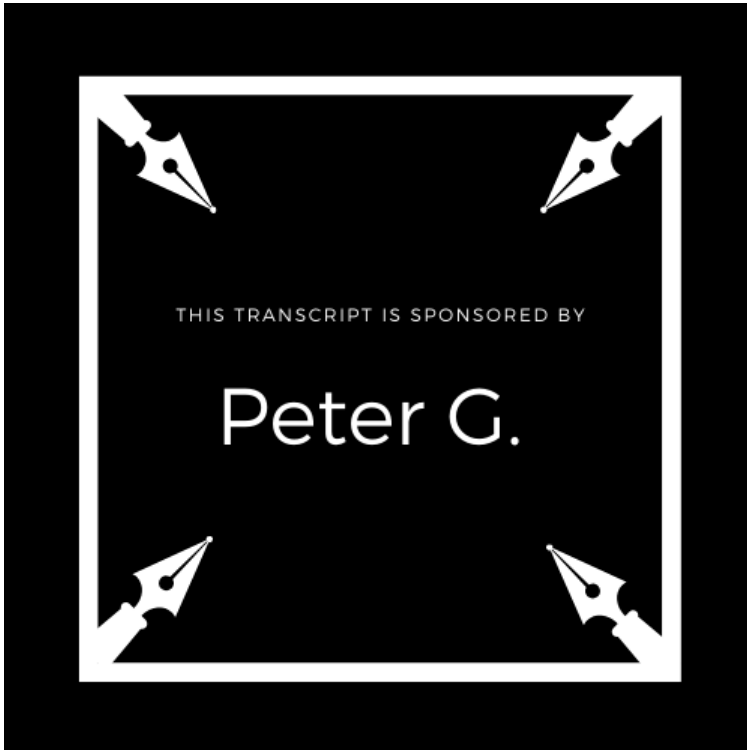


Episode 71 - “Why Boom Small?”

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

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

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Emily: You good?

Sally: (laugh) I'm just in a little bit of pain.

Emily: Are you -- oh. I was like, are you cold? Yeah. Sally's got a wrist wrap because she's always injured in some way or another.

Sally: It's really tragic. I think everyone thinks that I am, like, one of these weird pathological people who make up injuries and illnesses.

Emily: Like, has Munchausen's.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I've never heard of actual -- OK, like, obviously, Munchausen's has to be a thing, but I've only ever heard of Munchausen's by proxy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Being a thing. Maybe because it freaks people out more.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Munchausen's is just like, oh, it's hypochondria. But it's like, no. I have hypochondria. Hypochondria is when you cannot stop Googling your symptoms. (laugh)

Sally: Um. But -- I was gonna say a human thing with my human ability to speak. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) What would that be like?

Sally: I don't knooooow.

Emily: This is the energy we're bringing --

Sally: No! I'm coming to focus. I'm doing it. I'm present.

Emily: Pretty.

Sally: And I'm focused. (laugh)

Emily: And punctual. (laugh) Present, pretty, and punctual. Did you see the Chicken Little movie?

Sally: Unfortunately.

Emily: That line is in that movie.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Took me a really long time to come to terms with the fact that that's Joan Cusack in that movie.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: It's like --

Sally: That's interesting.

Emily: What in the world? I'll never understand how voice actors -- or -- how people, like, end up with their acting jobs --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, have you thought about the Spy Kids franchise recently?

Sally: Uh, I mean, not recently.

Emily: Everyone is in that movie.

Sally: Yeah, Antonio Banderas is in it.

Emily: Tony Shalhoub, multi-time Emmys winner, is in it.

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So is the guy that Meghan Trainor is married to.

Emily: Yeah ...

Sally: That she writes all of her weird horny music about.

Emily: I don't wanna talk about that --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It makes me so uncomf-- like --

Sally: And it's just, like -- (laugh)

Emily: It's sort of nice to, like, own the fact that you're like, "Here's my husband, and we have a lot of sex, and I really like it, so I write music about it," or whatever, but it's also, like, we just don't want to hear about your -- (laugh)

Sally: I just, like --

Emily: Any of it.

Sally: (laugh) I mean, I don't mind terribly.

Emily: I don't --

Sally: I just don't like Meghan Trainor's music. Which is, for me, the bigger problem. But.

Emily: One time I left a, um, pub in Scotland specifically because they were playing Meghan Trainor.

Sally: Eh.

Emily: And I was like, "I'm gonna -- I'm gonna -- I'm gonna go find another coffee shop to rest my weary legs in."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You OK?

Sally: Yeah, I -- I'm just uncomfortable because I was looking in the mirror the other -- a minute ago -- and I realized this turtleneck makes my boobs look gigantic. (laugh) Or, like, bigger than usual, and it just, like, stressed me out a little bit. So now I'm, like, in a weird headspace.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: I don't know why.

Emily: Are gigantic boobs not something you want?

Sally: I mean, I just have never had that experience in my life before.

Emily: Oh. One time when I was like 16, I tried -- I tried on a push-up bra, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Every 16-year-old is wont to do, just to, like, see what it would be like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To have gravity-defying breasts. And I was like, "What in the fuck?"

Sally: (laugh) I know, it makes you look really weird.

Emily: This is what I could be, I guess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Now I wear sports bras exclusively, like a sexy plank.

Sally: (snort) Please watch Fleabag.

Emily: That's my whole aesthetic, is sexy plank.

Sally: You -- killin' it. You look very sexy and very plank-like all the time.

Emily: Oh, thank you.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Multiple people have now also told me that I look like the, um, actor in John Wick 3. Asia Kate --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: What's their name? Taylor or Dillon or something like that?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I can't remember their surname. Anyway, my friend was like, "It's cause -- it's -- it's just Hollywood copying your aesthetic," and I'm like, "I'm here to tell you that dark hair, blue eyes and gender ambiguity is not a tough mystery to solve." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's not my fault Hollywood is only coming to it in the year of our Lord 2019.

Sally: Yeah, you are pretty aesthetically powerful.

Emily: Thank you.

Sally: What's that like?

Emily: I love your Instagram post about Liz. It's so cute.

Sally: I know. She's so funny.

Emily: Ahhhh!

Sally: My mom thought it was so funny. She was like, "Why did you write that Liz --" (laugh) "brutally critiques you?" And I was like, "Because she does." (laugh)

Emily: She does. She brutally critiques everyone. She's a fuckin' savage. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. She's a small demon.

Emily: Yeah, she's like --

Sally: And I'm obsessed with her.

Emily: She's like all the meanness of What Not to Wear all rolled into one --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tiny individual.

Sally: I know. She's so funny.

Emily: It's very funny. OK, anyway.

Sally: Anyway.

Emily: That -- there --

Sally: I feel like we haven't said anything funny in this cold open.

