



Episode 69 - “Throat Latch”

Release Date: June 3, 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: The really funny part is that for Christmas, he still wanted, like, all the UNIQLO clothes, but then he, like, wasn't satisfied with what we got him because he didn't get the opportunity to go to UNIQLO and binge on his clothing choices like he's done in previous years.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (sigh) My dad fucking loves UNIQLO.

Sally: It's really funny. (laugh)

Emily: It's super funny. (laugh) I was out to lunch with him and my mom the other day, and he broke the news to us -- it was very dramatic --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He was like, "I think I'm tired of wearing clothes that don't fit me." And we were like, "Whoa."

Sally: "Whoa. Chris."

Emily: (laugh) This -- this is a bold thing to say from the man who is 140 pounds, approximately, six feet tall, and only wears size large of everything.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, come on.

Sally: Chris, that -- that's not the right size for you.

Emily: Yeah, we were like -- I was like, "Well, what do you mean, Dad? Like, you wanna wear more skinny jeans?" And he was like, "Yeah. I'm tired of wide-leg pants. And I would like to wear shirts that fit me." And I was like, "To show off your hot bod?" And he was like, "No." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I mean, he does -- he's up in the gym just working on his fitness like (inaudible) before him.

Emily: I can't emphasize enough how much my dad is a gym rat.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's really upsetting, actually.

Sally: It's -- like, I've never met a person who goes to the gym more than Emily's dad does.

Emily: I know, he goes -- he just fucking loves the stair-stepper. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He's, like, addicted.

Emily: He's really addicted, and he doesn't understand that it's because of his stress.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He has a very stressful life, and so he goes to the gym and, like, works it off, and that's his, like, weird little addiction.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, I drink Diet Coke. My dad goes to the gym an hour a day and sweats off half his body weight.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's a sweaty boy.

Sally: And he just does, like, half-marathons on the stair-stepper --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Pretty frequently.

Emily: On Thanksgiving Day.

Sally: And it's, like, a little alarming to me. (laugh)

Emily: He's such a lunatic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then also he just eats so much.

Sally: The last time I was at Emily's parents' house, we were going to see Avengers, and we walk up -- I walk upstairs, 'cause I used the bathroom in their basement, and Emily's dad just has this massive bowl of salad. It was, like -- (laugh) gigantic. And I was like, "What is going on?" And it was, like, a personal salad for him. It was, like, not for dinner or anything.

Emily: No, yeah. He literally takes a dish the size of what you would use to, like, serve a salad in for a six-member family --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he just fills it with his spinach and his personal salad fixings --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And just chows down. It is ridiculous.

Sally: It was really funny. (laugh)

Emily: It's upsetting. (laugh)

Sally: I was like, "OK, Chris. Whatever works for you."

Emily: Ugggh. OK, now we've finished talking about my dad.

Sally: That's your Chris Juchau update of the --

Emily: That's your Chris Juchau cold open.

Sally: Month. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) OK, this is Everybody Hates Rand -- (laugh) your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: You've got a big glass of water there.

Sally: Listen, if I don't drink, like, 80 ounces of water a day, my body shuts down.

Emily: I just think it's so cool how much you drink water.

Sally: (laugh) Thanks.

Emily: I drank more water at the gym yesterday than I have in probably a week, so.

Sally: That's good.

Emily: Yeah, I mean -- wanna drink the water. Your mouth gets dry when you're on the dang elliptical --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And you're like -- (makes panting, wheezing noise).

Sally: I think it alarms everybody at work how much I drink water. 'Cause I've started going -- there's, like, a water filter in the fridge, and there's, like, one of those fun water fountains downstairs in the gift shop --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: That, like, updates for, like, how many water bottles it's filled.

Emily: Huh.

Sally: You know, like they had at the U.

Emily: That's cool. Yeah.

Sally: And so I like using that one, 'cause I'm like, "Ooh, look at all this." And so I go down there pretty frequently to fill my water, and I think everyone's like, "This bitch is drowning." And I'm like, "No. I'm just weak."

Emily: Worse ways to go, I guess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, OK. Good news. We finally figured out how the last chapter ended. (laugh)

Sally: Nice. Nice nice nice nice nice.

Emily: I know there was some blurring of lines there.

Sally: Meh.

Emily: In fact, it ended in the weirdest spot imaginable, so --

Sally: True.

Emily: I like your shirt today. It's so cute.

Sally: Thank you! I got it at that Piper and Scoot place.

Emily: Oh, yeah. You love that place.

Sally: I really don't.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Because I don't have the body type to wear Mormon-designed fashion.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 'Cause I look kind of like a Bratz baby, so everything that I wear makes me look very strange. (laugh)

Emily: Mormon body types is like: sexy plank with child-bearing hips.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Sexy plank.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh) Fleabag is so good. Please watch it.

Emily: Yeah, please watch Fleabag. (laugh) Please stop this podcast and watch Fleabag.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) It is so good.

Emily: It is very good.

Sally: But, yeah, it's very -- like -- we were actually having this conversation at work -- was -- we were talking about bridal magazines. But anyway, it's, like, the Mormon bride.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: The Mormon woman is just sort of, like, taller than average and very thin and no hips.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Long blonde hair.

Emily: Just -- boyish. With blonde -- long blonde hair. You've got that part down.

Sally: I do. Although it's kind of --

Emily: Very sexy long blonde hair.

Sally: Kind of brown-ish right now.

Emily: (inaudible)

Sally: It'll get blonde in the summer.

Emily: Whoa.

Sally: I know, isn't that weird? I get sun-bleached. It's very strange.

Emily: I just get a few more freckles than usual.

Sally: Very freckly baby.

Emily: I'm a freckly boy. OK.

Sally: Kay! (clapping) Wheel of Time! This has been, as usual, 10 minutes of nonsense.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: At least we're not talking about glass this time.

Emily: Ahh! OK, so, we pick up --

Sally: (cough)

Emily: With the girls and, uh, the Maidens and -- uh, right after Nynaeve has healed that one chick who got stabbed or whatever. Um.

Sally: R.I.P.

