



Episode 74 - “Lavril Avigne”

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Generously Transcribed by Erica Dix

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

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

(Theme song by Glynn Mackenzie plays)

SALLY: How are we getting the seasons, oh god, so this episode is the season finale, and then we usually do a Q&A extra between seasons, but we already did a Q&A this season so....

EMILY: That's true, yeah.

SALLY: So are we doing two Q&A's?

EMILY: I don't know, I mean...

SALLY: Too Q&A, too furious. [laughter]

EMILY: So I have to ask them what they want. What is a good... What, what, what do you want.

SALLY: What do you want?

EMILY: So tired.

SALLY: Do you want Too Q&A Too Furious? I'd make Emily name the episode. She can't stop me though cuz I'm the one who posts the episodes, So even if she says NO, I will do it.

EMILY: I would never stop you from doing that obviously. But also, like, what questions would you even ask us, I feel like we've laid it all bare.

SALLY: I feel like you guys have asked us many questions.

EMILY: I suppose we could delve into our personal lives but I have limits.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I usually don't. [laughter]

EMILY: Sally's pretty open.

SALLY: But we could do like, another special like we did with Supernatural, we could talk about, we could do a kind of "We don't watch Outlander" and do another book or I don't know. Just let us know if you have any other ideas, otherwise we're just going to do some bullshit and you can enjoy it or not.

EMILY: I'm sorry I have zero energy right now. I just came out-

SALLY: Should you drink Diet Coke?

EMILY: No it won't help. I'm immune to Diet Coke's powers at this point because it's constantly circulating through my bloodstream, it's like my baseline. I'd have to do literal cocaine in order to...

SALLY: I bet I could get you some cocaine.

EMILY: I don't - no, what, where?

SALLY: From certain people that I know.

EMILY: Really? You have certain people that you know who you're like, I could get cocaine from this person?

SALLY: Yeah. [laughter]

EMILY: What's that like. I don't even know where I'd get weed.

SALLY: I know multiple people I could get weed from *at work*.

EMILY: Wow. I mean I guess that's just not the line of inquiry that I usually....

SALLY: I mean I don't ask, I don't do drugs. Obviously kids, hugs not drugs. Uggs, not drugs.

EMILY: No, not Uggs. Uggs are terrible. And not just fashionably, they're also like... I can't remember but I read a thing on Tumblr about how they're a shitty company because they stole from an Australian aboriginal company or something?

SALLY: Fuck you, Uggs.

EMILY: Basically it's bad.

SALLY: Just, whatever, don't do drugs.

EMILY: I'm sorry if you can hear Tybalt screaming in the background by the way.

SALLY: I guess you can like, do drugs but in moderation, I mean not like hard drugs, like weed is okay.

EMILY: I guess. I mean yeah it is, I don't have any problems with weed personally.

SALLY: But there's like multiple people I could get weed from. I'm pretty sure I could get cocaine from at least one person that I know. Not that I'm going to, police if you're listening, I don't do cocaine.

EMILY: Can you imagine if someone was like, "listen to this podcast, they talk about how they could acquire cocaine if they wanted to." Which is like a weird sort of brag if you think about it.

SALLY: Weird flex but okay. It wasn't meant to be a brag, I was just stating a fact that you

should maybe know about me. [crosstalk] That some people in my circle could get me cocaine.

EMILY: What about meth? Could anyone get you meth?

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Damn. I feel like I never get out. You know such a wider variety of people than I do.

SALLY: I'm just such a - It's just 'cause I love to be adored.

EMILY: Did you know that in my group of friends, my immediate group of friends that I see most regularly, I am not only the youngest by like a year or two, not a significant margin, but I am also, quote unquote, "the hippest".

SALLY: That doesn't surprise me.

EMILY: Okay well, I say things sometimes and they all stare at me in confusion, all these 28 year olds, and I'm like...

SALLY: If you asked me if Aaron knew who... [laughter]

EMILY: Okay not Aaron, obviously. God I hope he listens to this, I'm going to make them listen to this one day.

SALLY: I'm just saying he does not give off like, I'm hip with the Twitter youths.

EMILY: No, Aaron has the most strong barbecue dad vibes of all time, which I would know because I exclusively talk to him about barbecuing. But you'd expect Devin to know these things. No?

SALLY: No, Devin does not give off that energy. None of them do.

EMILY: What the hell? What in the world?

SALLY: If anything I would have put my money on Nicki, but. She at least watches the Bachelorette, yeah.

EMILY: She's on Tumblr a little. That's true. My good friend Mark, who is adjacent to this group of friends that we are discussing, damn that was close. I almost knocked over that glass of water. Did you know, I'm 100% sure that I've spoken about this on the podcast before, but Sally

leaves glasses of water around sometimes, and I am 100% convinced the aliens from *Signs* are going to attack and that that is going to be our salvation, and that's why I have my wooden Samurai sword in the house because I do not have a baseball bat like Joaquin Phoenix in *Signs*, but I will, nevertheless, swing away, Meryl. You don't know what any of that means, and I don't care. It's funny to someone. Okay, and my friend Mark who I go long periods without speaking to, but he's still my good friend, he is obsessed with horror movies. When *The Witch* came out, that movie a few years ago, detailed the entire synopsis to the office several times, with like, getting excited every single time he was like, on cloud nine talking about this movie, and then yesterday he just sent me like, the trailer for that new horror movie *Midsommar*, or something like that, and he said, "I'm going to give you the synopsis of this," and I was like, "good, because you know I'm not watching that movie." And he still hasn't live-tweeted it to me and I'm very upset about that, cause I do want to know what happens.