Emily: There was a cold open in there somewhere. I just have to find it in the editing process. A diamond in the rough. Computer --

Sally: (making a hissing noise)

Emily: Oh, that was funny for sure, that mouth noise. (laugh)

Sally: Uggghhh!

Emily: Here we are, folks. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. We're your hosts. "Hosts" is a really hard word.

Sally: Hosts.

Emily: Hosts. Host? Host is easier.

Sally: Hosts ...

Emily: Remember that Stephenie Meyer book, The Host? Did you read that?

Sally: I -- I read like 100 pages of it.

Emily: Same!

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: But, like, didn't finish it?

Sally: No, I was like, "I can't."

Emily: I saw the movie.

Sally: No ...

Emily: I did. In theaters. Not 'cause I, like, wanted to see the movie. 'Cause it was a weird -- it was a really weird Friday night. I went with Hannah. We were like, "Mmm, okay. This might as well happen."

Sally: Kay. Did you say your name?

Emily: No. It's Emily.

Sally: (laugh) I hate you. Fine. And I'm the other one!

Emily: NO!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh, that was bad. That was a bad noise.

Sally: Look at that, just, like, block of audio.

Emily: Yeah, the -- mmm.

Sally: It's, like, square.

Emily: My scream of agony.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: This is what you do to me. Augh.

Sally: You're welcome.

Emily: OK! Here we are to talk about -- (laugh) We're getting back into Pride Month with Mat Cauthon --

Sally: Hell yeah. Hell yeah.

Emily: We are abandoning the horrible heterosexuality that is Perrin and Faile's entire relationship and now getting back to the real romance of this series: Mat and fireworks.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Mm-hmm. He is on his way to Caemlyn. There this little, like -- this, like -- this weird split chapter after Perrin's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Point of view ends and now we still have half a chapter where it involves Mat sitting by the campfire while Thom is tuning his harp or something, and Mat is literally just cutting open a firework because that's --

Sally: Why not?

Emily: Just who he is. He's like, "Aludra said they only sometimes explode when they come in contact with air, and I'm fucking lucky."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So."

Sally: "Slice, slice." (laugh)

Emily: "Slice, slice, motherfucker." (laugh) Just gonna see what's inside these things.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Paper? And some weird rock shit. Some, like, dirt."

(cat meowing in the background)

Sally: Why you yelling?

Emily: It's so fascinating to be inside Mat's curious little goblin mind.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, his whole -- like, "Oh, here's paper, yeah, and I've always seen paper when fireworks go off," and then he's talking to Thom after Thom is like, "What the fuck are you doing, my friend?!"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You can't just -- open fireworks in public."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "You can't just do this," and Mat's like, "But I wanted to know."

Sally: Yeah. "But I had to know."

Emily: "But my driving energy is just needing to know how things work," and then he recounts a little story wherein he was a little kid and opened the back of the clock in, like, the mayor's house --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he talks about -- he's like, "I thought it -- for sure it was magic, but then I opened it and there was just, like, lots of little bits of metal --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "In the back there. And I'm pretty sure if I gave it to Perrin, Perrin would be able to figure out how it works and, like, make one."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is just such a sweet little comment.

Sally: I know.

Emily: (laugh) Just very endearing. That Mat is like, “And then I have Perrin, my mechanically minded friend, who knows how things work. I’m the one who looks at things when I shouldn’t be. And then there’s Perrin, who makes the things.”

Sally: And then Thom is like, “Actually, making clocks is really hard. Perrin’s an idiot and he couldn’t do it.”

Emily: (laugh) Thom’s a fucking savage. Thom’s like, “Yeah, making clocks is really hard, and people make their livelihood off that,” and Mat’s like, “OK, but Perrin could still do it.”

Sally: Yeah. It’s like, “Fuck you, Perrin could make a clock.”

Emily: Like, “Perrin can make clocks, and I can explode these fireworks if I want to.” He, like, tosses the little --

Sally: I know.

Emily: Like, the dirt shit, chemical shit that he finds in the firework into the fire --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it, like, makes a bang. And Thom’s like --

Sally: And Thom’s like --

Emily: “Jesus Christ.”

Sally: “I’m gonna MURDER you.”

Emily: And Mat’s like, “Hmm. I wonder why --” (laugh)

Sally: “I wonder: why did exploding?”

Emily: “I wonder why it didn’t explode as big.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He says.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: “Why the -- the boom not big?”

Sally: “Why boom small?”

Emily: “Why boom small?”

Sally: (laugh) “Why boom small? I want boom big.”

Emily: And Thom's like, "Being your traveling companion is --" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "A constant test of my survival skills and my, just, general patience as a human being."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Because you are a gremlin who is --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "Fucking -- just obsessed with this."

(cat meowing in background)

Emily: Hey, you're fine. Um, then some people ride up. It's, like, three dudes and a woman, and they're like, "Hey, can we share your fire?" And Mat's like -- sees a pretty lady and horny brain is like --

Sally: "Yeah."

Emily: "Yes, for sure. For sure you can do that." Uh, but then they, like, pull a bunch of knives or whatever and are like, "Psych. We're here to kill you." And Thom knifes like three of them and Mat quarterstuffs the other one. Um -- oh, and then the, like, woman is walking up, and Mat's like -- does the whole -- doesn't want to kill her, so he's trying to get her to sit down, and Thom just fucking knifes her in the throat. And Mat's like, "Ah, OK, that was sudden and brutal," and Thom's like, "OK, well, she would have killed you suddenly and brutally, so jot that down." And Mat's like, "OK ... well, this has been a sufficiently disturbing evening."

Sally: "But she's a lady."

Emily: "But she's a --" It's the beginning of Mat's -- obviously it's the whole running theme that the boys all have weird relationships with hurting women. And this is -- like, I totally forgot this scene even existed.

Sally: Mm. Me too.

Emily: But I think it's the beginning of Mat's journey -- if you wanna even call it that -- into, like, sort of the opposite trajectory of what Rand does and how Rand interprets, um --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Violence towards women. Like, Mat and Thom have this very little, like, conversation here where Thom's like -- where Mat's just like, "Whoa, you knifed her," and Thom's like, "Yeah, before she could knife you."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Mat's just like, "OK," and it's, like -- that's sort of Mat's running aesthetic. When he kills women in the future, it's because it's in self-defense.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's like -- it doesn't make it any -- I don't -- I don't know. It just means Mat has the most bearable form of this weird chivalry that informs their characters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like --

Sally: For sure.

Emily: He -- like, to me, it doesn't bother me, really, that he is bothered by this initially, because that's an appropriate form of -- some -- so often, people are like, "Oh, we can excuse Rand's weird behavior toward women 'cause that's how he grew up, and that's what --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That's how his personality is formed," and it's, like, having an experience -- or having a way that you grew up shouldn't prevent you from changing or growing.