Emily: And Aviendha kind of, like, escorts them away, more or less, with Bain and Chiad, and they kind of keep up some of the conversation about, like, um -- uh, how Maidens might choose to give up the spear or might be kind of obligated to give up the spear, uh, if they have other duties, like if you choose to get married or have kids, um, or if you are need to become a Wise One. Which --

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Um, we're not, like -- the idea of Wise Ones isn't filtered, really, through Egwene in a productive way, in that she's not like, "Oh, I wonder if Wise Ones are Aes Sedai, y'know, women who can channel," et cetera, et cetera, it's just, like, this open-ended cultural question. Especially because, as we find out in book four, Wise Ones are not necessarily just women who can channel. There are Wise Ones who are not women who can channel.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is pretty interesting, I think.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just like, how -- like, how would you be a woman who can't channel and they're like, "You. You're gonna be a Wise One."

Sally: Just the power of will, I guess?

Emily: They're like, "Damn, that's a stubborn lass."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "She's mean as hell."

Sally: "We need her."

Emily: That's what happened with -- what's her name? Bair. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah. They're just like, "That's a mean bitch."

Emily: Like, "She is a mean grandma. Better take her to Rhuidean."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's a mean grandma? She's only 13. (laugh)

Sally: I mean, you can be a mean grandma at any age.

Emily: Exactly. Yeah. Big mean grandma energy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: ... Tybalt just looking out the window.

Sally: I know. He's knocked -- Emily gave him a shoebox yesterday that he proceeded to just knock upside down and just smells, 'cause he's like, "I can't fit in this anymore."

Emily: Yeah, he's like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: So he just smells it. (laugh)

Emily: He woke me up at four in the morning to let me into -- let him into my room and then immediately kick him out 30 seconds later.

Sally: Because he's the worst to sleep with.

Emily: I know.

Sally: He's an absolute asshole.

Emily: The devil. OK.

Sally: (laugh) OK. This is episode 69, and we are not bringing the appropriate horny energy --

Emily: AAAAGHH! I FORGOT! (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, we gotta --

Emily: What the fuck! It's the sex number!

Sally: Yeah, we --

Emily: Sixty-NINE!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: We should've started this with air horns!

Sally: (makes trumpeting noise) You can edit that in.

Emily: Damn. And then it immediately jumps into Chris -- us talking about Chris? (laugh)

Sally: Yeah -- (inaudible)

Emily: Ooh, I hate that. I shouldn't have talked about my dad in the sex episode.

Sally: You can delete it.

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: We can delete all of that.

Emily: The blooper reel -- this is all -- that was all done. Now we're in the sex episode.

Sally: (mimics air horn noise)

Emily: Hell yeah. Tragically, there isn't very much sex.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Actually, that's probably a good thing, 'cause when Robert Jordan writes sex, it's not really sexy.

Sally: No. So we're just gonna make this sexy.

Emily: It is super sexy. Including Aviendha and Egwene being fully in love.

Sally: Yeah. Natch.

Emily: As they part ways. And talk about, like, He Who Comes With the Dawn. Egwene's like, "Aviendha, why the fuck are you even here?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Aviendha's like, "We are here for He Who Comes With the Dawn." And they're like, "Oookay, whoever that is." And Elayne's like, (whisper) "I think it's Rand," because whenever Elayne hears a "he" pronoun, she assumes it's Rand.

Sally: I mean, "he" and "comes" are in the same sentence, so --

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: (laugh) So her horny brain is like, "That's my boy."

Emily: Elayne literally can't stop thinking of Rand. It's, like --

Sally: In a way, it's sort of powerful. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, big teenage girl energy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Robert really did capture the pure obsessive --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Compulsive -- (laugh) love --

Sally: Teenage love.

Emily: Yeah. That teenagers have. But also, it continues throughout the next 14 books, so.

Sally: And also, it's just like, Rand does not deserve that type of obsession.

Emily: I know, but then -- it's like, I think of the teenage boys that I had a crush on, and I'm like, "Yeah, they were trash too."

Sally: I mean, that's true. Teenage boys are --

Emily: Ain't shit.

Sally: Teenagers --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Generally speaking, but especially of the male variety.

Emily: Sorry if you're a teenage boy.

Sally: We love you anyway. If you're here, you're automatically, like, 18 points better than the other teenage boys.

Emily: Eighteen out of ...? (laugh)

Sally: Eighteen points out of ... question mark.

Emily: Out of question mark.

Sally: To be decided.

Emily: (groan)

Sally: But anyway, Elayne is super horny for Rand all the time.

Emily: Elayne is horny for Rand all the time. And so is Min. Aviendha's the only one who gets away with not being quite as horny for Rand all the time.

Sally: Good for you, Aviendha.

Emily: OK. I know. It's 'cause Aviendha's really a lesbian, and Robert Jordan was a coward.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Emily: Can't even talk about this anymore. OK, anyway, they part ways and are tromping through the woods to get to the next village to get a ship, and Elayne's like, "Rand's He Who Comes With the Dawn," and Egwene's like, "Yeah, you're probably right 'cause he's Jesus and everything --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “So. Figure of prophecies.” And then suddenly, like, a bunch of, like, people step out of the underbrush and are, like -- throw rocks. It’s almost exactly like that scene in Shrek, when Robin Hood and his merry men --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Come piling out of the woods.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And -- to rescue -- quote unquote, rescue -- Fiona.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then she does, like, martial arts on their asses.

Sally: That movie is so awesome.

Emily: I know! It is so fucking good. And Shrek 2? Also?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Very good.

Sally: Very good. Shrek 3? Meh.

Emily: I’m sort of a fan of Shrek 3. (laugh)

Sally: I know you are. I know you are. (laugh)

Emily: I just think it has some really funny parts. (laugh)

Sally: Like primal scream therapy?

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Aaaaahhh!

Emily: (bad British accent) It’s time for some primal scream therapy! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh, cough)

Emily: And the fact that King Arthur is voiced by Justin Timberlake --

Sally: I know, that is pretty wild.

Emily: I just think it’s a really good joke.

Sally: Especially because in the second one, they have a poster of Justin Timberlake --

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: Above Fiona's bed. (laugh)

Emily: So good.

Sally: It's funny.

Emily: OK. OK.

Sally: Shrek is very self-referential.

Emily: Awwww. OK. Um --

Sally: They get kidnapped, basically.

Emily: Yeah, they get kidnapped. Egwene gets knocked unconscious, and then when she wakes up, she's, like, slumped over somebody's saddle --

Sally: Yeah. Which is upsetting.

