, why can't he regulate his temperature?

Emily: (laugh) I don't --

Sally: (laugh) What is his deal? Does he not know how to rest?

Emily: It's such -- becomes such a funny thing when, later in the series, you get all the, like, channeler characters --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Who are like, "And I've learned the trick for ignoring the heat and the cold --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Perrin, who's more or less like, "I'm a wolf, so I don't give a shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then we cut over to Mat, who's like, "OH my GOD, I'm dying over here."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "The heatstroke! The frostbite!"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Please, can I have a break?!"

Sally: (laugh) Oh, the poor boy.

Emily: And it's like, oh, babe. Ohhhh, babe.

Sally: I know.

Emily: He's like, "Why isn't anyone else sweating? What the fuck's wrong with me?" (laugh)

Sally: It's just, like, buckets.

Emily: "Am I a medical disaster or something?"

Sally: Yes.

Emily: It's like, yeah, you probably are. You've been stabbed enough times. I'm surprised you don't have tetanus.

Sally: He probably does.

Emily: He probably does, yeah.

Sally: If we examined medicine in the Wheel of Time a little bit more, Robert --

Emily: Nope.

Sally: Perhaps we would know better --

Emily: Robert's like --

Sally: Whether or not Mat has tetanus.

Emily: "No, I am not interested in medicine. Whomst is she?"

Sally: "I don't know anything about tetanus. Who's that bitch?"

Emily: (laugh) "Rabies? What? Never heard of her."

Sally: (laugh) "Rabies?! Infection? Don't be ridiculous. I have magic witches. They heal all infections, and if that doesn't work, spit some herbs into it." (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze) "Cancer these days is defeated by herbs and just the magic in the water --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Apparently."

Sally: Just spit in that magic water --

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: And down the hatch it -- no more cancer. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Um. Anyway, Egwene goes to Tel'aran'rhiod and immediately discovers, uh, that she can change her clothing, like, at will --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then -- she doesn't really, like, control how she gets around at first. She's sort of, uh, controlled by what she's thinking about right as she falls asleep.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is kind of like, "Oh my god, I hope Rand and Perrin are safe," so of course she immediately, uh, goes to Perrin, who is, like -- like, more or less in Tel'aran'rhiod also?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I guess? And he's just, like, chained to a pillar, and he's holding his own chains, and it's like, that's symbolic enough, but also I would like to examine whether this actually was a dream that Perrin, like, did to himself?

Sally: Yeah. Like, what?

Emily: And Hopper's just, like, at the door.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "How dare you come near my son."

Sally: "Excuse me."

Emily: "My idiot son."

Sally: "My son is changing -- chaining himself to a pillar."

Emily: Yeah, "He's doing the whole goddamn werewolf thing."

Sally: Yeah. You're right.

Emily: Yeah, it's very --

Sally: I was thinking about Prometheus.

Emily: Kinky.

Sally: But you're right.

Emily: Oh, and Prometheus. You right.

Sally: No, but yeah, werewolves always, like, chain themselves to the radiator or whatever.

Emily: Mm-hmm, or whatever, and everyone's always like, "Oh, it's a kinky sex thing." Nope. Werewolf.

Sally: Nope. That boy. Yeah, if you ever see someone in chains, don't automatically assume it's BDSM. It might be werewolfism. (laugh)

Emily: But what you should remember -- 'cause we learned this in our werewolf class -- is that werewolves are themselves a kinky sex thing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Pretty much just by nature of --

Sally: Existing.

Emily: Human beings being weird.

Sally: Humans are gross, and everyone wants to fuck a wolf.

Emily: Apparently.

Sally: If you've -- aPerrintly.

Emily: I'm gonna kill you. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ugggggh.

Sally: That was such a good joke, oh my God.

Emily: Fuck me. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ugh, rough. OK. Then Egwene's like, "Ah, no, a wolf," and runs over to Rand's dream, where he's like, "I hate you! You keep trying to trick me with my mom and my dad and pretty girls, and I can't stand this anymore! Not Egwene!" And Egwene's like --

Sally: "... Are you OK?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Egwene's like, "OK. Well, clearly --"

Sally: "Clearly this is not a place to be."