(cat rustling in the background)

Emily: Oh my God ...

Sally: What are you doing? Get -- down. Hey.

(continued rustling noises)

Emily: You gotta go to the -- exile already?

(cat meows)

Emily: Yeah? I can take him if you want. 'Cause your hand hurts.

Sally: It's alright. I've got two of 'em.

Emily: OK. Bye, Tybalt. You fool.

Sally: Byeeee. (singing) As we go on ... we remember ...

Emily: Absolute asshole.

Sally: (continued singing, growing more distant) All the times we ... had together ...

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh) What?

Emily: That fuckin' lullaby.

Sally: It was the graduation song by Vitamin C.

Emily: By what?

Sally: (laugh) By Vitamin C, I'm pretty sure is the name of that ...

Emily: It's the graduation song?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I've never heard it.

Sally: Well, I will play it -- I'll play it for you.

Emily: OK. (laugh) Sounds like something I should -- (laugh) Anytime you get the blank song, I feel like I should've heard that.

Sally: It's, like -- literally I think it's called Graduation or something like that. Like, it's not --

Emily: OK ...

Sally: Like, THE graduation song.

Emily: But does everyone call it the graduation song?

Sally: I think -- well, I mean, the name of the song, I think, is literally Graduation.

Emily: OK.

Sally: So it's like that graduation song. I first heard it on the Amanda Show on Nickelodeon.

Emily: I love the Amanda Show. R.I.P. the Amanda Show. Those were the good old days.

Sally: Stop this podcast and go think about the Amanda Show. I don't know if you can watch it anywhere anymore.

Emily: Yeah, is it available on the internet? We'll find out. Sally will find out as I continue to rant about chivalry or whatever. Um, anyway, just the idea that Mat is confronted by this but then, throughout the rest of his arc, is -- like, veers away from being bothered by it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Hugely.

Sally: Yeah. (yawn) Well, it's that idea of, like --

Emily: He also isn't, like, tormented by it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Rand would literally be thinking about this for the rest of the book.

Sally: Series.

Emily: Yeah. And Mat is like, "OK, well. That was unfortunate, but now I've gone on."

Sally: It looks like you can watch the Amanda Show on iTunes. You have to pay for it --

Emily: Aw, dunk.

Sally: Or on Amazon Prime, where you also have to pay for it.

Emily: Aw, dunk.

Sally: Um --

Emily: What's the point of Amazon Prime if you still have to pay for things on it?

Sally: I dunno. This is good question.

Emily: Thank you. This is good question. (laugh)

Sally: I'm sorry ...

Emily: It's OK. You're fine.

Sally: (whisper) You're so mean ...

Emily: I'm not trying to be. Ooh, that was a good hair flip.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: Fun and sexy. Um ...

(pause)

Sally: She got distracted. My hair flip was too sexy.

Emily: Yeah, that really overwhelmed me.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Sexually. (laugh) Um. Basically, then Mat's like, "OK, well, then we might as well keep riding, 'cause --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Now I've got all this fucking firework and knife fight adrenaline."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Thom's like, "Alright. Whatever." (laugh) Mat's like, "Could you sleep after this?" and Thom's like, "I've killed two kings, but I would sleep like a baby."

Sally: "I sleep like a fuckin' baby."

Emily: Yeah. "This would be fine. These are just three nobodies." Mat is like, "OK, but one of those nobodies is someone who was chasing me in Tar Valon and has made it all this way. They're hunting me down." And he is -- like, thinks this has to do with the letter that --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Elayne has given him, and Thom's like, "There's not even a code in that letter. I would fucking know."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "OK, but I -- you can't dispute the evidence that multiple people have tried to kill me now," and Thom's like, "No, I can't," because it hasn't occurred to anyone that Mat's a special boy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yet. I guess.

Sally: They're like, "Oh, yeah, and that Mat kid."

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. One wonders how it would be if Perrin and Mat's positions were --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Reversed. If Mat was hanging out with Moiraine and Perrin was off on his own, doing shit. I mean, it wouldn't work because their personalities are not conducive to that storyline, but.

Sally: Yeah. Well, no, it's interesting that -- of course, this chapter is -- like, these chapters, like last week when Perrin got attacked for being *ta'veren* for the first time --

Emily: Mm. Yeah. They're right next to each other.

Sally: And Mat's getting that, not for the first time, but -- like, the first time with us maybe fully understanding that that's why this is happening.

Emily: Yeah. 'Cause we, the readers, have now had this framed for us.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of Perrin just getting attacked and Moiraine being like, "It's because you're *ta'veren*." And now we're like, "Oh, well, so's Mat, so." Now when he gets attacked and there's not really a r-rational explanation for it, it must be because of this. And it is.

Sally: Ah, shit.

Emily: Ah, shit.

Sally: *Ta'veren*.

Emily: Oh, shit. Yeah. *Ta'veren*. Um, then they get to Caemlyn and -- (laugh) Mat's like, "OK, go off to an inn. I'll meet you there. I'm gonna go deliver this letter right now, 'cause I am fucking done with almost dying."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "And I would like to be rid of it." Thom's like, "OK, OK, fine, I'll go to the normal inn. Basel Gill's inn." It's the return of our dad, Basel Gill.

Sally: Mm-hmm. And Lamgwin.

Emily: And Lamgwin and xBrian the cat. (laugh)

Sally: They're all there, baby.

Emily: It's the entire cast of our fun sitcom --

Sally: (snort)

Emily: Two Men and a Cat.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: It's like Two and a Half Men --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Two Men and a Cat. Um, Mat goes up to the palace and tries to, like, enter through the conventional route -- shows the letter to a guard, and the guard, who's, like, this unpleasant

person, is like, “No, fuck you, you’re from Tar Valon. We hate Tar Valon. Get out of here.” And Mat’s like, “OK.”

Sally: Yeah, Mat says something -- what does he say? Oh, he’s like, “You have until the count of ten,” and Mat’s like, “Can you count that high?” (laugh)

Emily: “You fool.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And the guy’s like, “Get out!” And Mat’s like, “Fine, I WILL. Bitch.”

Sally: And then he runs away on his pony.

Emily: Then he runs away. And before he’s very far, he, like, has the idea to climb the garden wall, but he has to get rid of his horse, so he goes to the, um, inn, where --

Sally: The Queen’s Blessing.

Emily: The Queen’s Blessing. Our favorite setting, personally.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. It’s a good -- it’s a good inn.

Sally: Yeah. Good library.

Emily: Yeah, fun library.

Sally: And two cats.

Emily: Two whole cats that we even see. There might be more.

Sally: (whisper) Holy shit.

Emily: Cats are stealthy creatures.