Emily: And -- yeah, which is upsetting and very, um -- I would hate that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, riding horses is scary enough, and then you're, like, over their --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What's the back part of a horse called? Is that the withers?

Sally: I was gonna say "butt," so I dunno. (laugh)

Emily: I, like, wanna know horse anatomy, but I don't want to Google "horse anatomy." I feel like that's a dangerous road.

Sally: We're doing it.

Emily: Oh noooooo.

Sally: (singing) Hooooorse anat -- (normal voice) Look. "Equine anatomy." Wikipedia's got me.

Emily: Oh, equine anatomy. That's a lot better. That's a lot more scientific.

Sally: Umm, it looks like the butt part is called the croup.

Emily: The croup.

Sally: Is that what you're talking about?

Emily: Yeah, I think so. Oh, the withers is the front part. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's like ships. What's the port? What's the stern?

Emily: (laugh) Who's to say?

Sally: The withers is, like, their shoulder bump.

Emily: Yeah, their little shoulder bumpy --

Sally: Gaskin? That's, like, their --

Emily: Never heard of that in a fantasy novel. Like, I know -- I know "withers" 'cause it's in every fantasy novel, for --

Sally: Yeah. Throat latch. (laugh)

Emily: NO! AGH, this is why I didn't want to know horse anatomy.

Sally: Throat latch.

Emily: Oh, no! What does that mean? I hate that.

Sally: It's, like, literally just, like, their throat.

Emily: But why not just call it their throat?

Sally: Because it's a throat latch, Emily. (laugh)

Emily: I -- can't -- describe --

Sally: You gotta undo the latch to feed the horse.

Emily: How much I hate that -- WHAT? No!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Stop it. I'm having a full panic attack thinking about "throat latch." (gagging noise)

Sally: (gag) OK. We're done.

Emily: OH, is that the end of the horse anatomy joke?

Sally: I mean, there's a lot of other ones. But it's like, I don't know how to make a joke about something called an "ergot."

Emily: (sputter) Lord Ergot?

Sally: Lord Ergot. It's like the horse's ankle. (Laugh)

Emily: That, like, weird little bumpy --

Sally: Yeah, their weird little bumpy ankle. The -- apparently their, like, shins are called "cannons." Which is pretty cool.

Emily: That's kinda cool, yeah.

Sally: They're gonna kick the shit out of you.

Emily: There's a part in the most recent Wheel of Time book that I've been reading -- Towers of Midnight -- where Brandon Sanderson is, like, trying to come up with good military strategies, and it's very transparently Brandon Sanderson trying to come up with good military strategies --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, "We're fighting in an urban setting, so I'm gonna have the horses, like, tie rags around their hooves to muffle the sound so that we can sneak attack people." And I was like, I think if horses could wear, like, cloth on their feet without tripping, we would be doing that more.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I feel like that's not good. If you're a horse expert, let me know.

Sally: (laugh) If you're a horse.

Emily: 'Cause I'm -- I'm -- if you're a horse -- listening to this podcast -- (laugh)

Sally: First of all, I'm proud of you.

Emily: First of all, I'm so proud of you. Second of all, I have no idea how you're going to respond 'cause you don't have thumbs, but. Not to rub it in.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Use your throat latch or whatever. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Sixty-NINE. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK, OK.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, Egwene's like, "Aw, dang, I'm concussed," and everyone's concussed. There's Nynaeve and Elayne. They at least seem to be alive, 'cause they're also slung over the croup of the horse --

Sally: There you go.

Emily: And there's all these dirty boys -- dirty rowdy boys wandering around being like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Maybe we should sexually assault them," et cetera, et cetera. And Egwene's like, "No."

Sally: "I would prefer not."

Emily: "I would prefer we didn't do that."

Sally: Yeah. Don't do a sexual assault.

Emily: Yeah. Don't do it. Um -- (voice cracks, wheeze) What just happened?

Sally: Your throat latch is broken. (laugh)

Emily: Ha. (laugh) Uh, then one of them notices she's awake and they, like, knock her over the head again.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is like -- head wounds, my guys --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Are, like -- are you trying to keep them alive? You idiots.

Sally: Yeah, it's, like, a very fine line between knocking someone out and knocking someone into death. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, which is almost what happens with Elayne --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tragically, Nynaeve heals her.

Sally: I know, what if -- Can you imagine if Elayne just died?

Sally: Elayne just died? That'd be amazing.

Emily: It'd be so funny.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It would be such a fun Game of Thrones twist.

Sally: Yeah. They're like, "Elayne just died because these brigands knocked her too hard on the skull."

Emily: I know, I'd be like, OK. OK, I'm into this.

Sally: Like, commitment to your verisimilitude. Weapons.

Emily: Yeah, that's what I like.

Sally: Yeah. It's true. Emily's really into the verisimilitude of fighting.

Emily: If someone -- yeah, if someone gets a head injury -- (clicking noise)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Expect them to have a 50 percent chance of dying. Is my feeling. OK. Which is why when Batman, like, knocks people over the head, it's like -- and he's like, "I don't kill people," it's like, OK, you just cause them irreversible brain damage.

Sally: You just give them -- Yeah.

Emily: Or break their skulls or something. You dumbass.

Sally: Bruce, you fucker.

Emily: Bruce! Anyway, Robert Pattinson for Batman. I think he's a great choice.

Sally: Me too! I don't know why everyone's flipping.

Emily: 'Cause they're like, "Heh, he was in a thing that was for teenage girls, and as we all know, things for teenage girls can't be translated for men," and I'm like, explain My Little Pony fetishes, then.

Sally: Groooooooss.

Emily: You gross-ass men. OK. (pause) Sixty-NINE.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Anyway, next time Egwene wakes up, uh, she's just like, um, in, like, the creepy back room of a house, which is -- it's like, OK, we're in a house now. She's not even tied up. She's like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Okaaaay, why am I even awake. Thought they knocked me out with something. I’ve got a weird taste in my mouth.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, and she sort of listens to what’s going on with the men. Um. It’s more or less like -- you read this more recently than I did --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It’s -- they’re just like, “We’re gonna capture her and wait here for -- we’re capturing them and waiting here for some people to come buy them.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And they’re Aes Sedai, and we know this.”