Emily: "Clearly things have taken a downward spiral since the last time I saw you."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "My mom tried to feed me poison cake, and my dad tried to put a knife in my ribs," and I'm like, you don't even know your mom.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Why is -- why must this be a thing?

Sally: Also, poison cake?

Emily: Yeah. It's super rude.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: How dare you poison cake?

Sally: It's also just, like, weird. Like, I don't -- I've never thought of the Wheel world as having cake.

Emily: Honeycakes, they called it.

Sally: Oh, that makes sense. I was thinking of, like, birthday cake.

Emily: Which, I was like, I want --

Sally: It's 'cause I just got on invitation.

Emily: To know what a honey cake is. That sounds delicious.

Sally: I bet it's fucking delicious.

Emily: I know, yeah. Honey? And cake. My two favorite things.

Sally: (laugh) I'm listening to the MBMBAM episode right now where they talk about the cornbread festival.

Emily: Oh my God. (laugh)

Sally: It's taken me, like, three days. I'm still not done with it.

Emily: Well, that's OK.

Sally: That's the rate at which I listen to podcasts.

Emily: Yeah, that's fine. Um. Uh, I can't remember if she sees anything else, but she does eventually, like, just talk to the ring and be like, "Take me where I need to go." Which, later, through much trial and error, in this series, we will find out is a thing you can do in, like, Tel'aran'rhiod --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is search based on need. Like, that's how Elayne and Nynaeve find the Bowl of the Winds.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But Egwene kind of just automatically does it here, 'cause she has no idea how else to travel.

Sally: Yeah ...

Emily: Anyway, that takes her to the Heart of the Stone of Tear, where this old creepy woman named Silvie is like, "Hello, I'm here to help you and explain things to you," and Egwene's like, "OK, bitch. What the fuck?" And I'm like, girl, it is Lanfear, in disguise.

Sally: Again.

Emily: I know, what is up with Lanfear and -- like, I know this is a trope thing, of, like, beautiful sorceress disguises self as a crone --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, like, as a quote unquote ugly woman --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just very, like ... I dunno, again, doesn't really achieve much overall.

Sally: Yeah. Again, what is the point of Lanfear? Please.

Emily: Like, again, why is Lanfear so desperate to, like, fucking get the girls there? Lanfear, what -- is Lanfear just like, "I don't know what's going to happen at the Stone of Tear, but I do want everyone to be there to see it because I'm a lunatic."

Sally: Is it -- is it because at this point Rand and Egwene still have not fully severed -- severed their romantic relationship, so she's like, "Kill Egg"?

Emily: I don't think so?

Sally: "Smash Egg? Egg smash."

Emily: "Egg smash?"

Sally: (laugh) "I smash Egg?"

Emily: (laugh) "I smash Egg now?" No, I think if -- like, what we've seen from Lanfear is that when she does, like, actually feel threatened by a woman, is that she freaks the fuck out.

Sally: You're right.

Emily: But, like, there's that scene at the end of the Great Hunt where Min is literally in bed with Rand 'cause she's a huge idiot, and Lanfear's like, "OK, whatever. Keep him safe for me until I come back to get that dick."

Sally: That's true.

Emily: And it's -- so it's -- I dunno. I dunno.

Sally: I just don't understand her.

Emily: It's just like, if she was at all invested in Egwene because of that, I think her motivation would be just to kill Egwene.

Sally: Yeah. Smash Egg.

Emily: Not to go -- yeah, smash Egg. Not, like, this convoluted of "Deliver Egg to other smashers across the country."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Like, come on.

Sally: "Deliver Egg to out-of-country smashers." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. It doesn't have to be this goddamn convoluted. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, so Egwene is like, "OK, I gotta -- really gotta go to the Stone of Tear," right as, um, someone else is coming to look at the sword, and it's -- Silvie's like, "Ugh, he comes all the time," and you sort of are like, "Rand?" But I think it's actually supposed to be Be'lal, the guy who is in Tear, like, wanting the stone -- the -- Callandor.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. But who knows. Silvie's like, "You gotta get out before he finds you," and then just, like -- I dunno, makes Egwene leave.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: 'Cause Egwene's like, "I don't know how to go anywhere," and Silvie's like, "Oh my God, you fucking idiot, and you -- how are you here?"