Sally: What if it’s, like, just a cat -- like a cat cafe, it’s a --

Emily: Oh my God, it totally makes sense.

Sally: A cat inn.

Emily: Basel Gill would fuckin’ have a cat inn.

Sally: Yeah, Basel Gill’s like, “Come, and just, like, play with my cats.”

Emily: Yeah. “Have fun.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he might -- the good cooking of the sassy cook lady.

Sally: Yeah, I love her.

Emily: Yeah. She's so good. Um. Mat drops off his horse at the stable, um, then goes in, talks to the cook, is like, "Do you remember me?" and she's like, "I remember you. You're the servant of that young prince," and Mat's like, "Why the fuck are women obsessed with Rand?"

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. Which is a good fucking question.

Emily: Yeah, Mat, we're all right there with you.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's not that great. Come on. In fact, we hate him. (laugh)

Sally: Did you know?

Emily: Have you -- have you heard?

Sally: Did you -- yeah. (laugh) Have you heard?

Emily: (laugh) The good news?

Sally: About our number one enemy, Rand Al'Thor?

Emily: Public enemy --

Sally: Public enemy number one. I mean --

Emily: He is the public enemy. Mat's like, "Girl, if you knew what he was up to these days, you would run away screaming." And she probably would, 'cause that boy is --

Sally: Doing some murders.

Emily: Yeah, doing a murder rampage through the southern half of this continent.

Sally: You know.

Emily: Y'know. Same old, same old.

Sally: (laugh) Everyone had that gap year.

Emily: (laugh) Ohhhh my God.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It really is, though, like backpacking through Europe. But also murdering people occasionally. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK. And setting off chains of weddings and --

Sally: Funerals.

Emily: Supernatural incidents wherever you go.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: OK. Uh, Mat goes and finds Thom and Mister -- Master Gill.

Sally: Master Gill.

Emily: Master Gill in the library. And is like, "Heya, bitches." (laugh)

Sally: "Sup, motherfuckers."

Emily: "Sup, motherfuckers," and Thom's like, "Oh, that was quick. You delivered the letter already?" And Mat's like, "I did not."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "But I have come here to formulate Plan B." (laugh) Mat's like, "No, actually, I've just come here to drop off my horse and luggage, and now I'm going -- headed back to that general area to climb the self-same wall that Rand Al'Thor --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Climbed two books ago, exactly."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Basel Gill's like, "Are you an idiot?" And Mat's like, "Sure am." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thom's like, "This idiot was opening firework sticks to the fire last night," and Mat's like, "It's my BRAND, Thom."

Sally: "What would I be without my brand?"

Emily: "Brand loyal to myself."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Which is different than being Rand-loyal. Brand loyal.

Sally: Ooooooh.

Emily: Uh --

Sally: Sick pun.

Emily: I don't even remember the actual content of this conversation.

Sally: It's pretty -- it's a pretty funny one.

Emily: Yeah, it's -- it's a very, like -- um, Gill and Thom are playing stones, which is kind of like -- it's supposed to be like Go, but also, like, the connotation is chess --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know? And he and, uh, Thom are playing, and Thom is beating him handily and keeps being like, "Will you please move? Will you please take your move so I can annihilate you?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Gill being like, "I'll get there! In a minute. Just calm the fuck down."

Sally: We'll get there when we get there!

Emily: We'll get there when we get there. And Mat, meanwhile, is like, "Wow, there are so many books. I've never read a book in my life."

Sally: (laugh) I know.

Emily: Mat's like, "I know that bestselling book --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "The Travels of Jain Farstrider. AKA the dude I'm about to hang with --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "For, like, six books." (laugh)

Sally: It's so funny. It's, like, imagine walking into Barnes and Noble and there's, like -- I dunno.

Emily: What's a famous book?

Sally: (laugh) Now, I'm, like, drawing a --

Emily: Harry Potter?

Sally: Yeah, it's like Harry Potter. You're like, "Oh, I've heard of that."

Emily: Mat's like, "Oh, yeah ...". Totally, Mat would be like, "Oh, yeah" -- I don't even think Mat would see the movies. Does Mat have the, like --

Sally: No.

Emily: Attention capacity --

Sally: No.

Emily: To sit through a movie?

Sally: Absolutely not.

Emily: Absolutely not.

Sally: Not seven of them. Eight of them.

Emily: Yeah. Definitely not. Um. (laugh) I do appreciate that Robert Jordan canonically establishes in this moment that Mat actually hasn't read Jain Farstrider's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Autobiography.

Sally: So funny.

Emily: Just so that, in the future, when he makes that reveal, no one can be like, "But what about the book? Wouldn't Mat have picked up on the story, like, similarities?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Robert's like, "No, because he's illiterate." (laugh)

Sally: "He doesn't fucking read." This is just -- would be so much funnier. I mean, part of it is funnier that Mat can read and just chooses to never open a book --

Emily: Yeah. He just is like -- can't be bothered. He's got too many things to do.

Sally: Got too many fireworks to open.

Emily: Mat is always busy when he's on-screen.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat never -- well, when he has down time, he's literally just playing dice.

Sally: Good for him.

Emily: Very weird little boy.

Sally: I hope it soothes him.

Emily: Anyway. Um, and while they're talking, they kind of establish -- Gill's like, "Oh, yeah, if someone was rude to you, it was probably one of the new -- this new advisor of Morgase's, um, men. This guy named Gaebril, uh, he is kind of -- he -- he stepped in after -- well, he stepped in, and Gareth Bryne retired, and it's this whole thing."

Sally: (whisper) Retired.

Emily: Yeah, quote unquote, retired. "And it's this whole thing, and, um, and the city's all up in arms 'cause Morgase is really mad at Tar Valon and it's just, like, this weird political situation." And Mat's like, "Oh, so it's just this advisor who doesn't like Tar Valon." And, um, Gill's like, "Yeah, I guess that's basically the root of the issue." Um, and Mat's like, "OK, well, I am going --" Oh my God, this fucking -- Mat suddenly being like, "Are you married to the cook?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Gill being like, "No, why would you ask me that?" Mat being like, "You were going on so long I thought you'd forgotten your original question."

Sally: I know. (laugh)

Emily: Why is he such a savage?

Sally: I am obsessed with him. I wish I was so much more like Mat Cauthon.

Emily: I know. He's just so sassy.

Sally: He's so sassy. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, and Mat and -- uh, Gill's like, "Oh, you're gonna climb the wall again? You'd need the Dark One's own luck to do that," which is what everyone says to Mat --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then he just casually tosses some dice to be like, "And that is what I have."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That is in my possession. In my arsenal, my inventory --"

Sally: "My inventory --"

Emily: "I do have a checkmark next to 'Dark One's own luck.'"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I stole it from him. Now he's an unlucky bastard."