Sally: Yeah. ‘Cause of their rings.

Emily: Yeah, “We stole their rings.”

Sally: Which have been snatched.

Emily: Yeah. They’re all in a little pile on the table.

Sally: Including Lan’s horny ring for Nyaneve.

Emily: Yeah, Lan’s -- Lan’s chastity ring that he gave Nynaeve.

Sally: (laugh) His promise ring.

Emily: (gagging noise) Sixty-NINE.

Sally: Gross. It is a chastity ring, though.

Emily: It’s gross, yeah.

Sally: Nasty.

Emily: Um, then Egwene, uh, is like, “OK. Gotta turn my a-attention to the gals,” and is like, “Well, Elayne seems broke, better wake up Nyaneve --” and Nyaneve’s like -- (wordless waking-up noises)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Whazzit?” And Elayne’s like, “Hey, sorry, they gave us something to make us sleep, but, y’know, like, we’re awake, clearly.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Nynaeve is like, “Well, let me just --” (lip-smacking noises)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) “I can tell that what they actually gave us was sleepwell root. Quick! Egwene, pop quiz: What does that do?”

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) I know, it’s really weird.

Emily: And Egwene’s like, “Uh, it just helps you sleep. It’s basically Nyquil.”

Sally: Yeah. It’s, like, for curing headaches and making you sleep.

Emily: Yeah. And Nynaeve’s like, “So these idiots -- MEN don’t know medicine. Men can’t be DOCTORS.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “They can’t even be effective KIDNAPPERS. Bleeggh!” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It is really funny, though, that effectively what happens is that they give them medicine to wake them up and cure the headaches that they gave them for knocking them out. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Egwene’s like, “So basically what they gave us was pain relief for our concussions.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Nynaeve’s like, “Yes. Because men ain’t shit.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Nynaeve’s like, “If I were to kidnap someone, here’s the systematic list --”

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: “Of what I would do.” (laugh)

Emily: Nynaeve’s like, “I always, constantly, have a kidnapping plan in place.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Murder? I know how to do that too.” God.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Men are so incompetent.”

Sally: And Egwene's like --

Emily: "Oh, fuck, Elayne's got a broken skull." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So Nynaeve manages to muster up enough anger to heal Elayne.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Um, and then the three of them are like, "Alright, time to break out of prison," and are getting ready to storm in when, a) a bunch of Myrddraal enter and are like, "Where are my magic women?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the dudes are like, "Um, this wasn't really what we meant when we were gonna, like, sell women," and the Myrddraal are like, "You don't get to choose when you -- you're participating in human trafficking."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You idiots."

Sally: Yeah. The -- there's some -- you're complicit --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Bitch.

Emily: You're going to enter some moral bad areas --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Obviously.

Sally: The moral bad areas. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. You can't pick a zone to end --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And be like, "This is the -- this is the limit of my moral gray area."

Sally: "I wanna participate in human trafficking, but only, like, on the good -- the medium-bad to good side of things." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Yeah.

Sally: "That's what I put on my human trafficking application." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "I draw the line -- I draw the line at selling women to creepy eyeless vampire men."

Sally: (laugh) "THAT'S the line."

Emily: "That's too bad for me." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God, I hate these men.

Sally: They're so awful.

Emily: Anyway, before the gals can do anything about these, like, six Myrddraal that just entered, a bunch of Aiel --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just, like, swarm in. And it's not just ladies. It's also dude Aiel.

Sally: It's also my dad.

Emily: It's also my personal father, Rhuarc.

Sally: Yeah. My personal hot dad, Rhuarc.

Emily: (laugh) My personal hot dad.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, God, I love Rhuarc.

Sally: I know. Rhuarc is just a good, good dad.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, they quickly dispatch the brigands because, as we know, men -- like, men versus Aiel is always going to result in Aiel --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Killing the men, because men aren't shit.

Sally: Aiel are superior.

Emily: Aiel are superior. They just work out non-stop.

Sally: Talk about gym rats.

Emily: Yeah. Gym rats are the Aiel. Desert gym rats.

Sally: Desert --

Emily: Just -- eat lizards. They have a --

Sally; (snort)

Emily: (laugh) so much protein.

Sally: God, I wish Gaul were here.

Emily: Can you imagine if Gaul was just, like, a protein bro? You know, like a gym bro?

Sally: Oh my GOD. Yes. Gaul is --

Emily: Constantly wandering around with a protein shake?

Sally: Got one of those, like, shakers.

Emily: Which is actually a lizard. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Just constantly in his, like, socks with sandals.

Emily: Heeey.

Sally: You're wearing socks with sneakers.

Emily: Still.

Sally: I'm the one in sandals.

Emily: I would wear socks with sandals. It's comfy.

Sally: Socks with sandals is actually -- yeah. Very comfortable.

Emily: It's very comfy. OK --

Sally: It's just what you wear -- the rest of the outfit -- that tips you from not-bro to bro. Y'know?

Emily: Yeah, what I would wear would be basketball shorts and a tank top, so.

Sally: Emily looked so frat when she went to the gym yesterday. It filled me with unending delight. (laugh) I laughed about it all evening. I was like, "Look at her! I love it!"

Emily: I have to go in disguise to the gym so that I can feel like -- y'know, like I'm not gonna get looked at.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When I go to the gym, the -- the effort is to have no one look at me.

Sally: Yeah. Natch.

Emily: Like, no one look at me, or I will stomp you to death with my hooves.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Like -- my -- ergots. (laugh)

Sally: (snort)

Emily: My throat latch.

Sally: (laugh) Just gonna whip that throat latch around. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Aw, that kinda gave me whiplash.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway, the Aiel dispatch the dudes and then are like, "Hey, Myrddraal, fuckin' dance with me!"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Dance-off to save the universe." (laugh)

Sally: That's the only good part of Guardians of the Galaxy.

Emily: Yeah, it is. It's a pure part.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Instead of fighting --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We're going to dance.

Sally: We're going to make Chris Pratt move his hips.

Emily: Yeah. Good. Um --

Sally: (laugh) Dance-off to save the universe. Yeah, the Aiel are like, "Hey! You ain't shit!"

Emily: "You ain't shit, Myrddraal."

Sally: "Dance with me."

Emily: "Dance with me at the school -- awkward school dance. Dance battle. Dance dance revolution."

