

TRANSCRIPTION OF EPISODE 10, “PETCO CLICKERS THEM INTO SUBMISSION”

Release Date: March 19, 2018

Running Time: 52 Minutes

Emily: [muffled] That cake is delicious.

Sally: [muffled] That cake is real good.

Emily: [muffled] God, happy birthday.

Sally: [muffled] Thanks!

Emily: That’s how we’ll start this episode. With chewing noises.

Sally: Mm. Get your ASMR fix here.

Emily: ASMR isn’t exclusively chewing noises, is it?

Sally: I don’t know. I don’t really know that much about ASMR.

Emily: I’m afraid of it. It’s like a wormhole I’m *really* afraid of.

Sally: I don’t think so.

Emily: Like vore. Listener, I know too much about vore.

Sally: Yeah. Emily knows too much about a lot of things that frighten me.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: Reference episode – eight? The A/B/O discussion.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: Sign of the cross.

Emily: Okay, anyway, so –

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: [laugh] Oh, I need my phone! I have things on it.

Sally: You have things on it? Oh.

Emily: Well, I looked up – I did book news again this week.

Sally: She’s doing so good.

Emily: This time it was because it was Sally’s birthday and also her first full week in the corporate – [struggles to say “workforce”] workforce. But just wait. Once you’re in the groove of things and it’s not your birthday . . . [laugh]

Sally: I love doing book news. I’m sorry that I’ve passed this burden upon to you. [quiet, to herself] Upon to you?

Emily: Well, there hasn't been a whole lot of book news. "A Wrinkle in Time" just came out, but neither of us have seen it yet.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Hopefully we'll see it really soon.

Sally: Yeah, I would love to talk about it.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But like you said, we should see it first.

Emily: So what I've got is – this week, and I think the last few weeks, actually, the top bestseller on the New York Times bestseller list for non-fiction is this book called "I'll Be Gone in the Dark." It is subtitled – this is very clunky – "One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer." I know. I don't know why you would put that on the title.

Sally: As a, um, obsessive academic, I love me a good title that includes a colon, but that is –

Emily: It doesn't have a colon.

Sally: It doesn't have a--?

Emily: They just have different font colors. Okay, well, [laugh] we're not big fans of the title. Or, really, the cover design. But –

Sally: Let me see it. Is it just a house that's . . .

Emily: Yeah, it's got kind of like a creepy house and sort of a night sky.

Sally: The background is like mist?

Emily: Or is that a city?

Sally: Also, I'm not a huge fan of the yellow font on top of the black and white photo.

Emily: Yeah, I don't really get it.

Sally: It looks ugly.

Emily: Okay, anyway, not a big fan of the graphic design. But it is a true crime novel – true crime nonfiction – it's not a novel, necessarily, it's about a serial killer. And it is written by a woman called Michelle McNamara who was a journalist. She had a really – a pretty well-known blog called, I think, TrueCrimeDiary dot com or something. Um. She was married to Patton Oswalt. If you know who he –

Sally: What the shit?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Are they still married?

Emily: Well, she died. When –

Sally: Oh, that's right. We literally had a conversation about this four hours ago.

Emily: [laugh] It's okay, you've worked a lot since then.

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: She died in 2016 pretty unexpectedly. She was only forty-six. It was just sort of a – um – a medical surprise. Obviously non-fiction true crime doesn't really relate to our Wheel of Time podcast, but it does relate in that she died while she was writing this book, much like Robert Jordan died while writing Wheel of Time, and portions of the book were just finished by her research – her main research assistant and an investigative journalist, who – “they gained access to their friend's 3,500 computer files on this case.”

Sally: Thirty-five hundred?

Emily: Yeah. This, by the way, is all in a USA Today article by Marco della Cava. Yeah, 3,500. She really studied this.

Sally: Damn.

Emily: She was – she did some serious research, which is really astounding because imagine researching the crimes of a serial killer. But one of the many reasons this guy probably hasn't been caught is because he crossed county lines.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And people – cops – especially back in the seventies – weren't really into sharing their information across county lines. So he just got away with a lot of shit.

Sally: Cool.

Emily: So that's cool and sad, but it is sweet to me that there's this legacy of authors who, even when they pass away, still have people to continue their projects. And I have a lot of beef with Brandon Sanderson, but it is – it's – I think it's way better that he wrote it than that it was left unfinished.

Sally: Oh, absolutely.

Emily: Yeah. And Michelle McNamara, I think, deserved to have this book on the New York Times bestseller list. She sounds like an incredible woman. Anyway, I really want to read this book because it sounds really cool.

Sally: Let's go book-shopping tomorrow. You're working.

Emily: I'm working.

Sally: Sunday. Before the exterminator comes, we'll go book-shopping.

Emily: I don't want to leave the house.

Sally: Okay, I'll go buy it for you. [sing-song] You can't stop me, ho.

Emily: Anyway, so that's book news. It's a little depressing, but.

Sally: But I'm fascinated by the idea of books that are finished post-mortem.

Emily: Yeah, I'm really interested in – I want to read this book because I want to, I just, I find it really interesting to compare what the author clearly wrote with what the author clearly only researched.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So anyway.

Sally: Yeah. That's book news.

Emily: Hell, yeah.

Sally: Super cool. Go read it. It's called . . . Long Title, by Michelle McNamara.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: "It's called Long Title." It's called "I'll Be Gone On—" "I'll—" [clears throat] "I'll Be Gone in the Dark" by Michelle McNamara. With a foreword – an introduction by Gillian Flynn and an afterword by Patton Oswalt.

Sally: Gillian Flynn as in "Gone Girl" Gillian Flynn?

Emily: Yeah, I have no idea how the two are related, but.

Sally: What the shit.

Emily: I don't even want to know.

Sally: We don't need to talk about how much I hate "Gone Girl" because that would be a whole other podcast.

Emily: You've read the book?

Sally: I unfortunately have read the book.

Emily: Oh. Gosh. I haven't.

Sally: I have not seen the movie. I won't. Ben Affleck is in it.

Emily: I think I tell people I hate "Gone Girl" on the basis of your opinion of that, and they're like, "Why?" And I'm like – I have nothing to back it up with. I'm just like, "Sally hates it?"

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: "So I feel like I do too."

Sally: Don't worry, you would hate it. It's stupid.

Emily: I mean, the movie has the side of Ben Affleck's penis, and that's the only thing I know about it, and that's enough. I don't want to see it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: We're not going to give you all our literary opinions because there are many.

Emily: Too many.

Sally: I am vast. I contain multitudes of opinions.

Emily: Okay. I've lived twenty-four and a half – almost – years on this earth, and I have accumulated so many literary opinions it's like I'm Jacob Marley dragging the chains of my sins behind me. [laugh]

Sally: And they are books written by men, mostly.