Sally: I just love that idea.

Emily: I know. It's cool.

Sally: Mat's like, "Hey. Luck."

Emily: "Nope. It's mine now." Um, so Mat goes over to the palace, does the whole climbing up the wall thing. He, of course, gets distracted while he's climbing and is like, "This is exactly like that time that Rand and Perrin and I went backpacking. And listen to the cool things I found."

Sally: Yeah, I know! (laugh)

Emily: And then he tells us all about the cool things he found and almost falls. And then he's like, "I'm so dumb."

Sally: (inaudible)

Emily: "My mom probably threw this -- that stuff away."

Sally: I knooow.

Emily: It's just -- Mat's constantly doing this, being like, "Here's an inventory of the weird stuff I have accumulated."

Sally: He's just a little crow baby.

Emily: He -- yeah. Really has big, like, scavenger energy.

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "Must collect."

Emily: Just --

Sally: "Must cache."

Emily: Yeah, Mat's curiosity is on full display here. He's got very, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Fox-like, cat-like tendencies.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of course.

Sally: Like Tybalt.

Emily: Like, it should -- like, that should be obvious, but this is a really good showing-not-telling --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sequence of us being like, "Yeah, Mat is the human incarnation of a fox, basically."

Sally: Yeah, if I were to write a character essay on Mat Cauthon, I would draw most of my quotes from, like, these three chapters. (laugh)

Emily: They're VERY good. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, man, there's so many good ones.

Sally: Like, when he -- when he finally gets in the garden, he just, like, is having so much fun avoiding all the guards that he picks a flower and puts it in his hair.

Emily: Yeah. He's fucking delighted --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Avoiding the guards. He's like, "These idiots --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Like, won't even look up from their shoes." And so he, like, puts a little flower in his hair.

Sally: I know.

Emily: And is just dancing around --

Sally: Like -- (laugh)

Emily: Capering, like -- (laugh)

Sally: Like fuckin' Pan.

Emily: I -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's really so funny.

Emily: Um, anyway, he, uh, is kind of just walking along and then hears something -- like, just happens to -- he's walking by windows and happens to hear someone saying something about Elayne. So he stops to listen and overhears this conversation between two men who are like, um -- one of them is clearly Gaebril, 'cause -- or, no, one of them is named Comar, and one of them

just is referred to as “Great Master.” And they’re discussing the issue of Elayne going to Tear. And Great Master, quote unquote, is like, “Well, it’s not actually gonna be a big issue, but -- like, it shouldn’t be.” Um. “But he --” who, we -- when you have context, it’s like, this conversation makes so much sense; of course we don’t really know what Mat thinks of it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Except that he’s like, “Oh, someone’s gonna try and kill Elayne and the other two.” But basically Gaebril, AKA Rahvin, is talking about how Bel’al has taken over Tear and is super set on Callandor, and Rahvin thinks it would be pretty funny if Elayne and Egwene and Nynaeve managed to take him down. But he’s like, “That would also probably -- like, since one of them is Elayne, and I’m -- my whole thing is Andor now, politically that’s probably a bad move if she gets captured. So. I’ll just have her killed to get her out of the way.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Mat is just like, “Oh, fuck, someone wants to kill Elayne.” (pause) “Not that torn up about it --” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “But Egwene and Nynaeve --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “I am concerned about.

Sally: (laugh) I wish that was the -- what was actually his thought process.

Emily: I know, I wish that was -- he’s just kinda like --

Sally: He’s like --

Emily: “Uhh ... unfortunately ...”

Sally: “Hmm.”

Emily: No, Mat’s like, “Oh -- I do know those three.”

Sally: “Whatever. I guess I do go saving.”

Emily: Um, he, like, hops up to, like, get a glimpse of them and just sees, uh, Comar.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Gets a good look at him but doesn't see the, quote unquote, Great Master. Then he comes out of hiding and immediately runs into Tallanvor, pretty much, who is like, "What the fuck are you doing?" And Mat's like, "I have this letter. Please read this letter."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Tallanvor's like, "OK. I'm a douche, but, um --"

Sally: "Take that fucking flower out of your hair."

Emily: Yeah, Tallanvor's like --

Sally: "Cause I hate joy."

Emily: "Can you please -- I'm a killjoy. Can you please take the flower out of your hair." Can you imagine how hilarious it would've been if Mat came in with a flower in his hair? To Morgase?

Sally: Yeah. And was like --

Emily: Was like, "Here I am."

Sally: "Here I am, just the purest --"

Emily: Yep.

Sally: "Lil boy in the land."

Emily: Um, and Tallanvor keeps being like, "Are you loyal to the Queen?" Y'know, with his weird little fanatic eyes. And Mat being like, "I'm such -- me?!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "There's no one more loyal to the Queen and Andor, this country, that I was born in."

Sally: (snort)

Emily: "I'm patriotism incarnate."

Sally: "I am the most loyal."

Emily: And Tallanvor being like, "Hmm. OK," and Mat being like, "Great. Deception roll: check." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God, that one. Uh, but Tallanvor takes him through the palace to meet with Morgase. Mat, the entire time, is doing a wealth inventory --

Sally: Natch.

Emily: 'Cause he fuckin' sees a thing that's expensive and wants the thing.

Sally: No, I love -- early in the -- this set of chapters, he describes Andor as, like, alight with activities, like, he was -- "It was like a heart pumping with wealth."

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Isn't that wild?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat ... (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's so -- I was like, "You fucking lunatic."

Emily: Like, most people go into cities and are like, "Wow, look at the vitality of this city --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I go into New York and my thing is, like, the people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It is such a populated place --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's so rich in art and culture, and Mat is like, "Give me the fuckin' money."

Sally: Yeah. "Where is it?!"

Emily: "All this money!" He is such a little --

Sally: Psycho. And I love him.

Emily: My God. Yeah. Uh, but they go into this room that has, like, a pond in it or some shit, like a little fountain --

Sally: So weird.

Emily: Where Morgase is chilling, and there's a whole bunch of other people, and, y'know, this big dude next to her. Um, and Mat's like, "Here's this letter." Um, and then he makes up a whole backstory about how he went to visit his sister Else Grinwell. His name is Thom Grinwell.

(laugh) He comes from this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Town north of Baerlon -- like, it's got enough truth in it to be --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Believable, y'know, that he'd never seen a big city until Baerlon, like, he thought that was a big city. It's just -- Mat's just such a --

Sally: I know.

Emily: Lying little boy.

Sally: Conniving little bastard.