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: And then our magic ladies pop out and are like, "We can take care of this," and Egwene sets them on fire, and Elayne crumples them into balls of nothing, and then Nynaeve balefires them --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For good measure.

Sally: So it's like, OK. (laugh)

Emily: It's like, ladies. Maybe you should calm down a little bit.

Sally: It's also one of the most terrifying moments -- we've talked about Nynaeve basically being a nuclear bomb, but the fact that she just, like, produces balefire and, like, doesn't even know what that is?

Emily: Literally, the last chapter was, I think, the first -- maybe the second time we've even heard the phrase "balefire."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Balefire, in this book, is introduced as what Nynaeve does, and Moiraine does it later in the book, when she kills Be'lal --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, like, um, it's also introduced as, like, forbidden.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily; Immediately. Like, Aviendha's like, "We know that Aes Sedai, for -- 'cause we failed them."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- Aviendha -- Aviendha introduces the idea that Aiel owe Aes Sedai in some way.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That they failed them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And no one really knows why except maybe clan chiefs and Wise Ones, but, like, the point is, the Aes Sedai have the right --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To exact vengeance if they choose to come after the Aiel with their fire and their balefire.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Egwene's like, "What the fuck is balefire?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Aviendha's like, "You don't know?" And Egwene's like, "No," and Aviendha's like, "OK, well, I'm gonna tick that one off as being safe from."

Sally: Dun DUN.

Emily: And Nynaeve just, like, produces balefire. Out of nowhere.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause she's just got, like, destructive energy.

Sally: She's a scary lady.

Emily: Yeah. And Egwene and Elayne are like, "What was that?" and Nynaeve's like, "I think it was balefire." (tsks)

Sally: Heh heh. Flips braid.

Emily: Flips braid. No big deal. Uh, then they have a nice chat with the Aiel, who are like, "Aw, thanks for offing the Myrddraal for us --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "That -- we probably would've died. Doing that."

Sally: And they're just like, "Whatever."

Emily: "Mm, whatever." And Rhuarc's like, "I would prefer not to die," and Nynaeve's like, "Thank God."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Finally, an Aiel who would prefer not to die." (laugh) They also, sadly, like, find out that one of the Aiel who did die is the chick who got stabbed --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That Nynaeve healed. So Nynaeve's like, "What was the fucking point?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Come on. Battle and war suck." And Rhuarc's like, "OK, well, we did just rescue you. So jot that down."

Sally: Yeah. "So, first of all ..."

Emily: "So be a little grateful." Nynaeve's like, "Fine."

Sally: "Fine, Dad."

Emily: Anyway. Aviendha was like, "Yeah, I just stalked you casually, and then I saw you get kidnapped, and I was like, 'Oh, they'll totally handle this,' but then you guys didn't, 'cause you get knocked over the head, so I went and fetched my dad, Rhuarc."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "To save you." And that's pretty much that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then the Aiel are like, "OK, well."

Sally: "Peace." (laugh)

Emily: "Yeah, we'll see you later, I guess." They do, like, hang out for a little -- they escort the ladies to the town --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: More or less, and it's, like -- they have these horses, um, that the ladies are using, um, and the Aiel are just, like, casually jogging to keep up. And are like, "Oh, we can go faster. We can do this all day." I'm always like, "What the?"

Sally: I know. The superhuman running of the Aiel is very --

Emily: It's like -- were they injected with the Captain America superhero serum? It's ridiculous.

Sally: That's all -- that's what's in the lizards.

Emily: That it -- ohhh. Good point.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: HYDRA, they just -- (laugh)

Sally: HYDRA put the serum into all the lizards.

Emily: Dumped the toxic serum into the desert, and then a bunch of lizards found it and were like, "Now we're super soldiers."

Sally: And the Aiel are like, "We're gonna eat you."

Emily: Yeah. "Well, you're still tiny, so we're gonna eat you."

Sally: (chomping noise) Like beef jerky, just -- like trail mix?

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Just poppin' lizards.

Emily: OK. Um --

Sally: That joke didn't land with Emily, apparently.

Emily: (laugh) I just was trying --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Then I got, like, really into, like, the idea of trail -- trail mix lizards and was like, "Do you have to chop up the lizards?"

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: And it was just, like, a really disturbing --

Sally: Yeah, that's fair.

Emily: Train of thought. So that's why. Um, but the Aiel basically part ways and are like, "OK, well, we're off," and the gals are like, "We're going to Tear," and Rhuarc's like, "Tear? That's ironic. It's almost like we're all going to meet up at the end of this book." (laugh)

Sally: "It's almost like we're all chasing the same boy."

Emily: "The same boy." And Egwene's like, "What boy? I'm chasing after some evil ladies." And Elayne's like, "Oh, I'm here for Rand. I don't know what you all are -- what? Black Ajah who?"

Sally: "I don't know who that is."

Emily: "I haven't ever heard of them. I'm just here to fuck Rand."

Sally: "I'm here to find that dick."

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: Dick.

Emily: Uh, but the ladies get to the town and board a ship and are back on their way to Tear.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: After that brief kidnapping/Aiel interlude.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Then we get to switch over to a little farther down the river -- or maybe a little further up the -- no, farther down the river, 'cause Mat describes passing the ship that --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Uh, they were on. Um. At Aringill, where Mat and Thom are about to disembark from their ship. And it's just fucking delightful.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um.

Sally: Mat's, like, full of coins.

Emily: Mat is just jingling -- jingle-jangling.

Sally: Yeah. Just, like --

Emily: Down the gangplank.

Sally: Literally clanking like a suit of armor, I assume.

Emily: Yeah, clanking. He's just Alphonse Elric up in here.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And the captain -- the greasy captain is like, "Are you sure I can't do anything to help?" And Mat's like, "Mmm. Maybe I'd like another meal and a game of dice on the ship," and the dude's like -- (wheezing noise)

Sally: (laugh) "Time to go!"

Emily: "You should leave." And Mat's like, "OK. Yeah. I know. I've eaten all your food and --"

Sally: Well, and I love it when Thom's like, "You were eating all their food --" Mat's like, "I was mostly dumping it over the side of the boat."