SALLY: The fuck, Mark.

EMILY: I like to know what's happening in the horror movie...

SALLY: That's like, one of Emily's biggest personality traits, she loves to know what's going on in various media without consuming it. When I first met her she was like, "my favorite hobby is knowing everything about Game of Thrones without ever having seen an episode of Game of Thrones".

EMILY: I'm trying to remember. I think the first time, yeah, I saw an episode was in our, like, London dorm room.

SALLY: Yeah I think someone made us watch it or something.

EMILY: I think I was just in the room and I had nothing else to do and it was like, the end of season whatever the fuck, the one where Jon Snow dies. Spoiler. [laughter] Etc. etc. That was deeply confusing because I did know what was going on but on an entirely different level, I had no idea what the fuck was going on.

SALLY: That's how Game of Thrones mostly functions. Nobody knows what the fuck is going on. I'm so glad that show is over. Fuck.

EMILY: But yeah, that is my hobby, I do like to know that. I have multiple people, like, you know people who could provide various drugs, I have like, sources who provide me with intel on various media.

SALLY: I think that's important. I think that we've got all our bases covered.

EMILY: Yeah, I always know what's going on on The Bachelorette. But I don't watch it. But I know. I know. Luke? What is he still doing on there. He's a dick.

SALLY: Luke is a dick name.

EMILY: I mean all the dudes on The Bachelor has Dick names because nine times out of 10 they have white frat dudes names.

SALLY: Chris, Ryan, Brian, Tyler.

EMILY: Brock.

SALLY: Scott.

EMILY: I think we just named, like, all of my uncles.

[laughter]

EMILY: Okay, so this is in fact, Everybody Hates Rand, I know we're 10 minutes in, but it's taken me that long to accumulate energy and also we just read two very short chapters. Very important chapters, but very short.

SALLY: One of them is important, the other one's stupid. [laughter]

EMILY: As usual, we are going into this swinging on the side of Mat Cauthon. Anti-Perrin.

SALLY: Oh my god, did you see the Tumblr art that we got tagged in this week?

EMILY: Oh yeah I did, like, where Mat looks really sassy?

SALLY: Yeah, and he's in like, a floral shirt. And he looks like you.

EMILY: He looks like me?

SALLY: You always wear floral shirts.

EMILY: I wish I had that level of mischievous grin. I've always wished. But I just looked cracked out when I try and do that.

SALLY: You do have a very mischievous grin.

EMILY: Thank you.

SALLY: Anyway, sorry, this is our fucking podcast.

EMILY: This is our fucking podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: And I'm Sally Goodger.

EMILY: I don't even know if we got any of the usual stuff in there, but let's just jump right into the chapters, the very short chapters. Which should we talk about first? Should we like, save the best for last? Or should we go in chronological order? So let's talk about Perrin first, unfortunately, tragically. Perrin is coming home from his fucking day job that he's suddenly acquired in this random city, which I guess, it's not much of a commute, he like, works next door. But he's been chilling with his blacksmith friend who's been giving him little projects to work on. And Perrin's going back to the inn with Faile, who as usual has been stalking him because she has no sense of healthy boundaries, she probably watches *The Bachelorette* too much. Faile would be on *The Bachelorette*. Or *The Bachelor*.

SALLY: Yes, on *The Bachelor*. Faile would also like, I feel like Faile would benefit from having Instagram, because if you're horny for someone, you just stalk their Instagram.

EMILY: That's true, yeah, Faile would be real big on that.

SALLY: And then you don't have to be weird horny in person. You're just weird horny on the internet.

EMILY: But she would like, accidentally maybe on purpose like Perrin's selfies from like 4 years ago.

SALLY: She would be like, "oh my God, I'm so sorry."

EMILY: "I'm so sorry this is so awkward."

SALLY: That'd mean it would be selfies from when Perrin was like, sixteen, and no one's liking that.

EMILY: Yeah, no. I'm envisioning a realm in which Perrin, rather than being a 19 year old or whatever the hell he is, is like, in his late twenties. Which is like how old these people read most

of the time. Especially now that we're post The Great Hunt where everyone has very adolescent streaks, we are now into, everyone has just suddenly skipped into their mid-twenties in terms of how they're dealing with adulthood and coming of age. It's like they are all just sad and don't have health insurance. Less, you know, like, I'm sad and I hate my town.

SALLY: You're not my real town.

EMILY: You're not my real town. [crosstalk] I hate my mom, you know. Just kidding Becky I love you.

SALLY: Becky if you're listening.

EMILY: Becky if you're, oh my god Becky, please don't listen. Please. Stop.

SALLY: Does Becky know how podcasts work?

EMILY: No. Definitely not.