Emily: I know, you -- it's -- you never see, um -- I dunno, when we have other characters who have to make something up, which happens pretty rarely, they're always, like, really hung up on it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Y'know? Egwene and Nynaeve are always super concerned about the whole Aes Sedai masquerade.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then there's Mat, who doesn't even, like, throw -- have a throwaway thought about it, he just --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Speaks.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: His inner monologue is so weird. And then he's about to tell her about how he overheard that someone's plotting to kill Elayne, when the dude next to her cuts him off, and it, of course, is Gaebril, and it, of course, is the voice of the "great master," so Mat's like, "OK --"

Sally: "Fuck."

Emily: "That could've -- could've gone really badly. (laugh) Thank God for my --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Stolen luck."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. But, uh, he kind of interrogates Mat and is, like, on the border of being like, “Let’s put him to the question,” and Morgase is like, “No, not this kid.”

Sally: “This plucky farm boy.”

Emily: Um, and then Gaebril gives him a bunch of money and sends him on his way. And it’s very, like -- this is our set-up of what is going to be happening in Andor for the next ever.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Since Gaebril coming is going to end with Morgase leaving and then Rand coming in and then Elayne coming in after that and having to not inherit the throne, as she should have, but actually stage a war of succession --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To get it. So it’s like a creepy scene, um -- it’s kinda like -- it kind of reads like one of those earlier, like, season one Game of Thrones scenes, where Sean Bean, like, doesn’t really have any clue what’s going on, but everything is, like --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Everyone is really, like, snake-like and terrible --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he’s just like, “I don’t -- I don’t fucking know, ‘cause I’m so innocent and pure and good.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But this place is scary. And it’s that same vibe of Mat being like, “Something really weird is off here.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And not just that Morgase’s advisor is also plotting to kill her daughter, like, the whole thing is like, everyone is listening to him when he talks, really intensely, and Morgase seems to be like -- reacts to him like a lap dog --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Y’know, and it’s very creepy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But he pretty much leaves, and there's more stuff with Tallanvor that I'm just gonna skim right over, 'cause Tallanvor fuckin' sucks --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Tallanvor's like, "Are you sure you're a loyal Andoran?" and Mat's like, "Yeah, let me pledge allegiance to the flag or whatever the fuck." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "God save the Queen, et cetera, et cetera."

Emily: Uh-huh. Then he fuckin' sprints back to the inn and is like, "Hello! I have to leave immediately." And Thom's like, "We just got here."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thom's like, "Please." And, um, Mat's like, "Hey, hey, hey, quick: what do you know about Lord -- this Lord Gaebriel dude?" So Gill gives us the whole backstory of: Well, he came in from -- well, actually, no one really knows where --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Some part of Andor -- and while Morgase was gone in Tar Valon, demanding that they give Elayne back or whatever was going on there, um, there were, like, riots against her, and he led the counter-riots, I guess, to, uh, in support of her and sort of calmed the situation down and so when she got back, she was so grateful that she installed him into, um, Elaida's former position as advisor. And then, shortly after that, uh, Gareth Bryne left, so now it's just the two of them, and Gill is like, "Yeah, honestly, it's been kinda weird since he's been here, like, the whole city has felt way more like Cairhien --" Like, there's an undercurrent --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Where there wasn't before of, um, people conniving and people having ulterior motives, and everyone's been having bad dreams, and we, as reader, have now seen this in Illian --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And have now come to associate the idea of dreams with the Forsaken, so, like, I dunno, did you -- you weren't surprised at all when he turned out to be one of the Forsaken, right?

Sally: Oh, no. No.

Emily: Yeah, so it's like -- if you're a savvy reader --

Sally: Pretty obvious, yeah.

Emily: It's like, oh, here's another one of them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It becomes a little bit annoying that we don't know all the Forsaken right off the bat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that type of lore that the characters would have -- or, at least, one of the characters - - you'd think one of those characters would be like, "And I know who all the Forsaken were." Like, what their names were and kind of what their deal was.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But none of them are like that, so then we just have people showing up, like Be'lal in Tear, and it's like, no one knows what the fuck his deal is.

Sally: Who the fuck is that? Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Even I'm like, "Who's Be'lal?"

Emily: Yeah. He -- I don't even think he's referred to by name until, like, the last three pages of this book, basically.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, for being the primary antagonist, as it were, of this book, he is so, like, irrelevant.

Sally: Yeah. Again -- we talked about this last episode, I think -- but the Forsaken just, like, do not, in terms of villainy, like, live up to the expectations that the book wants them to.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: They're just, like, not that intimidating. Like -- like we've said, Rahvin is really creepy, and Semirhage is really creepy --

Emily: Yeah, you can have, like, gross characters --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gross people, but they're still, like, just people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so it just, like, doesn't bother me -- like, you have this pretty good moment at the -- in the last book -- spoilers for book 14, maybe skip to the next minute if you don't want to hear

this -- uh, but you have this pretty good moment in book 14 where we finally find out what Demandred's been up to, and it's like -- it's this reveal where he's like -- there's an actual, like, build-up to what he's been doing and now he can sweep in and have, like, this reveal to it, of like, "Oh, I've been off in this place, and I've accumulated armies, and now you're outmatched in this way because I've, y'know, been doing this work."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and so, like -- but then, if there are 13 Forsaken, and that's the only time that happens --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of us being like, oh, yeah, I've genuinely been wondering what Demandred is up to. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Like, what the fuck's he been doing --

Sally: Where's he? What's he doing?

Emily: Yeah, he's the only one who's been like, "And yeah, I'm doing some mysterious villainy that's actually going to come to any type of fruition."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Everyone else is like, "We're just here causing chaos that now the protagonists have to navigate and/or solve."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's, like -- anyway, that's a little bit of a weird ...

Sally: Yeah, it's a weird dynamic.

Emily: Like, considering that the Forsake -- what the Forsaken do is what Rand, for the most part, is going to be trying to undo for the next, like, 12 books --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, there's -- it's just there's so little build-up to the Forsaken suddenly being there.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And all of them are in charge of various cities.

Sally: Yeah, I also remember on my first reread, like, the Forsaken, like, quote unquote, getting loose is supposed to be like a huge part of the final battle coming, but when it happened, like, it never read as, like, particularly significant or scary. Like, it -- I don't know, it was just, like, yeah, I expected them to come, I expected them to do villainy, like -- I don't know, I kind of wish we had a little bit better villains in that way.

Emily: Yeah, and it's like, I -- like, I'd be fine with this cast of villains if they were written in a more --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Interesting way. Like, yeah, I think you can do interesting things with all of them for the -- I mean, there's a few too many of them, like --

Sally: (tsk) Thirteen is a lot.

Emily: Thirteen is a lot, which is how you end up with throwaway characters like Be'lal, who's just -- like, gets balefired in book three and is like, whoop, check that one off the list, y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so it's just, like -- yeah. There's a lot to be said for the Forsaken's, like, place within the plot.