Emily: Mat's like, "No, actually, a few days ago, I stopped feeling supernaturally hungry and just started dumping it off the side of the boat."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "And -- now, in retrospect, looking at all these refugees, that was a cruel thing to do."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Thom's like, "Yeah. No shit."

Sally: "No shit, you dumb fuck. Why were you --"

Emily: "You dumb fuck."

Sally: "Doing that?" Mat's like, "You don't understand. I have to do the shitty thing at all times."
(laugh)

Emily: "I have to do mischief always." Mat also is like, "I casually opened Elayne's letter to her mom --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Because -- whatever, interfering with mail. I've committed enough felonies."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "This one's no big deal."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And is like, "Ah, that wasn't even -- that wasn't even interesting. It was boring."

Sally: "It wasn't even spicy."

Emily: "It wasn't even SPICY."

Sally: "There's no meat there."

Emily: "I'm just so curious all the time." And Thom's like, "Rah, rah, Game of Houses," and Mat's like, "That means nothing to me."

Sally: "I have -- I don't have an HBO subscription." (laugh)

Emily: "I don't have an HBO --" (laugh) "What are you talking about?"

Sally: "Who are these people?!"

Emily: Agggh! Um, but ... yeah, I can't really --

Sally: And then they -- of course, Mat gives some coins to a refugee family after talking about how he's a bad person. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, this chapter -- especially because it's titled "A Hero in the Night" or whatever -- is like --

Sally: (singing) I need a hero ...

Emily: Yeah. Very much so.

Sally: (singing) I'm holding out for a hero ... (trails off)

Emily: It's just, uh, one of the -- it's playing very much into Mat's -- one of Mat's themes, which is the idea that he often commits acts of heroism in rescuing people, helping people who need help, um, but doesn't want to be labeled as a hero.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He wants to kind of have this illusion of being a not-good person.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, like, if you really want to psychoanalyze it, I think it's because he wants the freedom to not feel obligated to do things. Because once you're labeled a hero, it's like, "Oh, now I always have to do the good thing."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Mat's like, "When I do things, I just want it to be because I'm doing a thing."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, "I'm making the choice. I don't want it to be because I'm, like, subscribing to a label, y'know?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is kind of interesting. It's also just very endearing --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of Mat. I dunno, it's the opposite of all the dudes that we come in contact with who are like, "I'm a hero, and I, therefore, because I'm such a good guy, I'm entitled to XYZ."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like Gawyn.

Sally: (gagging noise) Yeah, and so often, men in fantasy stories, their whole thing is, like, chasing heroism and that, like, idea of it, so it's -- again, Mat, the only boy who's like, "Nah, dawg. I'm good."

Emily: Yeah, Mat just -- Mat's very endearing because he just instinctively does good things.

Sally: Yeah. He's just a good guy.

Emily: He -- as Mat, uh, frequently is wont to do, acts without thinking. It's all on impulse. On impulse, he hands this woman and her children a bunch of -- he's just like, "Here, have three thousand U.S. dollars --"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "To feed your kids," and she's like, "Oh, OK?"

Sally: "You got it."

Emily: "You got it, sir." And Mat's like, "And off we go," and Thom's like, "Oh -- kay. OK. Just my dumbass teenage boy."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thom, who, by the way, basically caused the refugee crisis.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's not a lot of, um -- we're not in Thom's point of view, so there's not a lot of, um, the recognition that Thom is at the root of this --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Later, when we meet Aludra, she's like, "Yeah, everyone acted like, just 'cause of this one thing that happened in the Illuminator chapter house --" which, by the way, was caused by Rand --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She's like, "Everyone's acting like I killed the king and caused this war." And Thom's like -- (coughing)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Well, it's a little narrow-minded to say killing a king alone could cause the war."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Aludra's like, "No, that was definitely the event --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "That triggered the war." And Thom's like, "Oh. It's almost like vengeance is stupid."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I, personally, am all for taking down the monarchy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But this has, like, caused a political upheaval in an unstable -- like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A huge crisis in Cairhien, which is now resulting in a starving population.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: So. Just jot that down. Men, as usual, trying to take revenge for dead women, just cause more problems for women.

Sally: Mm-hmm. And everyone else.

Emily: And everyone else. Women, children, other dudes. It's just, like --

Sally: Horses.

Emily: Yeah. All the horses that are getting eat?

Sally: That's so spooky.

Emily: I know ... Mat's like -- when they, like, get off the ship, Mat's like, "Hey, where can we find an inn and some horses to buy?" and this one guard is like, "Well, you're not gonna find any horses, 'cause they've all been ate, and you're not gonna find an inn either, so go fuck yourself."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "OK, friendly soldier. This has been a fun interaction."

Sally: "Fuck you too!"

Emily: And the dude's like, "Yeah, well, that's what the military does, apparently." (laugh) Mat has a funny aside here, where he's like, "I hope no one accuses me of being Andoran --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And tries to make me go into the army --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Where I would have to follow orders, which is my NIGHTMARE."

Sally: Ugh! Aaaaghh! (cough)

Emily: It is pretty funny that Mat is, like, military boy but also has never been in --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Has never been, like, a military scrub or whatever.

Sally: Yeah. A soldier.

Emily: Yeah. Never had to follow orders. He just dispenses them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Oh, Mat. Little weirdo. Uh, anyway, they go to a few inns that are like, "Yeah, sorry, we're full, can't have anyone," and Mat finally is like, "OK, well, here, have three thousand more US dollars. Can we use your stable?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And the guy's like, "Fine. Also, you can buy two of my horses." And Mat's like, "Great." So he and Thom are just, like, chilling in the hayloft --

Sally: Thom's smoking.

Emily: Thom's smoking. Mat is, like, gazing at the roof like a little -- I dunno, Mat's big on, like, laying on his back --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And gazing at the stars, et cetera. He's so cute. When the stable opens and a woman, uh, dragging a cart comes in, and that's Aludra. She's got her little braids, et cetera. She's so cool.

Sally: Yeah. Aludra's awesome.

Emily: I know. But then, like, a bunch of other dudes come in and are like, "Aludra! We've been trying to follow you all this time so we can slit your throat for sharing Illuminator secrets," and she's like, "I'm not sharing Illuminator secrets. I'm just making a living."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "You're just a misogynist."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that one dude -- Tamuz? Tamuz?

Sally: Tamuz, I would think.