Emily: [old man voice] "I wear the chains I forged in life!"

[clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba]

Sally: Okay. Kay! Okay, okay, okay!

Emily: Okay, at some point the theme song was back there.

Sally: Duuuun. That's not –

Emily: Nope. Nope.

Sally: That's not right at all.

Emily: We're not gonna keep doing this.

Sally: But I sing it so good.

Emily: In my last transcript, I put: "We badly imitate Tubthumping by Chumbawamba." So. Anyway. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. One of two, I think, in the world. So.

Sally: There are actually quite a few.

Emily: Really?

Sally: Um.

Emily: Sally knows more than me about these things. I just pretend.

Sally: I – okay, I say quite a few, but the ones I've come across are Wheel of Time Spoilers, and then recently – I've been seeing it on Instragam – called Wheel of Tears? I have not listened to it.

Emily: Interesting. Okay. Cool.

Sally: So if you guys are looking for more Wheel of Time podcasts, go, uh –

Emily: Go check them out.

Sally: [sing-song] Check them out.

Emily: Assuming you haven't already. But I'm Emily Juchau. This is birthday girl.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger. It was indeed my birthday this week.

Emily: Yaaaay. It was so fun.

Sally: It was super fun.

Emily: We watched "Charlie's Angels." [laugh]

Sally: Yeah, after I yelled at Emily for about two hours, we watched "Charlie's Angels."

Emily: She didn't yell at me. Mostly she yelled at the Chinese takeout menu.

Sally: I was really upset because it wasn't what I wanted.

Emily: I don't know –

Sally: I don't know what I wanted, but that wasn't what I wanted. [laugh]

Emily: That's – describes the entire [laugh] two hours between Sally getting home from work and turning on "Charlie's Angels."

Sally: It was a complicated time.

Emily: Because at least she knew she wanted "Charlie's Angels." Everything else was, like –

Sally: Yeah, that was definitely set in stone.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I was like, "Hell, yeah, I wanna watch 'Charlie's Angels.' That movie is a fucking cinematic masterpiece."

Emily: We rented it on my mom's Amazon account, so, Mom, if you're listening, which you're not supposed to be –

Sally: Yeah. Naughty.

Emily: Sorry about that.

Sally: And thank you.

Emily: I owe you four dollars. [laugh]

Sally: It was transcendent. As in every time I watch "Charlie's Angels." It gets more and more transcendent.

Emily: It truly is. Oh, we haven't done this in a while. Just a – [laugh]. Just a friendly warning that spoilers will abound.

Sally: Yeah, we play p. fast and loose, my dudes.

Emily: Yeah. With everything in the series, up until the last book. Today we're going to be talking – we're gonna be – we've been with Rand and Mat and Thom, I guess, for a little while. We're going to bounce back to Perrin and Egwene and their new crazy uncle, Elyas, in the chapter called – I think it's "The Traveling People."

Sally: Yeah, it's "The Traveling People." Alternate title: "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

Emily: I hate you.

Sally: [laugh] Oh, I've been sitting on that joke the whole podcast.

Emily: Literally, one, one quarter of those things has anything to do with anything.

Sally: Tinkers: check. Tailor: They wear clothes.

Emily: Wha –

Sally: Soldier: Egwene eventually goes to war. Spy: Also, Egwene has to run spies as the Amyrlin.
Soldier: Perrin! That's more accurate. Perrin gets an army. [sings] Nailed it. "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy." Starring: Gary Oldman.

Emily: Have you seen that movie?

Sally: No, I have not.

Emily: Good. Me neither.

Sally: My mom read the book, though, when she was in college. Said she liked it. But her taste is questionable, so.

Emily: Yeah, your mom reads a lot of, um.

Sally: She reads a lot of shitty books.

Emily: Shitty murder mystery books?

Sally: It's okay, you can say it. Yeah, it's alright.

Emily: That's okay, we still love her.

Sally: But yeah, we're going to be talking about that. Probably just that chapter because there is much to unpack.

Emily: Yeah, I don't even know how far we're going to get in this chapter. But basically, I'll start with synopsis and stop me when you want. This chapter opens with Perrin and Egwene basically right where they left off, camping overnight with Elyas, and he kind of agreed to guide them toward Caemlyn.

Sally: [snort]

Emily: I don't really know if he said he was going to take them all the way, but definitely point them in the right direction.

Sally: Okay, I know this is – I'm sorry – but imagine if he didn't. Imagine if he brought them somewhere else. That would be so funny.

Emily: Can you – [laugh]

Sally: [laugh] Can you – I'm sorry, this is so stupid – but imagine if Elyas was like, "I hate these kids. I'm going to fuck with them so hard."

Emily: Ditch them in the Borderlands.

Sally: Yeah, bring them to the Borderlands.

Emily: Be like, "This is Caemlyn!"

Sally: Yeah, "This is Caemlyn." Like, bring them down to, I don't know, like Ghealdan. Just fucking drop them somewhere and be like, "This is Caemlyn."

Emily: They'd fall for it too!

Sally: [laugh] I know!

Emily: They're so dumb!

Sally: It's so funny.

Emily: They're literally like – I love Elyas, God bless him –

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: But he's literally like the creepy guy in the white windowless van at this point.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Just come with me, kids. I'll take you where you need to go."

Sally: Right? It's super creepy. And Perrin and Egwene are like –

Emily: "Want some candy? Wanna talk to wolves?" And they're like, "Not really, sir, but I guess we have no choice." [laugh]

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: Okay. Yeah, no. Elyas is like, "These kids don't even have a fucking Amber Alert out on them, I could do anything I wanted to them."

Sally: Horrifying.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Good thing he's a good dude.

Emily: Yeah. He's a good ex-Warder lad.

Sally: He's an ex-Warder?

Emily: Did you not know that?

Sally: No, I didn't know that.

Emily: I don't know when that comes up.

Sally: Makes sense, though. I trust him.

Emily: Yeah, he totally – I love this – he totally ditched his Aes Sedai. He was like, "Peace out, fucker," and she's still like – he's always like, "I cannot go near Tar Valon 'cause she's still there." [laugh]

Sally: Amazing.

Emily: "And would be fucking livid if she saw me."

Sally: Incredible.

Emily: I know. I wanna say, "His poor Aes Sedai," but honestly she was probably mean to him, so I'm on Elyas' side of the divorce. Anyway. So Elyas, luckily, is going to take them to Caemlyn. He's a nice guy.

Sally: [snort]

Emily: Instead of murdering them and leaving them in a ditch, for fuck's sake.

Sally: Yeah. It's – yeah. They've not been educated in – they need to read, "In – By Myself in the Dark." [laugh] I can't – I'll never remember that title.

Emily: [laugh] “By Myself in the Dark.”