SALLY: It's our one saving grace.

EMILY: I would definitely have to show her, and I'm not going to do that.

SALLY: Okay. Perrin is coming home from the 9 to 5, he's tired, he's hungry.

EMILY: Working nine-to-five, what a way to make a living.

SALLY: Is Perrin getting paid though?

EMILY: No, he's literally just doing Free Labor over at the blacksmith shop for the sheer pleasure of doing it.

SALLY: He's volunteering.

EMILY: Yeah, he's volunteering as a blacksmith, which is like, on the one hand, isn't that the dream? That you have a job that you like doing so much that you don't even need to get paid to do it? But on the other hand, this is 2019 bitch, no one has that job.

SALLY: Yeah, correct.

EMILY: Come on, I can't relate to this at all. I would never, literally never, do any job without

getting paid at this point. I demand money.

[phone text alert sound]

EMILY: How dare you have your cell phone not on silent.

SALLY: I'm sorry, it's Joe.

EMILY: It's our fans.

SALLY: And I love him. I love Joe.

EMILY: Hi Joe.

SALLY: I can't stop fucking listening to Hello Kitty by Avril Lavigne because you're a fucking demon.

EMILY: What? Avril Lavigne has a song called Hello Kitty?

SALLY: Yes. Stop this podcast.

EMILY: I did not know that. When was it?

SALLY: It came out in, like, 2013.

EMILY: Huh.

SALLY: Obviously you're not keyed in to the pop music scene.

EMILY: Yeah sorry, that is the one scene that I'm not oh, you are actually my source for pop music, so.

SALLY: Excellent. So what drug are you going to get me?

EMILY: Wait so, is this before or after Avril Lavigne was replaced by her clone.

SALLY: This was after, I believe.

EMILY: Okay, so this isn't actually Avril Lavigne.

SALLY: This is her. It's Lavril Avigne. [laughter]

EMILY: Don't fucking joke because Robert Jordan would name someone Lavril.

SALLY: This is my Warder, Lavril.

EMILY: Avigne.

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: Or Avigne Lavril.

SALLY: That's a really good.

EMILY: That actually sounds like [crosstalk] you're welcome, Robert Jordan.

SALLY: Okay well now we need to...

EMILY: Giving you that one, I hope you're listening...

SALLY: Give Avigne Lavril to Jeremy.

EMILY: Oh, is he in the posse somehow,

SALLY: Yeah we'll have to figure out his character.

EMILY: Okay, well, what did we decide. Jeremy is the explosive experts, obviously,

SALLY: Larry is our point person.

EMILY: I thought Larry was like the Matt Damon of the Oceans crew that he's just like the sweet innocent who's sort of in the game because he you know, he just, that's all he knows.

SALLY: True.

EMILY: So then Lavril Avigne, Avigne Lavril, I can't fucking remember.

SALLY: Avigne Lavril.

EMILY: Avigne Lavril.

SALLY: Or their name.

EMILY: How am I going to spell this in the episode title?

SALLY: Well who are we missing? We also have Stephanie the butch wolf.

EMILY: We do have Stephanie the butch wolf.

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: And she, we kind of just set you up like big Cate Blanchett vibes obviously, which means...

SALLY: She's our Brad Pitt.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Cate Blanchett second-in-command.

EMILY: We don't even have I have, like, a Danny Ocean at this point.

SALLY: Could that be Avigne Lavril?

EMILY: No because I kind of hate him.

SALLY: Okay, okay, Avigne Lavril is kind of like, French and douche.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: So he's obviously Cahrienan.

EMILY: Ironically, in the Oceans franchise, there's like that French douche character the night Fox?

SALLY: Oh yeah, maybe he could be our villain.

EMILY: He could be our, oh yeah. I like that. Okay we finally have a villain.

SALLY: And like there can be a little bit of sexual tension between him and whoever. All of

them except Stephanie who yet...

EMILY: The character who yet... because it has to happen organically people, don't try to give us characters.

SALLY: Yeah I'm not interested.

EMILY: We might not fucking get the Ocean of the group, until Towers of Midnight. Who's to say? Fuck.

SALLY: But we do have a villain now, which is important.

EMILY: Yeah, a villain is deeply important to a plot, which is something that Robert Jordan fails to understand.

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: I'm calling my shots like Babe Ruth here. Robert Jordan sucked at writing villains.

SALLY: Oh that's true. All the Forsaken are deeply unintimidating.

EMILY: They do not give a fuck about the Dark One. Like, oooh I'm a cosmic force of evil. Fuck off.

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: I'm Mormon, I stopped believing in that shit when I was 12, come on.

SALLY: Do Mormons not believe in a cosmic force of evil?

EMILY: No they do, but I escaped that belief, it was my rebellion, I was like, listen, Satan was just...

SALLY: As John Milton told us, many centuries ago...

EMILY: Satan was sexy.

SALLY: Satan was real hot.

EMILY: And the Dark One isn't, which is my biggest concern.

SALLY: Yeah, listen, if you don't have David Tennant rolling up in leather pants, I'm not interested in your demon.

EMILY: That's true. Who is David Tennant play in The Wheel of Time casting? Did we already talk about this last week?