Emily: Tamuz. He's like, "Yeah, well, fuck you, 'cause we have some professional rivalry that was on-screen briefly in the Great Hunt --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Which now the readers are supposed to remember."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I, who have read this series like six times, do remember it, but only because I've read this series six times. Everyone else, I don't expect you to recall this 'cause it's stupid.

Sally: Like, I remembered Aludra. I did not remember this other fucker.

Emily: Yeah, they, like, are having a whole conversation when Rand is like, um --

Sally: Running around.

Emily: Running around the Illuminator chapter house, hiding from Trollocs or whatever the fuck he's doing --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, like, getting horny for Lanfear.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Ugh. I hate that scene. Um. Anyway, these dudes, like, pull a bunch of knives, and Mat just fucking grabs a rope and swings down from the hayloft --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And knocks into them like bowling pins.

Sally: Yeah. It's so good.

Emily: It -- it's so good. And then, even better, he, like, gets up, and they all have their knives pointed at him, and Mat's like, "Oh, fuck --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I don't have a single thing."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Thom is like, "Mat!" and, like, yeets his --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Quarterstaff at Mat, and Mat snags it out of the air and just starts, like, pummeling these dudes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's real cool.

Sally: Yeah. It's real badass.

Emily: It's real badass. So he takes 'em all out eventually and then is like, "OK, well, that is *finito*." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Aludra's like, "OK, well, thank you. I would have helped, but I have a knife and didn't really want to get involved the whole knife fight versus quarterstaff thing --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Cause it seemed like quarterstaff was the winning party."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Mat's like, "Good call." Uh, then Thom comes down in his little gleeman cape and is like, "Here I am, as usual, performing."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He's like, "What can we do for you?" and Aludra's just like, "Here's my tale of misery. I tried -- there -- we, like, fucked up the fireworks show for the king one night." And it's like, Rand did that.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She's like, "And I got blamed because I am the boss and also a woman in power."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Men will do anything to take me down."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: “Whatever.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: “And so they kicked me out, and now I’ve been on the road just, y’know, doing fireworks to make a living. But they’re all like, ‘We just want to take you out.’ So anyway, thanks for rescuing me.” And Mat’s like, “Uh, you’re welcome.” Um. I can’t remember how this goes.

Sally: Oh. And then, well, she gives him some fireworks to say thank you.

Emily: She’s like, “I need to reward you, so here, have this, like --” she, like, rolls out her little thing of fireworks, and it’s such a -- like, someone please draw this scene --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where Aludra’s like, “Attend me,” and is, like, showing the fireworks, and Mat’s just, like, crouched down --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, looking very closely.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So entranced by --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The explodey things.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He’s like, “I’ve only seen fireworks twice before, and once I tried to cut them open --

Sally: “And then --”

Emily: “And I got in so much trouble, literally everyone hit me.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He’s like, “Egwene’s dad hit me. The Wisdom hit me. My dad hit me. And then nobody would speak to me for a whole month.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) “Except Rand and Perrin, and they were like, ‘You’re an idiot.’” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And he just tells us that because it happened to him all the time.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat, you little weirdo.

Sally: I know. "Everybody hit me." (laugh)

Emily: "Everybody fucking went to town on me." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. (laugh) But Thom's like, "OK, this is a little sketchy, entrusting explosives with this particular boy."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Aludra's like, "Now remember, don't put them near fire, 'cause they'll explode. If all of these explode at once, then that would probably blow up a house." And Mat's like, "Fascinating."

Sally: Mat's like, "OK!" (laugh)

Emily: Mat's like, "Ooh, OK." She's like, "This one is really powerful. See how it has a long fuse? So you've gotta, like, run away once you light the fuse. You know what a fuse is?" And Mat's like, "It's where the fire goes." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) She's like, "...Yes."

Emily: She's like, "OK." (laugh)

Sally: "It's where the fire goes."

Emily: "It's where the fire goes, you simple village idiot."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And she's like, "And remember, don't cut them open, 'cause the chemicals inside of them, once exposed to air, some of those can explode," and Mat's like, "Yeah, I did know that." (laugh) "Cause I got hit so many times --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That doesn't stop him from cutting open fireworks in, like, the next Mat chapter. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Thom's like, "WHAT are you doing?" Mat's like, "I just have to understand why it goes boom."

Sally: Yeah. Why boom?

Emily: (laugh) “Why explosion? Why fire?”

Sally: (laugh) Like Prometheus before him, “Why fire?”

Emily: He’s just such, like, a little critter, who’s just, like --

Sally: I know.

Emily: A little raccoon who just needs to know.

Sally: God, a raccoon.

Emily: I know. Mat and Rocket Raccoon actually have very similar energies. Just saying.

Sally: (gasp) Amazing. And correct.

Emily: Um, but then Aludra’s like, “OK, well, I’ve gotta take off now. Enjoy these fireworks.” And Mat’s like, “Uhhh --” like, pulling the, like, coins that fell out of his pockets --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When he threw himself from the hayloft --

Sally: When he George of the Jungle-d down.

Emily: Yeah. Fucking hell. He’s like, “Here, you can have some of this money. I’ve got tons.” And she’s like, “Oh, you sweet baby angel.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “That’s OK. I don’t need your money.” She’s like, to Thom, “He’s super young, isn’t he?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Thom’s like, “Yes. He’s just a good boy who’s trying very hard not to be a good boy.”

Sally: I know.

Emily: It’s super sweet.

Sally: (inaudible)

Emily: So then she takes off and then Thom and Mat are also like, “OK, well, we’re in this stable with four unconscious men now, so guess it’s time to go.” So they saddle the horses, and Mat’s like, “Aw, now we have to go out in the rain. Thom!”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Why did I do that?!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thom's like, "I don't -- your fuckin' Jiminy Cricket told you to."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "UGH."

Sally: "UGH. Kill me."

Emily: "UGH. At least now I have these explodies!" Thom's like, "Yeah, you do. Good for you."

Sally: Thom's like, "You should give ME the explodies," and Mat's like, "No."

Emily: Thom's like, "Maybe I should watch out for those," and Mat's like, "NO, they're MINE."

Sally: (laugh) "I've only had these explodies for a minute, but if anything happened to them --"

Emily: "I would kill everyone in this room and then myself." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Mat just loves his explodies.