Sally: [laugh] That’s not the title, but everyone knows what I’m referencing, so –

Emily: Yeah, and I was about to make so many inappropriate jokes about a dead woman’s book, so, just let’s not even go there.

Sally: [sexy voice] Are you by yourself in the dark?

Emily: [whisper] Stop.

Sally: Rest in peace, Michelle. I’m sorry.

Emily: Yeah. Eh, she’d probably be thrilled. She was married to a comedian. She was probably like –

Sally: Patton Oswalt, of all people, too.

Emily: I know. I love him. He’s very charming.

Sally: He’s so charming!

Emily: He’s nice.

Sally: He’s a good lad. Kay.

Emily: God, focus.

Sally: Elyas. Not murdering Perrin and Egwene.

Emily: Yeah, although I’m sure every moment is a struggle of indecision. [laugh]

Sally: Yeah, God, especially – Perrin is super annoying in this chapter. I would just like –

Emily: Perrin’s annoying. So is Egwene. Egwene’s like, [prissy schoolgirl voice] “It’s your turn next, Elyas, to get on the horse.”

Sally: And Elyas is like, “I don’t wanna ride your fuckin’ pony.”

Emily: And she’s like, [prissy schoolgirl voice] “It’s only fair.”

Sally: And he’s like, “I li – Do you see me? I live in the woods.”

Emily: He literally just looks at her for like a solid ten seconds without breaking eye contact, and she’s like, “Okay, I’ll die now.”

Sally: Yeah, he’s like, “I don’t wanna go on your merry-go-round.”

Emily: He looks at her without blinking, and communicates with his wolf eyes, “I could kill you in your sleep.” [laugh]

Sally: “But I’m not.”

Emily: “No one would ever know.”

Sally: “Yeah, no one would ever know. Because we’re in the middle of the fucking woods.”

Emily: Yeah, imagine you're – you know, walking through, I don't know, the Mad Max desert, or post-apocalyptic America after the Yellowstone volcano goes off, you're like looking for food and water, whatever, you're starving, and you suddenly meet an old guy.

Sally: Gone. I'm fucking turning tail –

Emily: Wolves. Wolves at his fire. He's like, "I talk to wolves." You're like, "Sounds legit."

Sally: You're like . . . [skeptical] "Okay. Um. Do the wolves talk back?" [laugh]

Emily: [laugh] What you really say is, "Furry." And you run.

Sally: Blocked. [laugh]

Emily: "Furry. Blocked." [laugh]

Sally: Referencing my favorite Tumblr post.

Emily: I love that Tumblr post. Yeah, sort of the other running thread in this little chapter – besides them meeting the Tinkers and hanging out with Elyas – is that Perrin is experiencing the awakening of his wolf powers. Like he and Egwene and Elyas travel alone for a few days – alone, in quotes because the wolves are also sort of with them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Specifically those three wolves that we met in the last chapter. I think, Hopper –

Sally: Hopper. Dapple. And –

Emily: Dapple. And some other dude?

Sally: Light?

Emily: Wind?

Sally: Snow?

Emily: Physics?

Sally: Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy?

Emily: Sure. [laugh] The four wolves.

Sally: That's the soldier. The four wolves. [laugh] Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, and Spy.

Emily: Can you imagine? We should get four dogs.

Sally: Oh my God. We're going to get four pit bulls.

Emily: [gasp]

Sally: Name them Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, and Spy.

Emily: Yeah, but then I'd feel like we have to watch the movie.

Sally: No.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Just kidding. Our pit bull's actual name will be Rhuarc. We've already established this.

Emily: Yeah. We did establish that. After the best boy in Wheel of Time.

Sally: [whisper] I know. So good.

Emily: God, I love him. Okay, anyway. Perrin's experiencing his whole mutant power ability –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: --manifesting itself, and basically it's just sort of a, um . . . he hasn't graduated to speaking to the wolves yet, really communicating with them, just he is aware of them?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And sort of has wolf GPS going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also – this is important – he immediately stops dreaming about Ba'alzamon.

Sally: Yeah, and he's having other dreams instead, where the wolves are present.

Emily: He's having what he describes as totally normal dreams, but with wolves in them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then when he wakes up, he's kind of like, "Oh, that was a little weird." But basically what's happening there is the wolves are initiating him into Tel'aran'rhiod and granting him – the fact that, um, his relationship with the wolves grants him a certain protection in this dream space of Tel'aran'rhiod, we've talked about that a little bit, is basically just because wolves are this archetypal dream space conquerors, kind of, so –

Sally: Fuck yeah.

Emily: Yeah. They're in charge. Ba'alzamon can't touch you there, my dude.

Sally: Hell yeah. Ba'alzamon: scared of wolves. Canon.

Emily: At least not for a few books, when Perrin will start interacting with the Forsaken in Tel'aran'rhiod again.

Sally: Ha. LMAO. I have not even thought about Perrin interacting with the Forsaken. That's hilarious.

Emily: He doesn't do too much of it.

Sally: Okay, well. Perrin. Going through wolf puberty.

Emily: Totally in denial about it.

Sally: Totally in denial.

Emily: He's like, "I have to be making this up." How can you be making up wolf GPS?

Sally: He's like, "I know where the wolves are. Oh-ho, I must've just guessed." Fuckin' idiot.

Emily: How long do you think it would have taken you to come to terms with this?

Sally: Me?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Oh, ten minutes.

Emily: Yeah. [laugh]

Sally: I would fucking live for that shit. If they were like, “You know where wolves are,” I would be like, “Hell yeah.”

Emily: They’re like, “You can talk to wolves.” First you’d be like, “That’s bullshit.” But then the wolves would look at you, you know, and talk in your mind, and do all this other cool shit. And you’d be like, “I know where they go when they go over the hill.” I’d be like, fifteen minutes flat. I’d be like, “Cool.”

Sally: Cool. Hell yeah.

Emily: This is awesome – my dreams are back to normal.

Sally: Fuck yeah. I’m not having fire-eye dreams.

Emily: Yeah. Damn.

Sally: With bendy rats.

Emily: Doing better than those other two fuckos.

Sally: Yeah. Mat’s, seriously, dying.

Emily: Mat’s – yeah. Eugh.

Sally: Anyway. Yeah, I would be fucking ecstatic if they were like, “You are now wolf child.” Living.

Emily: [sigh] Ugh. God. So cool.

Sally: Fucking Perrin.

Emily: Anyway. So they travel for a few days and then they sort of come to this – not really a forest, just like a stand of trees, and they’re sort going to go through it but then all these big dogs come –

Sally: These big mastiffs come in.

Emily: Come charging out. Yeah, these big doggos, and Perrin and Egwene freak out, but Elyas is just like, uses –

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: Basic doggo –

Sally: Dog-whispering.

Emily: Petco dog training.