SALLY: No, we did not talk about David Tennant, we talked about Keanu Reeves. Similar energies.

EMILY: Who would David Tennant play? The problem is everyone is so fucking young in this series, you know?

SALLY: Think about our oldies.

EMILY: And like those are the established, like you could get like Olivia Coleman up in the mix playing an Aes Sedai...

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But then we don't have any characters who are just like, we don't have any men characters who are just like, oldish.

SALLY: I kinda want David Tennant to play Talmanes.

EMILY: Oh my fucking god. He's too tall for it though.

SALLY: I know, that's true. He doesn't have the right aesthetic but he does have the energy, you know?

EMILY: That's true. A very young David Tennant could play Mat Cauthon.

SALLY: Yes, holy shit.

EMILY: Yeah, he's got the body type, lanky as fuck.

SALLY: I guess he could play Matt's dad.

EMILY: Oh, oh my God.

SALLY: He could play Abel.

EMILY: Just make like a fun cameo. Because like who would you be expecting? And then it's David Tennant...

SALLY: It's fucking David Tennant.

EMILY: And you're just like, "damn son."

SALLY: And it would just like, explain so much.

EMILY: Yeah, of course this explains everything. Um, fuck. That was a tangent within a tangent within a tangent. I don't know where we began, this is inception, bring me back to the start. Avigne Lavril. Villains, I was bashing on Robert Jordan, I was going to say that Robert Jordan did successfully write at least one set of villains with the Aelfinn and the Eelfin. Those are deeply troubling, like, disturbing villains and are actually scary.

SALLY: I think the Seanchan are pretty scary.

EMILY: I think the Seanchan are also pretty scary, I think the problem with them is that Robert Jordan veers away from them being villains and enter them being sympathetic, like a sympathetic force at some point which like we will get into more as we get more into having Seanchan point of view characters but...

SALLY: Spoiler alert, I'm not going to be a fan of it.

EMILY: Yeah, I talked in one of my most recent blogs about how you finally converted me and I no longer give any fucks about the Seanchan.

SALLY: Ooh.

EMILY: I mean, there's also the rise of fascism in my actual country, which isn't helping, but happy Fourth of July.

SALLY: Eat shit America, happy "America Masturbates" Day.

EMILY: Yeah. Remember, we committed genocide.

SALLY: And we are still doing it.

EMILY: And we're doing concentration camps again. Great. Fuck America. Okay anyway, got a circle back somehow bringing laughter back into this world.

SALLY: Whatever, Perrin's really horny...

EMILY: Yeah, Perrin's so fucking horny you guys. He's like, Faile, is she beautiful? Do I love her? Do I call her by her correct name? And it's like, yes she is beautiful, because beauty is, I don't know, you like her, and therefore she's beautiful.

SALLY: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

EMILY: Yeah, whatever. and yes you do love her, because Robert Jordan doesn't know how to write subtle romance, and yeah, you should call her by the name that she requests you call her by.

SALLY: Call Me By Your Name.

EMILY: Oh my God. I hate that entire thing by the way.

SALLY: Me too, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have brought that poison. Bleep me out.

EMILY: Sorry if Call Me By Your Name is very close to your heart but fuck it.

SALLY: Emily really is just, like, batting 100.

EMILY: I - the sleep deprivation.

SALLY: [Laughter] Always good episodes when one of us is wacky.

EMILY: I just want my fish and chips! We have to watch [unintelligible] okay.

SALLY: Oh yeah we have to double record tonight.

EMILY: Yeah we are double recording tonight which I won't mind because I can be a lot wackier in *Till We Have Faces* and also you can, like, this podcast is structured where I'm supposed to synopsise, but we can be a little more loosey-goosey about that.

SALLY: I know, you're the backbone of this podcast.

EMILY: No I'm not.

SALLY: And I'm simply the squishy organs around it.

EMILY: Currently, currently the backbone of this podcast has scoliosis, bitch. I'm dying up here. Okay.

SALLY: That was a funny metaphor.

EMILY: That was a metaphor, it was a good one unlike Brandon Sanderson's metaphors. Read my last blog. They suck. Okay, Perrin, Faile, are going back to the inn, they happen to run into Moiraine and Lan who announce, as usual, without warning whatsoever, "Rand is in Tear," and Perrin's like, "oh shit." But I was like, "didn't we know this fucking already?" Or am I just inundated with every other character's point of view where they saw Rand. Like, it's not a surprise that Rand is in Tear. Perrin's like, "how the hell do you know that, there haven't been any weird weddings and shit." And Lan is like, "Yes they have, you're just not seeing them, you're a much smaller point in the scale now, here is a big city. And so statistically speaking yeah, there have been tons of weddings. There have also been a ton of murders and a lot of freak accidents and freak miracle, miraculous survivals going on." So yeah, the whole Ta'veren thing is definitely in effect here. But also like, Perrin and Mat are here and I would like to see them affecting their surroundings in little subtle ways. Like I would like for like, with Mat it's always like coins and things standing on edge, and I'd like to see that has like, you get closer to Mat.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: How fun would that be?

SALLY: So fun.