Sally: I know. I wish he had fireworks all the time.

Emily: I know. He just fuckin' loves fireworks.

Sally: But then he gets cannons.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That's a bigger explodey.

Emily: A bigger explodey that he's so excited about.

Sally: (laugh) One of my favorite images in the entire series is -- I think it's in, like, -- it's in one of the later books, but Egwene is having her dreams about the boys, and it's like, Mat reaches up and pulls a firework out of the sky?

Emily: It's so good.

Sally: So cool.

Emily: God, I love it. Draw that too. Just give me all the Mat-with-firework drawings.

Sally: Yeah. Somebody draw me a whole comic book about Mat and his love for fireworks.

Emily: I know. And the moment at the end of this book when he's, like, MacGyver-ing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tying all the fireworks together and, like, tying all the fuses together so he can get a really long fuse and a really good firework.

Sally: Yeah. And explode the Stone of Tear.

Emily: He's so -- he's such a nut.

Sally: I love him.

Emily: OK. Well, those are those chapters. Enjoy episode sixty-NINE.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Wasn't it good? Explosions?

Sally: Explosions!

Emily: Not, like, on-screen, but, like, the promise --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of explosions.

Sally: (singing) Cool guys don't look at explosions.

Emily: Oh ...

Sally: (laugh) Have you heard that song?

Emily: No.

Sally: It's a Lonely Island song.

Emily: I probably could've predicted that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As soon as you were like, "It's a --" and I was like, "A Lonely Island song?"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "Sounds like something --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Andy Samberg would come up with."

Sally: Yeah. Anyway. Uh, yeah, lots of explosions.

Emily: Yeah. Next week, we're gonna tragically switch over to Perrin. But we're gonna tackle quite a few Perrin chapters, just because it -- like, a lot happens, plot-wise, but not, like, actually anything worth talking about, I guess.

Sally: That's a fair way of putting Perrin's whole point in this story.

Emily: Yeah. They just go to Illian and, like, then leave Illian. It's pretty boring.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "I go to a place, and I leave a place." Fascinating, Robert, thank you.

Emily: Yes. It's exactly what happens with Perrin in every single place --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: In this entire book. Perrin goes to a place, then he fucks up --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And then they have to leave the place.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's like -- cannot sleep. I cannot get a decent night's rest.

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause he keeps doing murders.

Emily: He just fuckin' loves murders. OK. Thank you for joining us for episode 69. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song, you perfect angel.

Sally: Beautiful.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Our perfect angle.

Emily: Angle. Do you have any ...

Sally: Um. As always, we've got, um, we've got some wonderful new patrons that I need to thank. Let me pull up my Patreon app. Um.

Emily: Ah, the goddamn Patreon app.

Sally: I know. It kind of sucks, and for that, I apologize, everybody. So, our new patrons in May. We have Victor. Thank you, Victor. Amanda. Thank you, Amanda. Edgar. Thank you, Edgar. And Some Bloke. Thank you, Some Bloke.

Emily: Some Bloke?

Sally: I know, I love it. It's so --

Emily: Damn, OK.

Sally: Fun. Um, but we are over halfway to our 300 dollar Patreon goal, which would enable us to make some EHR merchandise. The popular vote has been The Grave Is No Bar to My Yeet merchandise. So. If you want one of those stickers, buttons, et cetera, you should support us on Patreon.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You'll also get access to lots of fun bonus content, including our four-part epic Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief. (laugh)

Emily: Don't get it twisted. It is not Percy Jackson and the Olympians. It is just the Lightning Thief. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. No, I --

Emily: It took us four episodes to get through the Lightning Thief.

Sally: We just love it a lot.

Emily: Yeah, we had to talk about every detail of it.

Sally: Of course.

Emily: Because it's all so perfect. Yeah. OK, well. Thank you. Um. Happy June.

Sally: Happy Pride!

Emily: Yeah. Welcome to Pride Month.

Sally: It will --

Emily: Episode 69, kicking off Pride Month.

Sally: (gasp)

Emily: You're so fucking welcome.

Sally: It -- we are so good at this.

Emily: God. It's like we planned it. We definitely didn't --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But it is like we did.

Sally: It's like we almost are good at this. (laugh)

Emily: Ha ha ha ha ha! Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: I don't have one prepared. Give me a second.

Emily: Oh, OK, sorry.

Sally: Has anything bad happened to you recently?

Emily: Ummm

Sally: I did have to make Gethin appraise kombucha for me the other day, so that was a fun one.

Emily: He -- what -- what?

Sally: When you give in-kind donations, like, an auction donation, you're supposed to provide the -- who you're donating to with a dollar amount.

Emily: Oh, right.

Sally: And, like, nobody has because our board members and people soliciting donations don't ask for it.

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: Which is very frustrating, because no one will be like, "You need this." And so we have this box of kombucha -- or kombucha, however you say it -- that I had no idea how much it was worse, but, like, the -- one of my co-workers is obsessed with this kombucha, so I had to walk downstairs and, like, with it, and be like, "Tell me how much this is worth," and he was like, "What the fuck are you doing?" and I was like, "Please."

Emily: "Tell me --"

Sally: "Assist." (laugh)

Emily: "How much kombucha is worth!"

Sally: And he's like, "I'm really worried about you," and I was like, "I need you to just do this."
(laugh) "Please."

Emily: Kombucha isn't even good.

Sally: I've never had kombucha.

Emily: Me neither, but I know it's not good.

Sally: OK. That's a bold statement, Emily.

Emily: (laugh) It's 'cause I listened to an episode of Sawbones about it. So.

Sally: Really? Is it, like, bad for you?

Emily: Just, everyone says it has health benefits, and it doesn't, really.

Sally: Oh. No, it's just fermented tea.

Emily: Yeah. Everyone's like, "Oh, kombucha. It'll cure your cancer." And it's like --

Sally: NO.

Emily: It will NOT, sir.

Sally: That was not a very exciting sign-off. It was just one of the most absurd things that's ever happened to me.

Emily: Yeah. For episode 69. That's OK. Tell us YOUR episode 69 sign-offs on the Twitter.
What's the most absurd thing that's happened to you this week?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Let us know.

Emily: Let -- us -- know.

Sally: Happy Pride!

Emily: Happy Pride! Gotta go to the barbecue. Goodbye.