Sally: (laugh) "How are you alive?"

Emily: "How are you alive? What the hell?" Anyway, so then she goes back to the waking world, and they're like -- immediately, they're like, "OK, well, let's go to Tear. We'll give Siuan 12 more hours to discuss with us this, and then we're heading out," and Elayne's like, "OK, but I need to send my mom a letter so she doesn't freak out and wage war on Tar Valon," because that almost happened last time.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And they're like, "OK, we'll figure something out." And then, as they're going to sleep, Nynaeve is like, (sing-song) "I just had a great idea!" (laugh)



Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "About who could deliver the letter to your mom." One ADHD boy on the other side of the Tower.

Sally: Desperate to flee this place. (laugh)

Emily: Desperate to flee this place. (laugh)

Sally: Absolutely fucking desperate.

Emily: He's -- "Get me out of here!" Such a lunatic.

Sally: Just banging on the walls.

Emily: Um, yeah. Anyway, that's the chapters. It's just yet another -- it's, like, finally. Can we get out of goddamn Tear? I mean -- get out of --

Sally: The White Tower?

Emily: The White Tower.

Sally: Let's go to Tear.

Emily: Let's go to Tear.

Sally: I want to watch Mat blow up a wall.

Emily: I know. It's just -- the more I read -- like, the more I reread the series, the more I'm irritated by the whole Black Ajah -- 13 Black Ajah being used as the plot, like, at all, to motivate any of our characters?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Before they're, like -- like, I don't know, it would make sense as something that would be happening in Siuan or Moiraine's, like, lives, if they were given, y'know, more, uh --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Frequent points of view. But, like, as these girls, who aren't supposed to even be involved in White Tower politics, it's just kind of annoying. Like, I just want Egg and Nynaeve to be more or less on the same wavelength as the boys in terms of how they're interacting with Rand being the Dragon Reborn and needing to go save the world --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And stuff, I guess?

Sally: Yeah. It just takes them a really long time to get on the same level of agency as the boys.

Emily: Yeah. They're still just like, "We have to do this for the White Tower and this for the White Tower --"

Sally: Yeah. "And this, 'cause Siuan told us to, and this because, y'know, Verin told us to."

Emily: Yeah, and Egwene never really gets out of that, you know?

Sally: Right.

Emily: She's like, "I'm going to go to the Aiel Waste, and, like, that's something I do want to do, but it's so I can learn about Dreaming --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And then I'm basically gonna be bossed around by the Wise Ones, and then I'm gonna become the Amyrlin SEat and still get bossed around by people, until finally I become the boss, and then it's still, like, obligation upon obligation."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So, yeah, I just feel like never is anyone really doing things -- and, I mean, that's more or less true of every character, it just feels more restrictive with the women, I guess?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Even though Mat is theoretically the most restrictive plotline -- he's the one who's --

Sally: Constantly caged.

Emily: Constantly getting forced into things.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But.

Sally: Yeah. It's just -- it really does -- 'cause it just -- it feels like the boys, even though Mat's constantly getting caged and has Mat chooses, or elects, a lot of obligations --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: But again, it's, like, part of that process. Like, Mat chooses. It's, like, part of his character he's like, "If I give my word, I give my word," and it's like Perrin's making choices, and Rand is making choices, whereas the girls, it's just like, "Do this."

Emily: Yeah. "We're doing what we've been told to do."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And we are making choices, but the central motivation is doing what we’ve been told.”

Sally: Yeah. Whereas, like, the boys are being guided by fate, it’s like the women are being guided by human beings. Other human beings.

Emily: I know. Yeah, it’s just, like --

Sally: Yeah. It’s very annoying.

Emily: Again, becomes yet one more paragraph in the overall essay of why the girls should just be *ta’veren*.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, come on.

Sally: It’s -- ‘cause otherwise we get nonsense -- like, blocks of chapters like this, where they’re just running around like chickens with their heads cut off, for --

Emily: (laugh) Like, “Oh my God, I don’t know what to do.”