EMILY: Just like, tracking the Ta'veren based on their weird effects.

SALLY: Plus I would love to be close to Mat.

EMILY: Obviously.

SALLY: Physically.

EMILY: Sexually, Obviously. We are so horny for Mat over here.

SALLY: Didn't you know?

EMILY: Yeah, is that a surprise?

SALLY: Is that a surprise?

EMILY: And Perrin is like, “oh yeah, plus I've been having weird dreams,” and Moiraine is like, “Yeah I guess Balal isn't shielding his dreams.” Which is so odd because we hear a lot about the act of Aes Sedai and I don't know, important characters shielding their dreams, like this is something that buy books five or six that most of our characters are doing as force of habit, Rand learns how to do it in book 4 or 5 and just does it like, does it to get rid of his creepy Lanfear dreams.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Forever afterward. But we almost never, like, with the exception of this book, we never see that projection outwards, so it's a little bit weird that the dreams of important people can also infect the people around them, like that's such an odd...

SALLY: That's weird.

EMILY: Dunno. Anyway, Moiraine is like, “So, Lan and I are going to go into the Stone of Tear tonight, and let's get ready to go. But you guys are going to Tar Valon to wait this out.” And it's like, Moiraine, do you understand the logistics of travel? If you are going into the Stone of Tear tonight it's not like Perrin and Faile are going to get to Tar Valon, they're going to be maybe two miles outside of Tear, which if you set off a nuclear explosion [crosstalk]

SALLY: Do anything to help.

EMILY: What the hell.

SALLY: What are you fucking talking about.

EMILY: But everyone, Perrin's like, “I don't want to run away,” and Faile's like, “I fucking do.” which is like a big mood Faile.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Points for that one. And she kind of runs upstairs to grab Loial and pack and Perrin's following her and hears like, her body hit the floor so he's like, “what the shit” and runs after her. And Moiraine's like, “stop. For your life, stop.” Very dramatic as usual. So Perrin can see Faile on like, the floor of the bedroom like, just you know, very Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Style the bitten apple rolled away from her hand but in this case it's a little hedgehog.

SALLY: So does she, like, pick it up?

EMILY: I guess she like, picks it up and that's what triggers it.

SALLY: And she's like, "oooh, a small hedgehog." I mean, guess if I saw small hedgehog

EMILY: I mean if you walked into your room and there was like a little miniature animal...

SALLY: How whimsical.

EMILY: Carving on your bed would you not immediately be like, hello.

SALLY: It's so small.

EMILY: It's so small.

SALLY: What garden can I place you in?

EMILY: My dear son.

SALLY: My child is this hedgehog.

EMILY: I've adopted this wooden hedgehog. Weirder things have happened. But she, like, Perrin can't see her breathing or anything like that so of course like, "is she dead? What the fuck is going on?" And Moiraine dithers a bit and then is like, "this is probably a trap laid for me by the Black Ajah," which of course is concerning but doesn't really concern Moiraine overly, she's like, "ideally they'll have sensed that the trap was triggered," which Moiraine did herself, because she felt the one power channelling sort of. Very weird. I never understand channeling when it's not, like, a trap you set.

SALLY: Yeah that's odd.

EMILY: But she's like, "they'll probably think I'm out of commission, so they won't even be expecting me, which is ideal for me, less so for Faile, who's gonna die if she stays like this much longer." and Moiraine is like, Perrin's like, "please give me a solution, can you help her? Can I help her? Can anyone help this unconscious woman who's laying on the ground?" And Moiraine's like, "No, and I'm leaving. Bye."

SALLY: It's seriously the most ridiculous scene. She's like, "I think she's in the World of Dreams but fuck all if I know."

EMILY: Yeah. She like, introduces to Perrin, finally, the concept of Tel'aran'rhiod, and he's like, "are there wolves there?" and she's like, "Yeah, I've heard about that." And so Perrin immediately likes, draws the conclusion oh, this is something I do have some familiarity with. But it's like, yeah, but it's equally frustrating here, it's equally frustrating here that Perrin is like not even in the mix. Like Perrin's whole mission, his climactic moment at the end of this book is that he's gonna be going into Tel'aran'rhiod to rescue Faile. And it's like, okay, that's fine for Perrin I guess, but like, in the grander scheme of what's going on here, this like, huge prophetic moment, it's like, Perrin should be involved in some way.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, the cover of the fucking Dragon Reborn has all three boys on the cover, And it's like, yeah, cuz they should all three be there. If you're going to be like, these are my three main dudes, I want them to have a few moments at least where they are all together. Like so much of the Dragon Reborn is about fulfilling prophecy, either consciously or unconsciously, and about the idea, the very well explored idea in Epic Fantasy that like, destiny is something that is real. That destiny is something that you can take an active role in, or that can happen to or whatever else. And so it kind of makes sense that you have Perrin who at the beginning one of his first chapters of this book was given all of these viewings by Min, and now we have him here at the end with Faile who was spoken about, he also just as a little side note, Baralane is mentioned for the first time in these chapters as like, a character, but you do have this also very prophetic moment for Perrin, but it's frustrating that his big prophetic moment is love interest.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like I know that's a thing in fantasy but almost never seen it done in a satisfactory way.