Sally: Forsaken plot.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And I, for one, could do without every aside scene of them scheming together, 'cause it's just, like --

Sally: Oh, it's so annoying. It gets --

Emily: I hate knowing what they're gonna do.

Sally: I know.

Emily: I'm like, I don't wanna know.

Sally: Just, like, let me -- like, put them off-screen, and let me just, like, navigate the chaos with the characters.

Emily: Yeah, can you imagine how much more freaky Graendal would be --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If we weren't being told all the time how freaky she was"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also, like, oh, she's been doing these big plots over in some part of the continent that's supposed to be mysterious. And I'm like, OK. Arad Doman.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Got it. Nothing really sketchy's going on over there, so I don't really get what I'm supposed to be --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Freaked out by. It would just be, like, way more interesting if things were allowed to surprise me, the reader.

Sally: It really annoys me -- this is a total random sidebar -- but, like, of course Graendal sounds like Grendel --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And of course she's our, like -- like, the big part of -- a -- a huge part of Grendel's story is his, like, sexy mom with the eyes on her boobs or whatever, so of course Graendal is our boob character.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: It just bothers me.

Emily: Yeah, a lot of them --

Sally: It just is annoying. I just find Graendal to be the most annoying character of all time.

Emily: Oh, yeah. She might be my least favorite Forsaken. She's especially annoying, 'cause, like, she lingers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, I don't want her to be around till book 14. I wanted her to get balefired in book three.

Sally: Yeah. Like, Lanfear, at least, does enough crazy shit that when she's on screen it's sort of interesting.

Emily: Yeah, at least, like, Lanfear is like, "WHO'S AVIENDHA?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And, like, blows up a cart or whatever she does.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Like, that's sort of entertaining. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It's just, like, batshit. And so, like, book Graendal is just like, "Titty titty titty titty titty."

Emily: "Look, here I am, a walking set of titties." Y'know?

Sally: Yeah. It's so -- (laugh)

Emily: And it's like --

Sally: Obnoxious. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, I'm so bored.

Sally: Yeah, and every time she and -- who's she with in, like, the middle books? Is it --

Emily: Sammael, I think?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And they're just, like, trying to, like --

Emily: Sammael is another character I could totally do without.

Sally: Outsmart each other and it's always just, like, tits and naked people and Sammael being like, "Ugh, this gross show of flesh." God.

Emily: Um, anyway. Mat, uh -- Mat's talking to Gill and Thom. But anyway, Mat's like --

Sally: Quick question. Is Thom Andoran?

Emily: Uh, it's never stated, actually.

Sally: (laugh) Where is Thom Merrilin from?

Emily: Yeah. He doesn't have a particular nationality. But I think he must be Andoran? 'Cause none of our Andoran characters ever comment on his accent --

Sally: Accent.

Emily: Or anything like that.

Sally: Kay.

Emily: So, yeah.

Sally: Weird.

Emily: He also has a traditionally Andoran name, if all of our --

Sally: Thom.

Emily: Andoran names kind of look British-ish, y'know?

Sally: Thomdril.

Emily: Yeah. Thom, and then his nephew looks like Oliver. But it's Olver. No! That's -- who -- what's his nephew's name? Fuck me, right? Ah. Does it even say?

Sally: No, it says ...

Emily: I have to Google it.

Sally: Olver is Mat's stupid boy.

Emily: Yeah, Olver is Mat's surrogate son or whatever.

Sally: I really -- I know we've talked about this, but Olver is like my least favorite character.

Emily: Thom's ... Thom ... Merrill's ...

Sally: Is it --

Emily: Nephew ... Owen!

Sally: Owen! Ugh, fuck me. I wanted to say Grady for some reason.

Emily: Ah, I love Grady.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. He's --

Emily: He's one of the Asha'man.

Sally: The other guy.

Emily: He's great.

Sally: Is he the old one?

Emily: Mm?

Sally: Which one's the old one that talks to himself? (laugh)

Emily: No, Grady -- Damer Flinn?

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: Flinn, yeah, he's good. No, Grady and Neald are these -- this, like, pair of idiots who get paired up with, um, Perrin -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And their whole shenanigans. They're not really idiots. They're just delightful. They're just tired all the time, 'cause Perrin's like, "Open up 68 gateways right now," and they're like, "Please let us nap."

Sally: "I just wanna go to bed."

Emily: "We're so tired."

Sally: All the Asha'man are so fucking delightful.

Emily: I know. They just have just such good, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Post-grad energy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. OK, Gill's like, "Why the fuck are you even asking questions about Gaebriel?" and Mat's like, "Cause he's gonna kill Elayne." And Gaebriel's -- uh, Gill's like, "Oh."

Sally: "Oh. Shit."

Emily: Gill's like, "Are you getting sick again? Or is this a prank?" And Mat's like, "It's not a PRANK. Why does everyone always think it's a prank?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He's like, "No, he's sending this guy named Comar to, like, fuckin' cut off their heads," and describes him, and Gill's like, "Oh, that does sound like Comar," and Mat's like, "Thank you. I'm not crazy."

Sally: "I'm not a fuckin' liar. Mat Cauthon is many things --" (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, and, uh, by the way, Gill tells us that he was, uh, let go from the military or whatever due to some incident with his using weighted dice, which will become relevant, uh, in a couple chapters when Mat actually comes face-to-face with Comar. Um. Anyway, Gill's like, "Well, I've gotta do something if this guy's, like, totally manipulating Morgase," and Thom's like, "You should spread rumors. Like, 'cause that is the true power"

Sally: (singing) "Rumor has it --"

Emily: Thom has big Varas energy.

Sally: Yeah, he does.

Emily: Y'know, Game of Thrones. Yeah. He does. And, like, Littlefinger if Littlefinger wasn't a --

Sally: Rapist.

Emily: Rape-y psycho. (gagging noise)

Sally: Fuck. (gagging noise)

Emily: Um, then Mat's like, "You're taking this super well. I thought Morgase was the love of your life." And Thom's like, "I'm 78 --"

Sally: (snort)

Emily: "I don't have any fuckin' loves of my life --"

Sally: "It's been 15 years."

Emily: Yeah, he's like, "She tried to kill me. I'm sort of over it."

Sally: Yeah. That -- that killed the boner.

Emily: Mat's like, "OK, well. Fine. Fine, don't be a romantic."

Sally: Yeah, Mat's like, "Well, fuck you too."

Emily: "Fuck you too, I thought this was like a big love story. Jeez."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, and Mat's -- he's like, "OK, so you're leaving for Tear? Can we sleep first?" And Mat's like, "You're coming with me? I -- I mean, I was planning on going by myself," and Thom's like, "No, Tear actually sounds way safer than Caemlyn right now because --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "You know, I don't want to get my head cut off."