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: Yeah, he has one of those clickers. [laugh] Can you imagine?

Sally: [makes clicking noise] With peanut butter-filled treats. [clicks] But yeah, these big mastiffs – have you ever seen a mastiff?

Emily: Mm, I don't think I have.

Sally: [whisper] They're so big. I love them.

Emily: Well, I imagine. Perrin is like, "They're as big of bears."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: It's awesome. The bigger the dog the better as far as I'm concerned.

Emily: Sally likes big dogs.

Sally: I do too. I – I do too? What? I do.

Emily: I do – she does. She do.

Sally: She do. Okay, sorry.

Emily: I like dogs of all sizes. And shapes.

Sally: I mean, of course I love dogs of all sizes.

Emily: I just don't really have a preference when it comes to dog ownership.

Sally: But if –

Emily: Small dogs are convenient in some ways.

Sally: You can pick them up.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Big dogs I can use as beds.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: Anyway, big dogs come running out of the forest, and Elyas Petco clickers them into submission and they become really good dogs.

Emily: Yeah, they're like, "Hello, friends."

Sally: "Hello, friends." He like, actually, in the book, whistles at them.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Which is super funny. Just like –

Emily: I can't whistle.

Sally: I can't either.

Emily: Damn. What a talentless duo we are. [laugh]

Sally: Everybody has their person. [laugh]

Emily: All my siblings whistle non-stop.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: How weird is that? It's like I've gotten so used to it that I don't register it as noise anymore, but they just whistle when they're walking around.

Sally: Weird.

Emily: They're not bad whistlers, so it's just like – it's super weird.

Sally: [blows air in an attempt to whistle]

Emily: Wow. That was super impressive.

Sally: I know. I'm like a songbird.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: "Sing for me, Paolo."

Sally: "Sing for me, Paolo!" Stop this podcast and watch "The Lizzie McGuire Movie." Every episode I have to make a suggestion.

Emily: Every episode you have to be like, "Stop this podcast and X."

Sally: Stop this podcast and . . . X. This time it's: Watch "The Lizzie McGuire Movie." I believe it's on Netflix.

Emily: Is it?

Sally: Yeah, I think so.

Emily: Doesn't matter. I own it on DVD.

Sally: Yo.

Emily: I stole it out of my friend's car. [laugh]

Sally: Chandler's?

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: I didn't really steal it. I was like, "What is this?" And he was like, "Umm, it was an elephant – a white elephant gift." And I was like, "Well, it's mine now, bitch." And he was like, "Alright. Copy." Anyway.

Sally: Dogs run out of the forest. And then –

Emily: Then Elyas is like, "Ehh, it's just Tinkers in there. Let's keep going." And Perrin and Egwene are like – well, first they have some, you know, prejudices against the Tinkers. Egwene's like, [prissy schoolgirl voice] "They steal everything."

Sally: "They're gonna steal our horse."

Emily: And Elyas is like, "Yeah, okay, first of all, no they're not. You dummo."

Sally: "First of all: xenophobic."

Emily: Yeah, "First of all: gross. Stop it." Perrin's like, "We've gotta camp soon anyway, dude. Let's just go in there. It's more convenient. If they're not gonna bother us –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which – I dunno – I dunno, maybe – God. I wish – Perrin's such a thoughtful narrator, but I feel like part of his thought process is lacking here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where it's like, the reason I would want to go camp with the Tinkers is to get a chance to talk to other people besides the crazy guy with the wolves.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Perrin doesn't – I don't think that crosses his mind. He's just like, "Yep."

Sally: "We need a place to camp."

Emily: "Fire."

Sally: But seriously, I would be like, "We've been alone with this guy –"

Emily: "For three days!"

Sally: "Who knows how long his violence threshold is gonna last."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "I would like to be around other people."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But Perrin is like, "Eh, just –" In like, it honestly doesn't make a lot of sense that Perrin is just like, "Let's go camp with these people." Like it's kind of weird.

Emily: Yeah, and there's lots of ways that it could make sense, they're just not outlined explicitly.

Sally: They're just not outlined. Perrin is just like, "Yeah." And for instance, if he would have known, or had been like, "They don't – they follow this Way of the Leaf, they don't believe in violence, this is a safe place for us to camp." But later in the chapter he and Egwene don't even know what that means.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So it's just kind of like, what the hell, Perrin? Why are you being so weird?

Emily: Well, clearly he and Egwene know very little about these people.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, um. Okay, first of all, the Tinkers, aka the Traveling People, aka the Tuatha'an, are a, basically a blend of a few different groups. Clearly we've got Jainists there, which is a non-violent branch of – not even a branch, it's really its own religion –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it started in India and it's mostly practiced in India. And the Amish a little bit, kind of in the way that they treat the youth and the capacity for the youth to go off and do their own thing.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: At least, that calls to mind. And the Romani.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: 'Cause of the whole, you know, nomadic, living in wagons thing. And also the reputation for stealing.

Sally: Yep. For stealing, and for stealing children in particular.

Emily: Yeah. And a lot of the prejudices that Romani experienced and experience are seen here through the lens of the Traveling People.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: The name Tuatha'an comes from, I think, the – God, I wouldn't be able to pronounce it. I think it comes from the mythical fairy folk of Ireland.

Sally: Oh!

Emily: Which is kind of interesting.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: They have a couple of ancient pantheons, and this is one of the really ancient ones that then evolved, kind of, into the fair folk. And I don't know enough about Irish mythology, but that's . . .

Sally: Irish mythology is whack.

Emily: It's totally whack!

Sally: It's crazy, and I love it. It makes no sense.

Emily: It's whackadoodle as hell. I just read that Joseph Campbell book, and he kept referencing this one Irish dude, and I was like, "Ooh, I'm sorry?"

Sally: Was it – start with a C?

Emily: Yeah, like, unpronounceable.

Sally: Like [trying to pronounce Cuchulainn]?

Emily: Coolahoon or something.

Sally: You know that the story there is that when he was a kid he killed the dog of – because this is like the hero's initiation, is they always do something incredible in their childhood, like Hercules strangled the snake –

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: And so for this kid, who had a different name, he was at, I don't know, some other lord's house, and he killed this guy's prized dog. And so in order to do that he served this man and then took on the name, his name means "This person's dog." And so he took the place of that man's dog.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: He was like, "I'll be your servant, I'll be your dog."

Emily: Weird.

Sally: Yeah, isn't that crazy? I'm just super fascinated by everything that happens there.

Emily: He did a lot of whack things. He went on a rampage and the only way they could stop him was – he was a teenager, so they had a bunch of naked women go out to meet him –

Sally: I know.

Emily: And he was too overcome by his own boner to function anymore.

Sally: [snort] That sounds like most heroes, honestly.

Emily: Yep. Pretty accurate representation of teen boys.