SALLY: No.

EMILY: At least it happens, it happens to all the boys, they have a prophecy regarding their love interest, in parentheses, because we have to have Rand up in this mix with multiple love interests. But like, just switch the genders for a minute, how pissed would you be if one of the girls was like, and here's your whole destiny, it's about your lover. Like that would be infuriating.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it's equally infuriating with Perrin. Extremely.

SALLY: Yeah, like, the Stone of Tear is a huge tipping point in the series where we sort of jump fully into like, the main plot and its political and mythical implications, the fact that Perrin is off doing this extremely, like, I know it's important to Perrin's arc, but in like, the grand scheme of things it's so small. Rescuing Faile. It's just kind of frustrating.

EMILY: I mean it's like, it's sort of setup for what Perrin's basically going to be doing for the rest of his arc which is like, developing his relationship with Faile and then just sort of accidentally at the same time, stumbling into leadership roles and accumulating armies, you know. Like Perrin doesn't do shit consciously, he's just like, "I'm but a simple blacksmith, I'm here to communicate with the wolves, protect my wife," you know, whatever. But it's like, that's not a character I'm really invested in.

SALLY: No! Perrin's so boring!

EMILY: I'm all for like, happy marriages and healthy relationships, of course this isn't one...

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: But it's like, I'm trying to communicate like, I don't have a problem with Perrin's monogamy or his heterosexual monogamy, that is all fine, I've seen it done beautifully in other works of fiction, my problem is that it's apparently his only defining trait.

SALLY: A-Perrin-tly.

EMILY: You've done that joke before and I hate you every time.

SALLY: That's my role in this podcast, is to interrupt your important literary litanies with stupid shit.

EMILY: Anyway, that's all a complaint, I don't know how to fix it or anything.

SALLY: I don't know either. It's just like, why can't Perrin just go to the Stone of Tear.

EMILY: Like, I don't know what he would fucking do at the Stone of Tear but like, that's not my problem, that's the author's problem, you were supposed to write it better. Sorry I'm putting Robert Jordan so much on blast this episode, it's just like.

SALLY: Robert Jordan's up in heaven just like, "damn girl."

EMILY: We're about to get into one of the most satisfying moments in the entire series, so I feel justified in being negative right now cuz I'm going to be hella positive next episode. But you know, it's just frustrating.

SALLY: But we can still be pissed about it.

EMILY: I'm still pissed. Anyway Perrin is like, "Loial, watch my back," and then he fucking dives into Tel'aran'rhiod. And Hopper's like...

SALLY: And he's like, "I think I touched her ankle before I passed out."

EMILY: Again, it's like, that fucking Snow White scene. Jesus Christ. This does have like, very fairy tale elements to it, like, the idea of rescuing a comatose person...

SALLY: Maiden, as it were.

EMILY: Yeah. From the World of Dreams, dreams are also very central to fairy tales. But we'll talk about them more when we are actually into Perrin rescuing Faile. Anyway he shows up in Tel'aran'rhiod and Hopper's like, "what the fuck are you doing here."

SALLY: [laughter]

EMILY: I told you not to come here. And Perrin's like, "well, sucks to suck, I couldn't stay away because my boo is trapped in here somewhere," and Hopper's like, "understandable. Let's be off."

SALLY: I got you. I'm your ride or die.

EMILY: Yeah, I, yeah. Hopper is such a ride or die. God.... We don't appreciate Hopper enough.

SALLY: Your boo's in trouble? Let's go save her. Yeah, take a moment this week and just light a candle for Hopper.

EMILY: Yeah he's just so fucking good.

SALLY: Yeah, throw one back, for our boy. Then we just kissed our fingers and raise them up to [crosstalk]

EMILY: That one's for you Hopper. Love you boo.

SALLY: Love you boo bear.

EMILY: Any way back over to Mat, the real hero of this story.

SALLY: Mat's like, "Thom, you got the tuberculosis."

EMILY: Parallels, both these chapters are about men rescuing women, but it's like, here we have the interesting part of that whereas Perrin is, like, I can fucking die reading this.

SALLY: Like I couldn't give a shit.

EMILY: But yeah, Thom is terminally ill apparently.

SALLY: Just like, hacking up a lung, and Mat's like, "you're disgusting."

EMILY: Mat's like, "This is horrible and I should have seen this coming," because Thom is old as fuck. His immune system can't do anything for us here. Mat's like, "come on Thom, I'm going to take you to the local wise woman recommended to him by the innkeeper." It's a very funny in medias res scene because we don't see Mat going to The Innkeeper and being like, "where should I take my grandpa to have his lungs replaced apparently." But we do see him confronting Thom with this and Thom being like, "no, it's fine, I can handle it, I am young and hail and hardy just like, let me at him." And Mat being like, "I'm literally going to carry you to the ER now, to Urgent Care, fantasy Urgent Care, Mother Guenna." But Mat kind of finally wiles his way into getting Thom out the door and they go back to the Mall outside of the city walls, which, by the way, the mall is just such a fun, like, neighborhood name by the way. And they go to Mother Guenna's door, Mat knocks a few times, Mother Guenna answers, and of course we immediately recognize her, and it's this moment of dramatic irony because we know what's going on, Matt doesn't. And she's clearly upset and depressed and Matt is just like, "yeah, so is everyone else in this goddamn city, I don't know what everyone's on, but whatever, we're off." but he's like, "can you please help my grandad."