Sally: For 25 pages until Robert Jordan’s like, “I guess Lanfear -- well, I don’t -- she’s here.”

Emily: “I guess Lanfear will just tell them where to fuckin’ go --”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “‘Cause no one else is doing it.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it’s like, Robert, that’s your job!

Sally: You can control that. (laugh)

Emily: Robert. We don’t have to be in this situation.

Sally: You’re in charge!

Emily: You are in charge of the narrative.

Sally: Believe it or not, bucko. (laugh)

Emily: Ah, man. Come on, chief. Like -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Come on, tiger.

Emily: We can do it.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway. We'll be back next time --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: With, uh, the girls peacing out and also giving Mat an opportunity to peace out. Which, of course --

Sally: God. So grateful.

Emily: He'll be like, "Yes. Thank you. Dear God."

Sally: "Flee."

Emily: "Flee! Flee from my life!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But until then, thanks very much for listening. Thank you, Glynna MacKenzie, for, uh, the use of our theme song.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: We're so happy and grateful for it. Please check us out on iTunes. Rate, review, and subscribe. Oh, God, I sound like a Youtuber.

Sally: Please rate, review, and subscribe!

Emily: Please rate, review, and subscribe!

Sally: I know it sounds --

Emily: To our channel.

Sally: Tacky and dumb, but it really does help. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, it does. Um, and again, if you do want to interact with us on social media, we do love that and will get to you eventually.

Sally: Yes. I will get to you -- I've been doing better. Been trying, making a concerted effort, but I do feel like my hands are gonna fall off in the amount of time it just took me to pull up this sign-off. So please be patient with your ailing mother.

Emily: Yes. Ready to sign us off? (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: OK.

Sally: This sign-off comes from Reagan Caron. Thank you, Reagan. Um, and they write: “I don’t really like driving.” Big fuckin’ mood, first of all. “So it took me a while to get my license.” Same. “I just got it this summer.” Hey, congratulations. “So during Christmas break, when I was home, I did a lot of errands for everyone, including being the designated driver for my brother and his girlfriend.” Listen, you deserve an award already. I know this.

Emily: I also do this whenever I come home for the holidays. It’s like, my dad’s like, “Just do all the holiday shopping --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “For me --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Personally. Chris. Because I don’t have time. The meat thermometer business is booming.”

Sally: (laugh) “But what about the meat thermometers, Emily?! Emily, it’s the holidays! Everybody needs to --” what is it -- “Gift of the Magi everybody with a meat thermometer!” (laugh)

Emily: I -- remind me to tell you sometime about how my mom mis-uses the Gift of the Magi.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anytime anyone gives someone a gift, my mom is like, “It’s like the Gift of the Magi!”

Sally: Becky, no! (laugh) That’s not even remotely correct.

Emily: (laugh) We’re like, “Mom! No!”

Sally: That’s not correct, literally.

Emily: At this point, she knows and just does it to annoy us.

Sally: (laugh) OK.

Emily: OK, back to Reagan.

Sally: Sorry. I -- she’s being the “designated driver for brother and his girlfriend when they went to celebrate his birthday at a new Mexican restaurant in town. It was dark, which made me nervous.” Yes. “And I hardly drive my brother’s shitty car, so I was in a completely new

environment, especially because I hardly drove through this part of town we were in.” Does your brother hate you? Like, what?

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: “My brother, tipsy in the passenger seat, told me directions. Such a bad decision.” Yes. Truly. Drunk people should be banished. “And we came to a dead end on a back road.” Oh, no.

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: “Both my brother and his girlfriend were laughing and making jokes while I gripped the wheel till my knuckles hurt and was struggling to survive this journey.” Oh, baby. “After 20 minutes, we got to a road I recognized and got those two weirdos home. Lesson being: designated driver sucks. Never listen to my older brother.” Yes, and yes. “However, I did get a free burrito, so I would probably do it again because that was a really good burrito.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Well, I’m glad you survived.

Emily: Yeah. Do it for the free burrito, though. Do it for the vine, do it for the free burrito.

Sally: I’d do pretty much anything for a free burrito.

Emily: Goodbye.

Sally: Bye!!!!