Sally: "Epic hero, comma, too overcome by his own boner to function anymore." Period.

Emily: That would be the title of this episode if [laugh].

Sally: [laugh] Also, it's very long. "Too overcome by his own boner."

Emily: Shh. Anyway, so that's where that comes from. Which is just kind of interesting because, obviously, as we find out in book four, the Tinkers have lots of connections with the Aiel, and the Aiel are also connected to Ireland, mostly in their coloring.

Sally: Yeah, they're –

Emily: They're all very light-haired, fair-skinned.

Sally: Very, yeah. Gingers. A lot of gingers.

Emily: Yeah. Just like a bunch of crazy Irish people.

Sally: In the fuckin desert.

Emily: That's sort of the ethnicity –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The ethnic vibe that they give off. And then we've got the Tuatha'an, who also have, also, some connections to that, so that's maybe a little bit of foreshadowing.

Sally: Interesting.

Emily: Or maybe just Robert Jordan was like, had a list of, like: "Cairhien is going to be Louis the fourteenth's Sun Court, basically."

Sally: Hell, yeah.

Emily: “The Aiel and the Tinkers are going to beeee . . . x, x, x.”

Sally: X, Y, Z. My foot is so asleep right now. I’m in so much pain.

Emily: Are you – do you need to stand up?

Sally: No, I’m okay.

Emily: Are you?

Sally: Yeah, I’m fine. I’m fine. Just suffering.

Emily: I know, I just know when I get up and have to limp –

Sally: Yeah. Um. This too shall pass. Yeah, so the Tinkers are covering a lot of – [making pained noises, laughter] A lot of –

Emily: Do we need to stop for a second? [laugh]

Sally: No, I’m okay. They’re covering a lot of boxes. They are a very odd – not odd, but yeah, kind of an odd amalgamation of cultures.

Emily: Yeah, and they’re pretty interesting because they’re our first – through Perrin and Egwene’s eyes, and actually through any of our narrators’ eyes, they’re our first interaction with any of the splinter groups in this world. Like, kind of people who have stepped off the path of main society. You know, the Aiel are another one, obviously. Then we’ve got kind of the Sea Folk doing their thing.

Sally: Fuck yeah.

Emily: And the Tuatha’an. I don’t know if the Seanchan really count. They’re more of antagonistic invaders, but they do also sort of count in the way that we react to them and the way that they –

Sally: They are, as it were, to go back to Farah Mendlesohn’s terms, an intrusion.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: But it’s sort of like, they’re also the – if we take the Sea Folk, the Aiel, and the Tinkers as our three main splinter groups, they are the least of these three, in terms of Rand’s world-conquering.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Because Rand can physically take over the entire continent with the exception of the Aiel and the Sea Folk. He has to make bargains and negotiate deals with them. The Tinkers don’t really come up, with that, because the Tinkers obviously aren’t going to get involved in the military at all.

Sally: Also, interestingly, you cannot physically conquer them.

Emily: Yeah. They don’t have –

Sally: Because they have no territory to conquer.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So that's very fascinating in terms of boundaries and liminality.

Emily: Yeah, they are – they do sort of just live everywhere.

Sally: It's cool.

Emily: Yeah. Given that, it's – we sort of don't see enough of them, almost.

Sally: I agree. I think they're really fascinating. We were talking before this episode – the only Tinker character we get to any extent is, um –

Emily: Aram.

Sally: Aram.

Emily: A-rahm.

Sally: A-rahm. Who is . . .

Emily: Whatever the fuck his name is.

Sally: The worst. [laugh]

Emily: Yeah, really the only main Tinker group we get is this one.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We have, like I know there's at least one Tinker Aes Sedai, but I don't think she's ever major in any way. She's just –

Sally: Incredible.

Emily: Yeah, she's just mentioned. But – [chair noises] yeah. It's just a little disappointing that we don't get to see more of them in the same way that we get to see the Aiel in so many rich and interesting ways and we get to see so many of them and the different ways that they react to their own culture.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Tinkers aren't as multi-faceted as, I think, they could be, given their unique culture.

Sally: Yeah. And we were also talking – sorry to bring up things that didn't happen on-podcast – but before this Emily and I were talking about how difficult it is to remember our first interactions with – our first perception of the Tinkers, knowing what we know with the book four lens, when you learn about what happens – their relationship to the Aiel, and what happened with that culture. And I was thinking about it, and from what I remember, I remember thinking, “Oh, this could be so cool, but they seem so flat on the page.”

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And almost like –

Emily: They're almost like caricatures, a little bit.

Sally: Yeah, thank you! That's the word I'm looking for, because there's so many things packed into one group of people, that when it comes together is really interesting, but Robert Jordan does so little that it then does become like a caricature of pacifist nomadic culture.

Emily: Yeah, to me they seem to be almost a vessel of communicating the, the contrast to Perrin's own relationship to violence.

Sally: Yeah, and then they exist exclusively for his plot.

Emily: Yeah!

Sally: Which is incredibly annoying.

Emily: It's so annoying because we hardly ever see the Tinkers interact with any of the other main characters. I don't – I can't think of a single time when Rand interacts with them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: There is a moment [laugh], there's a really great moment in one of the later books with Mat, where he and his girlfriend are galloping through the woods, and they sort of run into some Tinkers and there's a funny interlude there, but again, that's not in any depth – we don't get to meet these characters. So yeah, really they just seem to be there to spout pacifist beliefs so that Perrin can argue with them.

Sally: Yeah, and Perrin is so – Perrin is like the worst form of devil's advocate in this chapter, where he's like, "What if somebody hit you?" And you're like, "This is –"

Emily: It's so dumb.

Sally: It's so dumb! And it's really frustrating, especially – again, I've said this before. In my first read-through, I'm like, "Perrin is so lovely." In this read-through, I fucking hate Perrin.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: I would punch him in the face without a second fucking thought. I probably couldn't reach him, because he's very big, so I'd just punch him in the dick, I guess.

Emily: Well, probably –

Sally: Ugh. God, he's so annoying. Because in this chapter he's just like – *ugh*. Like, yes, you come from a society where in this isolated farming community, you are responsible for so many things of your own livelihood. Like killing things in order to eat, being your own police force and your own security force and your own army, and protecting yourself and what's yours. But it's so – and I know this is like a, a symptom of being incredibly isolated – people have a very difficult time interacting with world beliefs that are different than theirs, and interacting with cultures that are different than theirs, but it's like so difficult for me to believe, like especially – it's not difficult for me to believe because it comes across fine – but it's so weird, and this is such a weird interlude that Perrin and Egwene in particular, who are two of our most lovely characters, for lack of a better word, like two of our most polite characters – Egwene is fine, she's off flirting with boys, but Perrin is just like, has no regard for what is decent in this moment and what is socially acceptable, to just be like, instead of having a conversation, he's just like, arguing, he's like, "What if this? What if that? What if this? What is that?" Like he's so petulant about it, and I hate it.