Sally: "And also I like those girls," grumble grumble grumble.

Emily: Yeah, grumble grumble grumble. Old man. Crotchety old man. So basically they make a plan to leave for, uh, Aringill and get a boat down to Tear. And that --

Sally: And Mat gives his purse to Basel Gill for some reason.

Emily: Oh! Mat's like -- oh, it's the money that Gaebril gave him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat's like, "Here, hold on to this for me." 'Cause he's a dramatic gay.

Sally: Yeah. Natch.

Emily: And then Gill's like, "What the fuck is this for?" And Mat's like, "Oh, he doesn't know it, but Gaebril and I have a bet." (laugh)

Sally: "And I never lose."

Emily: "And I fuckin' never lose. I'm gonna save those girls."

Sally: And Gill's like, "... OK?"

Emily: Gill's like, "This is some really weird energy you're bringing to the library right now."

Sally: He's like, "I don't -- I don't understand what I'm supposed to do."

Emily: "I don't understand." And Robert Jordan is like, "It's the dicing with the Dark One thing."

Sally: Do you get it?

Emily: Do you get it?

Sally: Mat's bisexual. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze) He is, though.

Sally: Honestly. Tell -- name me a straight person that would do that. (laugh)

Emily: Honestly. (laugh) It's too dramatic. Mat, you fuckin' weirdo. OK, so those are the Mat chapters.

Sally: God bless him.

Emily: God bless Mat, you little cutie.

Sally: If anyone was inclined to draw some EHR art this week, Mat capering through the gardens with a flower in his hair would be a pretty good one.

Emily: Oh, yeah, that would be super good. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Or, like, Tallanvor holding his sword up to Mat, who's got a beautiful flower in his hair.

Emily: Mat looking bisexual as fuck -- you know what would be an interesting arc for Tallanvor? If, like Galad, he came in contact with Mat and was like, "Oh, fuck, I'm gay." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He's like, "Wait. Uh -- I --"

Emily: Cause Mat just has that energy, y'know?

Sally: Mat's just like, "You think you're straight? Think again."

Emily: "Think again. Here I am, a weird-looking boy. With a --"

Sally: It's true, weird-looking boys do have an incredible power over --

Emily: I know.

Sally: Sexuality.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: It's like, what -- who gave them that?

Emily: I dunno.

Sally: Why was God like, "And here we go."

Emily: It's like --

Sally: "Weird-looking boys."

Emily: Conventionally attractive boys?

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Sure, fine, whatever. But sort of weirdly attractive boys?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's like a whole other ball game.

Sally: That's, like, next level, yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I see one, and I'm like, huh.

Emily: Yeah. OK --

Sally: What's my body doing? (laugh)

Emily: What -- what's happening to me right now? (laugh)

Sally: My brain's sort of short-circuiting.

Emily: I just -- I don't know what to do.

Sally: You have such interestingly shaped features.

Emily: You just -- yeah, you just look like someone I want to look at.

Sally: Yeah. I'm just, like, fascinated.

Emily: OK. (laugh)

Sally: Huh.

Emily: Mat! You good boy.

Sally: He's a sexy boy.

Emily: Sexy, sexy boy.

Sally: Damn, that's a sexy bitch.

Emily: OK. We'll be back next week. We are ramping up toward the grand finale. So now everyone is going to get to Tear all at once. It's gonna be real fun.

Sally: I can't wait.

Emily: I know, me neither.

Sally: The finale is so good.

Emily: It's just so good. Might be extra long, folks. Just so we can --

Sally: It'll just be us screaming for 45 minutes.

Emily: Scream about it. Yeah. Exactly. Um ...

Sally: We'll probably play a whole ABBA song.

Emily: Oh my God. “Gimme, gimme, gimme, a man --”

Sally: Maybe I’ll just sing the whole -- yeah.

Emily: -- after midnight,” ‘cause that’s Mat’s jam.

Sally: Number one song.

Emily: During that sequence. OK. Uhh, thank you all for listening. Thank you to Glynn MacKenzie for our theme song. Thank you to all of those who ...

Sally: You’re gonna get there.

Emily: ... Talk to us --

Sally: (snort)

Emily: On social media ...

Sally: Nice.

Emily: That really does delight us.

Sally: It really does.

Emily: Yeah, it makes us happy when you tell us that you liked something about the episode.

Sally: Yeah, I love it.

Emily: ‘Cause it means we didn’t sit here fruitlessly for 45 minutes. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Spouting bullshit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It means we actually did an entertainment.

Sally: What?

Emily: Yeah. Hard to believe, I know.

Sally: That’s confusing.

Emily: So, thanks, everyone. Do we have any housekeeping?

Sally: Nope. I think we’re good.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Oh, send in listener sign-offs if you have any, uh --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Traumas that you wanna share.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I guess?

Emily: Go to Patreon if you're one of our patrons. Uh, you can vote on which book we read next for We Don't Watch Outlander. We mentioned it earlier in this episode, but I might end up cutting that part out. Who knows. So, uh, current fave is a C.S. Lewis book, so that was --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Unexpected, to say the least, but --

Sally: It's confusing.

Emily: If you would like us to not read a C.S. Lewis book or you would really like us to read a C.S. Lewis book, then just go over there and make your opinion known.

Sally: Yeah. And that should end -- if this comes out next Monday, that should end tomorrow, so.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Cast your votes soon.

Emily: Mm-hmm. One day.

Sally: (singing) One more day ...

Emily: (singing) One day more!

Sally: Thank you. I fucked up the order of the words.

Emily: What's your -- what's your sign-off?

Sally: Um, my sign-off is that the reason my wrist is hurt is that this weekend, my brother collapsed a bounce house on top of me. (laugh) 'Cause he forgot that I was at the party still.

Emily: (laugh) Which brother?

Sally: Perry.

Emily: Perry!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Perry, I know you're listening to this.

Sally: I don't think he is.

Emily: Perry, you did a bad.

Sally: You did a bad.

Emily: You did a bad. (laugh) What was the shape of the bouncy house? Was it just a house?

Sally: I got a picture for ya.

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: I took pictures of the scene of the crime.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: The attempted murder.

Sally: The attempted murder of me and my person.

Emily: The game's afoot.

Sally: The game is afoot. No, that's the inside. Here, this is kind of what it looked like. And there was a slide over here.

Emily: A dinosaur-themed --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yep. "Stop!" it says. Well. Sufficiently --

Sally: That's what happened.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: People at work keep asking me, and I'm like, "It got hurt." And they're like, "How?" and I'm like, "It got HURT. Don't ask questions. You don't wanna know."

Emily: "Is it your business?"

Sally: "It's not your FUCKIN' business."

Emily: It was a bounce house.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Goodbye.