SALLY: Please sir.

EMILY: His years as a chimney sweep has apparently caught up with him and now he has the black lung. And she's like, "yeah sure, come on in. Fine. I can help." And she's, you know, getting some concoction ready to pour down Thom's throat. Thom meanwhile is like, "[terrible throat sounds] no, I hate medicine." And Mat's like, "you're such a cliché."

SALLY: And he's like, "shut up Tom," which is such a good moment.

EMILY: Thom's like, "I don't need this," and Mat's like, "shut up Thom." It's as good as Mat snickered.

SALLY: Yeah I know I want A mug that's just got, like, the classic Mat Cauthon one-liners.

EMILY: Mat snickers. Shut up Thom. I do read sometimes. Yeah, those are all... Matt looks outside and is like, "those are some three very expensive-looking horses. How do you do." He's like, "What the hell horses." And then, I don't even remember how they get on the topic, how does it come up?

SALLY: I can't even remember.

EMILY: Oh, he says, kinda trying to make casual conversation, "hey, you sound a lot like, your accent sounds very similar to a woman I know." Because he's thinking of the Amerlyn. And he's like, it's just occurring to him I guess that Siuan is from Tear.

SALLY: Is a person.

EMILY: Is like a person with a past and a childhood and whatever. She's been just this terrifying figure. And she's like, yeah, probably, I just met some people who sound a lot like you at least two of them. And Mat's like... [alarm sounds] You just see the little light bulb go off above his head and he's like, "did they happen to be named Elayne, Egwene and Nynaeve?" And she's like, "those were not their names, but I suspect that the names they gave me were aliases, cause they were really bad at lying. Mat's like, "If it were me, you never would have known, TBH." But he describes them, and she's like, "yep that's them, they were here, you miss them by 3 hours." Which kind of sets the scene for them. For us it could have been a day or two, but now we're like, oh shit this really just happened. Which explains then why mother Guenna is so off her game, because she literally 3 hours ago was watching them get dragged off and beaten, and being threatened not to say anything about it. And Mat's like, "shit, what happened to them?" And she's like, "I can't tell you, I can't get involved in this." And he's like, "Please, I will not tell you, I will not bring you into this, just tell me what happened." And she eventually is like, "okay well they were picked up by some Aes Sedai and taken to the Stone of Tear." And he's like, "Oh, thank god, Aes Sedai, that's fine then." And she's like, "no, they were not happy about the whole scenario. Like they got beaten up pretty bad." And Mat's little train of thought there is so fascinating. because it leaps immediately from him being like, what the hell, to being like, how am I going to get into the Stone of Tear. Like, just instant. It's very good.

SALLY: Yeah and one of the interesting things about this is that he keeps kind of repeating

throughout of course it's kind of, like, him feeling guilty but, like the first night he was in tier he saw [crosstalk] thing. Illuminated by a bolt of lightning like he was looking for a chance like what's more random than lightning striking the city looking over and seeing something the light of lightning. And he's, like, mad at himself because he's been focused too much. I'm, like, gambling and this different forms of chance. So it's just like....

EMILY: Yeah he's like, I haven't figured out how to utilize, how to exploit my own super powers yet. It's just very interesting.

SALLY: Mat's Again, I know we talked about it so much but Mat's Ta'veren power is so fascinating to me.

EMILY: I know because in a way, it's the only one that's like, concrete in what it does and what its limits are. Perrin's is always much more abstract. Like as we get into the series it becomes like, more about people and how people respond to Perrin. But it's like, Rand kind of also does the same thing. So it's interesting to see Mat set apart in that he just has, his like, luck thing. Although he does have, there's that very good scene in A Crown of Swords when Nynaeve and Elayne are trying to negotiate with the Seafolk for the Bowl of the Winds, and they just bring Mat into the room and, like, let him run wild. And he eventually realizes what's going on and is like, make a deal with me. And they make a deal with him. Because he's Ta'veren, they have no other choice.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, but then that becomes a really good scene because it doesn't happen all the time with Mat. Yeah, so then there's the iconic moment of Mat punching a wall not realizing he's punching a wall because, as we've said, Mat does a lot of things physically that he doesn't come to terms with mentally or emotionally, and Mother Guenna's like, "please don't wreck my building." And Mat is just like, fuck. Like, big fuck. You know?

SALLY: Mega-fuck.

EMILY: Mega-fuck. And she's like, "listen, you can't do anything," and he's like, "I got to do something, like, I got to get into the Stone of Tear." He's like, "Can I leave Thom with you?" and Thom's like, "what the fuck?" And she's like, "You cannot break into the Stone of Tear." and Mat's like, "Fucking watch me."

SALLY: That's what you think, Mother Guenna.

EMILY: It's gonna be fine. And she immediately, you know, has some fondness for him. She's

like...

SALLY: How could you not.