Emily: It's just – let's get this one thing straight: non-violence, in the – in Jainism, it's referred to as ahimsa – the idea of practicing non-violence, of pacifism, is so not a bad thing.

Sally: Mm-mm.

Emily: Especially in this society where violence shapes so much of this culture. It's really refreshing to have a group of people who aren't into that and who are never going to be into that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And – ugh, it's so interesting. While throughout Perrin's narrative, he comes in contact with the Tinkers on multiple occasions, and although he never directly, you know, calls them weak or anything, and he defends them on many occasions, when we see them through his eyes, that's still how they come across.

Sally: Oh, absolutely. Very – they're very infantilized. From his point of view.

Emily: Yeah, because he's so military-minded, in the later books that they just start to become kind of like a nuisance.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he always respects them, but it's like, how much can you respect them when you're – I don't know, not willing to engage with the world through their eyes?

Sally: Yeah. And – I'm sure there's something in this chapter about the way he acts in this chapter that is like projecting his own relationship to violence in this current moment –

Emily: Yeah, it's all supposed to be just like, "Perrin's relationship to violence." And it's like, I don't give a shit.

Sally: Yeah, and it's like, I have so many bad relationships to so many things in my life. And sure, maybe they come out at bad moments, but you can be decent.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Be fucking decent. These people are feeding you. They are protecting you from a potential murderer. You don't know Elyas.

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: You don't know his wolves. You fucking asshole. You just sit down and be like, "I fucking hate you because you don't believe in violence." Like it's so weird. You're right. They really do come off so weak. And that's so frustrating. And there are so – and yes, I know this is not a real-life depiction and so perhaps it is unfair to make these equations – but there are so many negative portrayals of pacifists in literature and of the Romani in particular, and of the Amish, the Amish are also deeply infantilized.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: And so it's so frustrating to just have all these incredibly disrespectful representations just come out again through Perrin's narration. And then like – because there are no other, like you mentioned, point of views to counter that. Because Rand has such a troubling relationship to the Maidens of the Spear, for instance, but we also get that through Egwene's point of view.

Emily: And Aviendha.

Sally: And Aviendha's point of view, who's literally part of that group. And so you get a different perspective. But that doesn't happen for the Tinkers.

Emily: Yeah. And it's also – it also kind of annoys me, and I have a hard time figuring out how to put this into words – but we see the Tinkers as non-violent in terms of religious expression rather than political resistance.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's usually the two types of branches that non-violence comes in. It's either a religious practice or a form of protest, basically. And when we see it as a form of protest, when it's used by Gandhi or the Civil Rights Movement, then it's a form of power, but when we see it through the lens of religion then it's diminished a lot.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I don't like that.

Sally: No, I don't like it either. It's terrible.

Emily: It's just as powerful to practice non-violence in your daily life.

Sally: And like – this is – again, I have no idea how to put this into words, this is such a convoluted thing, but the idea that when people diminish it as a form of religion, it's like, "What religion would you want that isn't non-violent?" Why would you want to be a part – yes, it's safer to commit violence –

Emily: Why would you want to be part of the Whitecloaks? The militarized version of this religion.

Sally: Yeah, like why would you want that? It's so much – and the Tinkers we do get interactions with in this chapter, and this is something maybe we can talk about when we do get to the sexy dancing scene, which I'm very excited to talk about –

Emily: God.

Sally: But like, they're like full of so much love in all its various forms. Like you have Aram who comes up to Egwene and is – I have to read this. This is literally. I'm going to say this to somebody, it's so funny.

Emily: Teenage Casanova over here.

Sally: It's so funny.

Emily: He basically has a rose between his teeth.

Sally: Yeah, yeah. He has a rose between his teeth, and he like slides up to Egwene and is like, "I have waited for the first rose of spring and now I find it at my grandfather's fire."

Emily: My God.

Sally: [laugh] It's so bad! And Perrin, yeah, talks about, he's like, "Perrin waited for Egwene to snicker and saw that she was staring back at Aram. He looked at the young Tinker again. Aram had more than his share of good looks, he admitted." So it's like, this hot lad –

Emily: Perrin's like, "She's not laughing him to shame." Takes a second look. "Well, he is hot."

Sally: [laugh] "He is hot."

Emily: "I guess."

Sally: So it's like, but Aram comes up with love, quote unquote, in its most absurd form, which is –

Emily: Romantic love.

Sally: Yeah, bad teenage flirting.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But then you also have this culture of hospitality and joy and people are dancing and – they're like, "Yeah, come sit by my fire, my guy."

Emily: We have a full familial relationship here with grandparents, parents, and Aram –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A multi-generational family, which we don't see very often in Wheel of Time.

Sally: No, Wheel of Time is very, um – well, I can't say this because I think the Aiel and some other groups contradict this. But again, you were talking about splinter groups. And the main, core culture, the starting culture or whatever we want to call it is very Westernized in the idea that it's very individualistic, like you have –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You have these immediate family units, you don't have the more –

Emily: All the boys, and Egwene and Nynaeve, go off and immediately don't ever really care about their immediate family.

Sally: Yeah, but even just the fact that the family unit is you and your parents.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And that's kind of it. Whereas the Tinkers present a more Middle Eastern, Indian subcontinent view of family, where it's more like the community as a family –

Emily: Yes.

Sally: And the extended family is a part of your everyday life. And so you have that and it's very jovial and wonderful, and it's like, why would you not choose as opposed to the fuckin' Whitecloaks, who are literally torturing people.

Emily: Yeah, and I think Perrin is supposed to somehow be the middle ground in these two extreme groups.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But the problem is, I don't find the Tuatha'an to be extreme.

Sally: No, and that's the thing. Maybe by definition, because they're on the poles you would call it extreme, but this is not –

Emily: The Tinkers – the thing with the Tinkers is that they're not a recent group. They are the result of literally thousands of years of being condemned to this terrible existence of wandering and trying to protect what was given to them by the Aes Sedai and trying to hold onto their old culture that they can no longer even remember.

Sally: Yeah. And it's mentioned in this that they've been doing this for three thousand years.

Emily: Yeah, like – what's the word for it? The, um.

Sally: Oh. Diaspora.

Emily: Yeah. It's sort of this diaspora, I think.

Sally: Yeah, absolutely.

Emily: Where their homeland is this culture that's been totally lost that they were so vital in. They were so vital in the Age of Legends and their relationship to the Aes Sedai, and that's been lost to them through the Breaking of the World.

Sally: Yeah. Can we talk about their relationship to the Aes Sedai? Because I don't remember what that even was.