EMILY: Yeah, how could you not. He immediately is like, “here is some money, thank you for taking care of Thom and for the information, here's a little kiss on the cheek, that one's just from me.” And she's like, “what the hell.”

SALLY: This is a crazy boy.

EMILY: This is who let this wild Casanova into my home. Who exclusively flirts with middle-aged women apparently.

SALLY: Yeah. Which is one of my favorite character traits of Mat's.

EMILY: I know, Mat is just like, I'm going to flirt with all women. Which is, yeah, another stone in the defense of Mat just likes flirting.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He delights in having women be like, “aw, you little cutie. You remind me of my husband.”

SALLY: Freaking cute-ems.

EMILY: But Mat's like, “Okay great well, see you later Thom.”

SALLY: It's nice knowing you.

EMILY: And Tom's like, hacking up a lung like, “you cannot leave me here!” And Mat's like, “I'm going to. Goodbye bitch.”

SALLY: It's very. Mat and Tom have the funniest relationship of all time.

EMILY: I know, It is so funny. Mat's like, “If you die, who will I play stones with?” and Thom's like, “That's not reassuring.”

SALLY: But yeah then Mat's like at the end he's like, it was nice knowing you or something. And he's like, “Mother Guenna will keep Thom alive but who's going to keep me alive?”

EMILY: What the fuck am I doing? And he walks out and the Stone of Tear is just like, right there. And he's like, oh fuck. The lead-up to the iconic sequence that is about to follow.

SALLY: Oh I'm so excited.

EMILY: Cause everyone breaks into the Stone of Tear at once. Okay, well that has been the episode.

SALLY: We made it to the end. We learned some things. We created some things.

EMILY: We did an entertainment hopefully.

SALLY: Hopefully. Let us know.

EMILY: Do we have any housekeeping?

SALLY: Um, housekeeping is, we've referenced Emily's blog so much this episode, we are going to do

EMILY: Oh my god I'm so sorry, I'm not trying to...

SALLY: No, it's very good oh, it's very good subliminal messaging. We've referenced Emily's blog so much where that blog is on our patreon for those who don't know, if you support us at \$1 a month you get access to Emily's blogs every week when she's rereading the last couple books of The Wheel of Time series. You also get access to our blooper reel I believe, for \$1 a month.

EMILY: Mmhmm.

SALLY: So you get some pretty good bonus content and I know it doesn't sound like a lot but \$1 a month really does make a difference over the course of the year that's \$12 and that's, if you do the math that means you particularly are responsible for us to like, post and publish several episodes of the podcast. So you really are making a difference and making the podcast possible so like, \$1 a month really does make a difference and we'd love for you to support us there because we're on an upward climb towards making some EHR merchandise, that's our next goal.

EMILY: Fuck yeah.

SALLY: Hell yeah. Also I wanted to say thank you to everyone who's been tweeting about the podcast, this last week I guess, I always do bad with the future tense here, but last week so many of you said such nice things about the podcast and how much you enjoy listening to it, and it

really is so great to have you guys interacting with us on social media, it's really obviously good to have help us promote it but also just, we don't have a lot of other platforms for interacting with you, so thank you to everyone who gives us a shoutout on Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, wherever you are we really appreciate it.

EMILY: Thanks to Ferg for that hilarious fanart of us, that might be my new icon by the time this episode comes out.

SALLY: I know, it's really good, you look really fab, your hair is so spiky.

EMILY: So do you and your little crop top.

SALLY: I love that cropped hoodie.

EMILY: You look a lot like oh, you know what you look like, you look like that sister in Wild Thornberrys,

SALLY: AMAZING.

EMILY: Crop top and really huge curly blonde...

SALLY: I know, appreciate it, yeah. Emily looks very pointy.

EMILY: And that's what I am, I am the wooden Hedgehog.

SALLY: [laughter] Thank you to Glynn Mackenzie for our fabulous theme song. We love it love it love it. It's just such a beautiful start to every one of our episodes.

EMILY: When I remember to put it in.

SALLY: This is Emily's reminder to put it in the podcast.

EMILY: Put it in the podcast you dumb hedgehog.

SALLY: Gotta go fast.

EMILY: Gotta go fast. Fuck me, right. Uh, what's the signoff today?

SALLY: The sign-off is that yesterday, I was home by myself because Emily was working, and

I went to my room for a couple minutes to, I don't know what I was doing, changing out books or something, and I came back and I was like, where the fuck is our cat? And I look, and he has figured out how to open the sliding screen door with his little not opposable kitten paws, and was just fully outside with the door open.

EMILY: You know what that reminds me of?

SALLY: It was horrifying.

EMILY: That scene in Jurassic Park where they're going to the Raptor pen, and the Raptor expert is like, they're testing the gate. Because like, the Raptors are learning how to escape.

SALLY: Literally I was like, our cat is too sentient.

EMILY: Clever girl.

SALLY: He's going to try to eat my face. Guys it was legitimately like, I wish you could have heard the noise that I made. I was like [screech].

EMILY: So sad I was at work.

SALLY: Goodbye we LOVE you.

EMILY: Ummm... Just kidding.

SALLY: Oh my god!