Emily: Yeah. Basically what we find out in book four is that there was, at the time of the Age of Legends, there was – the term "Aiel" referred to these servants of the Aes Sedai. Who – I think the name Aes Sedai actually means servants, so servants of the servants. Whatever. But they still practiced non-violence and I think they were basically just like – sort of just like assistants to Aes Sedai. The one whose point of view we've seen had a specific Aes Sedai who was like, he was her assistant. Like – went off and did things for her.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: And that was kind of their relationship. And, um, when the Breaking of the World happened, all the Aes Sedai packed up these people with all the angreal and ter'angreal they could find and said, "Try and keep this shit safe until everything settles down." And the Aiel then wandered for a long time and eventually formed these, branched off in three separate directions: into the Aiel as we now know them, who practice the spear, thing, the Tuatha'an as we know them, and the Jenn Aiel who founded Rhuidean and are now extinct but were sort of the middle ground between those two other groups.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: [claps] So that's your little Tinker history lesson. But yeah, it's hard to look at them now in reread without – without that as the contextualization.

Sally: Yeah. And just thinking of that contextualization, it makes me even more angry that Robert Jordan doesn't allow them to be characters into themselves.

Emily: Yeah, 'cause it's so interesting. He really decides to explore the Aiel side of that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It was like he created this really incredible group of people and was like, "Well, got everything I wanted from them. They're teaching Perrin about violence."

Sally: Yeah, and it's also kind of frustrating because I feel like – this is something I do in a lot of books and I feel like it is absolutely just me creating nonsense hypotheses – but you can tell, I feel like, in a book sometimes, when an author liked a character or a set of characters too much.

Emily: No, sure, you definitely can.

Sally: And therefore gave them more attention than the narrative perhaps dictated. And I feel like Robert Jordan does that with the Aiel.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Massively. Like, the Aiel are super important and I love them, don't get me wrong, this chapter is not our first mention of them but kind of our first introduction to a little bit more about their culture and – they're so cool. But it's like, you wrote a fourteen-book epic and you couldn't do anything more with these people than be like, they are like . . . and there's like this thing, this phrase that goes throughout literature – not just literature, it's just a phrase, I just got it in one of my literature classes because surprise, kiddos – I have an English degree – the idea of you can put something on a pedestal without offering it any agency or any respect or, like, without doing anything to it, and it's often – that phrase in particular was, um, I cannot form sentences today, was applied to the notion of reverential literature about women in particular.

Emily: It really applies to Rand's perspective on women too.

Sally: Yeah, exactly. You can idolize something and still not give it any power. Which I feel like – what Robert Jordan did with the Tinkers was idolize them without giving them any agency or power or –

Emily: Well, it's telling that he took the group of characters that we're introduced to now and all of them are going to be killed off, basically.

Sally: Exactly. It's the massacre of the innocents.

Emily: Except for Aram. Who is also going to die a little later in the series, spoiler alert, violently.

Sally: Exactly. Just like a massacre of the innocents.

Emily: Yeah, basically. Aram's storyline frustrates me a lot because it's sort of like he's representative of the idea of leaving the religion or the culture that you grew up in, and it ends disastrously for him. Which is sort of like [laugh], which is sort of like saying, "Hey, kiddos. If you ever, I don't know, decide that whatever you grew up in isn't what you want to do, you're gonna fucking die."

Sally: Which is a terrible message. But what we can gather from all this, I think, in summary, is that so many problems from representation come from a lack of plurality. Like there are so many ways to live any individualized experience, and when you only – this is the problem with tokenism, like if you only have one thing you're going to get bad stories. And so like, if Aram left his religion – like violence is bad, there's so many ways – he in particular picks up a sword and wants to be Perrin's sword-man and –

Emily: Yeah. The whole idea is that he pendulum swings –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To the other extreme of violence, but it's – and extremism. He kind of joins forces with a fanatic prophet who's really into – yeah.

Sally: Is it what's-his-face?

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Son of a bitch.

Emily: He's so annoying.

Sally: I hate him so much.

Emily: He's going to be annoying through so much of this series.

Sally: [sigh]

Emily: [sings] I'm sorry.

Sally: It's okay. At least we have my best swearing boy.

Emily: Yeah. It's true.

Sally: Uno. I love him. But anyway, so yes, there's so many ways that it could go bad, but there's also ways in which his life could have been just not that – yes, bad, like – I don't know, just different. Like he could have gone totally fine and he could have found a really fulfilling life with a different set of beliefs and found something to fight for that he really believed in. Like the literal fucking apocalypse is coming.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: He could have done something with that. And that's not to say – and then we get into problems of idolizing glory, blah blah blah – but there's so many different ways to explore this, and Robert Jordan just did the easiest thing with every single plotline with the Tinkers.

Emily: Well, yeah, and they introduce the idea of the Song in this chapter.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of – the Tinkers are searching for this Song. And – this really annoys me – I'm gonna, I'm gonna branch off from our usual promise to not spoil anything in the fourteenth book – but, uh, they don't ever find it. In this series.

Sally: Cool.

Emily: Which it's like, A) Why would you even introduce it if you're not going to have a pay-off? B) That's basically like saying, "Nothing happens for the Tinkers."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "In this whole apocalypse they don't get this one thing." How come – we were talking about this last, a couple of episodes ago – everything starts happening around Rand just because he's born, but like this one thing can't happen.

Sally: Yeah, this one thing can't happen because to an extent, yeah, not everything happens, and the idea behind any type of religious belief is that faith isn't tangible and you have to have the faith of a mustard seed or whatever it is, and so there's an argument that could be made that it would be kind of beautiful if they never found it, but so many other thing – fucking things happen just because Rand al'Thor just started breathing. You can't tell me that these people who literally don't get anything else can't find their goddamn song.

Emily: I know, it's just like – it would be poetic, if they –

Sally: And it's like – again, there's a certain poetry also in them not finding it, but the fact that it, the fact that they also have to hold up not only the idea of non-violence but the ideal of blind faith as well – it's like they have to hold up so –

Emily: Yes. They're doing too much.

Sally: They have to hold up so much like metaphorical power in this story that it's just unfair.

Emily: And my main problem is that, either way, whether or not they found it, it's not even really addressed in the books.

Sally: Yeah, it's just like, "Oh, wait –" It's like, "Robert. You have this massive –"

Emily: Like it should have been this big moment either way.

Sally: Yes. It's like, "You have these huge books. There's obviously going to be throwaway lines, and throwaway plots and things that maybe are not all tied up, but if you're writing something this big, you have a responsibility to do something with that." Maybe it was a Brandon Sanderson problem, don't think so.

Emily: Yeah, I think it was a group problem.

Sally: I think it was just like Robert Jordan was like, "I'm not going to address it because I have so many other things going on." But it's like, "No. You had a responsibility to be – to do better."

Emily: Yeah. Here's the conclusion of this: Take some time away from your goddamn Cairhienin court and the hundreds of nobles of Tear and spend some time on the goddamn Tuatha'an.

Sally: Yeah. Like, I have read – I have had to sit through history in the American public school system, you think I don't fucking know what happened in European courts?

Emily: Eugh.

Sally: I know. I know what's going to happen.

Emily: Machinations.

Sally: Intrigue. Machinations.

Emily: Fucking hell.

Sally: Assassinations. Everyone's fucking someone else's husband or their own damn maid, like I – I know what that's like.

Emily: Wow, you just like referenced several things that happen in Wheel of Time.

Sally: How the fuck did I know?

Emily: Yeah, it's almost like. [laugh]

Sally: It's almost like there's –

Emily: It's almost like all the Westernized court stuff is super predictable.

Sally: It's so tried. Like, give me –

Emily: Give me – if we could have eliminated the entire continent and just the story been about the Seanchan, the Sea Folk, the Aiel, and the Tutha'an –

Sally: That would have been great.

Emily: And the Borderlanders. I still like them.

Sally: Yeah. Uno could be our protagonist.

Emily: Yeah. They're good. And I guess, like, the witches in general.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That would have been great. I don't need any of this political bullshit. [laugh]

Sally: It annoys me – it annoys me so much. It's like, "You are –" Ugh. Fuuu. Ugh.

Emily: Okay, well, that got a little more ranty than –

Sally: That got a little more angry than I was expecting it to.

Emily: I know. I didn't think I had that – I didn't think I had that many negative feelings about this, but I guess I do.

Sally: They just blossomed inside me and I was like, "I'm a rose full of hate right now."

Emily: I mean, we're gonna have more. We'll keep talking about the Tinkers next episode and get a little more into –

Sally: For sexy dancing.

Emily: Yeah. Join us next time for sexy dancing. More flirting. Perrin being weirdly annoyed by Egwene flirting cause he's an asshole.

Sally: Yeah, even though he's got no romantic connection.

Emily: Yeah, they have a sweet platonic moment in this chapter –

Sally: Yeah, where' she's like –

Emily: Where they hug.

Sally: It's so nice. It also introduces my favorite thing. The three boys, as we've discussed, aren't together a lot, but there's this running refrain through each of their points of view about women. They're like, "I don't know what to do, but Rand and Mat would." Or "Perrin and Mat would." And I love it. I think that's so charming.

Emily: Especially because they're all equally useless.

Sally: Totally useless. That's the thing, it –

Emily: Actually, that's not even true. Mat's pretty good.

Sally: Mat's great with women! It's. [laugh]

Emily: Mat is especially loved by old women?

Sally: I know, it's so good.

Emily: And girls who are gonna fuck him.

Sally: Wouldn't you, though? If you, like, pointed across the room and been like, "Imma fuck that."

Emily: I know, but like every old lady Mat comes into contact with is like, “Love him.”

Sally: But again. What if you were an old woman, you’re like, “That’s my boy.”

Emily: Yeah. Point at Mat across the room.

Sally: “I own him now.”

Emily: You’re like, “Him.”

Sally: But yeah, the idea that Perrin thinks Rand al’Thor would be better at handling women is just like –

Emily: He’s like, “Rand has a way with women,” and Rand’s over – Rand, at this moment, is on top of the ship, cackling into the wind.

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: He doesn’t have time for people of any gender.

Sally: Yeah, like you think that boy’s got a handle on anything?

Emily: No.

Sally: No, he doesn’t.

Emily: Hasn’t even got a handle on sanity.

Sally: He doesn’t have a handle on sanity. Mat –

Emily: Has too tight a handle on his fucking dagger.

Sally: [laugh] Yeah. Just – fucking Christ, Perrin.

Emily: God.

Sally: But yeah, it’s very charming to me, the way that all three boys are just like, so stupid.

Emily: Well, let’s end at a reasonable time for once.

Sally: Yeah, let’s end at a reasonable time for once.

Emily: Sorry – also we have to talk about our social stuff.

Sally: We do have to talk about our social stuff. Um. As always, we are – you can find us: everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com is our email, so if you have –

Emily: Questions. Concerns. Fill out a comment card. [laugh]

Sally: Yeah, fill out a comment card. Wish me happy birthday. None of you did that, which was pretty fucking rude.

Emily: Yeah, so fuck you all.

Sally: Except for Cami. She did, because she’s a goddamn superstar.

Emily: God, I love her.

Sally: I know.

Emily: That was my best friend, y'all.

Sally: She's so good and perfect and brilliant and.

Emily: She's gonna guest star on this podcast sometime in . . .

Sally: Yeah, she's –

Emily: June?

Sally: Sometime in June. Yeah. So fucking prepare because she's great.

Emily: Um, we're also on Twitter, @EHR__Podcast. We're on Instagram, we're on Tumblr. We're on iTunes.

Sally: We are on iTunes.

Emily: We would love it if you listened to us on iTunes and did the – thing. You know. You know what I'm saying. You know.

Sally: You know the thing.

Emily: You've listened to a podcast before. You know.

Sally: The – rate and rescribe – subscribe thing.

Emily: Rate and rescribe?

Sally: Rate and rescribe So rescribe –

Emily: Sate and rescribe. Satan. [laugh] I'm so tired.

Sally: Um, kay. [laugh]

Emily: Now you can sign us off.

Sally: We also have a website. EHR dot wordpress – EHRpodcast dot wordpress dot com. So if you ever get lost looking for us –

Emily: Heck yeah.

Sally: We've got our email and all our socials and stuff there. And transcripts are coming. I, because I started this new job, have gotten really far behind on where I wanted to be with them. Emily has been a super star –

Emily: Not really.

Sally: Recording – transcribing our most current podcast. Like our most current episodes. And I am failing with the backlog. But I'm getting to it. They're coming, I promise.

Emily: Heck yeah.

Sally: Um. Sign off. One time, at my cousin's wedding, without thinking about it I flipped off my brother in a church. And it was like –

Emily: [laugh]

Sally: [laugh] And this was like –

Emily: Go on.

Sally: This was like right before they had to usher people down the aisle and they were, like, cracking up. They were just like crying because I didn't think about it and I was like, "Fuck you." This was also the wedding where my uncle told me that in the dress that I was wearing I looked like a gall bladder. So.

Emily: I can't even laugh at that because I'm still so mad at him. [laugh]

Sally: Yeah, it was pretty wild, but the flipping off my brother in a church thing was pretty bad.

Emily: Pretty badass, you mean.

Sally: No. Jesus was like, "This disrespectful ho."

Emily: Jesus was laughing. Jesus has a sense of humor, you know it.

Sally: Bye!

Emily: Bye.

Sally: I love youuuu – [cut off by the recording ending]