

EPISODE #12 – TRO-LA-LA-LA-LOCS

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Sally: I do have to share with you the bit of news that for the past three months I've been listening to music with – or anything – with incredibly broken headphones, like ninety-five percent broken.

E: Did you get new ones?

S: Yeah, and this morning I got new ones.

E: Thank God.

S: And I plugged it in and it was like fucking transcendent. Like I forgot how good it can sound to listen to music.

E: [laugh]

S: And I was walking down the street listening to Hayley Kiyoko, and I was like, “THIS IS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE! There's music in both of my ears.” Yeah.

E: [singing the chorus to “Curious” by Hayley Kiyoko, badly] “Did you take him to the pier in Santa Monica, forget to bring a jacket, wrap up in him cause you wanted to? I'm just CURIOUS.”

S: [simultaneously] “I'm just curious!” That was me outside the Trader Joe's slash Target this morning.

E: I can't wait to delete all of this.

S: Why would you delete it?

E: I mean, this is a music-themed episode.

S: Yeah, and so we have to sing at the beginning. I can sing the sing – sing the [struggling] oh man, I'm KILLING it.

E: [laugh]

S: I can sing the theme song, which I've been doing so beautifully the last couple of weeks.

E: I already inserted it, though.

S: [gasp] No.

E: We do talk about the theme song in this one.

S: Do we explain it?

E: No, we just reference how the reason you're looking at the Wheel of Time album –

S: Oh, yeah, is cause I was listening to . . .

E: Is cause you're trying to find a theme song that we came up with. Anybody. This is Everybody Hates Rand. I'm Emily Juchau. That's Sally Goodger. We are going out of town in approximately . . . ten hours.  
[laugh]

S: Jesus.

E: Which means I have to go to bed very soon if I'm going to be a functioning human being tomorrow. Altogether unlikely.

S: It's okay. You can just sleep on me.

E: I'm probably going to.

S: It's fine. Won't bother me.

E: But this is the episode . . . [laugh]

S: [laugh] Oh, boy.

E: "Episode" in heavy air quotes that we're posting for you guys while we're out of town. We recorded this several months ago.

S: Long time ago.

E: We reference our second episode, so it must have been between episodes two and three. Um, it's not a proper episode. It is, uh, an exploration of one aspect of the Wheel of Time fandom that we knew very little about. I would like to give Robert Berrry my apologies. [laugh] I wasn't very nice to him in this. I would also like to give you my apologies because I was sick when we recorded this, and so my voice sounds a little sexier than usual, but also there are some disturbing mouth noises, most of which I think I edited it out, but if I missed any, then that's why. I'm sorry.

S: It's also troubling to say that your voice is sexier than usual because now our listeners are gonna sexually explode. That's what they're gonna think. Because your voice is already so sexy.

E: It actually – normally when I'm sick I sound like a boy going through puberty.

S: [laugh] Admittedly, you do.

E: Yeah.

S: [laugh]

E: [laugh] Anyone who knows me can testify . . . I sound like a literal boy scout when I'm sick, and this was the one time in my life that my voice got deeper when I was sick. So it was a real exploration of my . . . Also I'm wearing a dress in this. We referenced –

S: Oh yeah! You looked very good this day.

E: I was very sick, but I really dressed up for, I don't – I don't know what we did.

S: Me.

E: Yeah, for Sally.

S: Yeah, you know.

E: Just for Sally.

S: Gotta keep the romance alive.

E: The sexy voice, the sexy dress.

S: It's a really good dress. God, she looked so good that day. I think I told her like eight times and she got mad.

E: That was the last time I've looked [laugh] good in months.

S: That's not true! Look at your very stylish bomber that you're wearing.

E: Can we not do this now? [laugh]

S: [laugh] As you can see, not much has changed in the Goodger-Juchau household.

E: We really need a romantic getaway. I mean, we don't have anything else to say. Do we have anything else to say?

S: Um, just weekly reminders about socials. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr. Uh, and our website is [ehrpodcast.wordpress.com](http://ehrpodcast.wordpress.com). So if you need anything, you can always look there.

E: We just launched our Patreon page. If you are looking for exclusive extras, head on over there. What's it – the website?

S: It is . . .

E: I think it's just Everybody Hates Rand.

S: It's just [patreon.com/everybodyhatesrand](https://patreon.com/everybodyhatesrand).

E: Copy.

S: One word.

E: That's it.

S: Remember that I love you.

E: Sally loves you. Um.

S: I hope you enjoy this. It's super weird. I had a great time, which I hope comes across in the episode. Like I was getting my entire life the entire time. And I have, just to let you know, fulfilled my promise, that I have listened to what you're about to hear me review again.

E: I'm . . .

S: [laugh] There are some jams, Emily. There are some bops.

E: That upsets me so much.

S: There are some bangers. Enjoy it. Go – and have a good fucking week.

E: Yeah.

S: Whatever you're doing. Because my week was shit. [laugh] So I hope your week is so good. Remember also, "Aru Shah and the End of Time" came out this week!

E: [laugh]

S: I have a lot of announcements, I'm just kidding. "Aru Shah and the End of the Time" came out this week. I'm specifically saying this to apologize. When I talked about it last time I pronounced the author's

name incorrectly. Her name is Roshni Chokshi, and I said something which was not that. So, Ms. Chokshi, my deepest apologies. And I love you too. So, inevitably, I'm sure she's listening –

E: [laugh] This is what happens when I don't give Sally a sign-off at the end.

S: I'm sorry! I'm done! I love you!

[clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba]

E: Okay, I'm recording. Go ahead.

S: Okay. [laugh] So this is me listening to "A Soundtrack for the Wheel of Time," which is an album by Robert Berry. [laugh]

E: I hate you.

S: The first song, "A Theme for the Wheel of Time" – I should take my gum out of my mouth. One second. My God.

E: This isn't formal. This is just –

S: I just put that gum in, too! See what I do for you. Um, it starts out with like an acoustic guitar and, I think, a fiddle. I don't know instruments very well. [high-pitched, near laughter] But there are words. [laugh]

E: [laugh] I hate this. What are the words?

S: One second. "The words spoken true . . . of the force from inside . . ."

E: Oh my God.

S: "The secrets denied. The Wheel . . ." [laugh] It's just like, [singing] "The Wheel of Time . . . The Wheel of Time . . ."

E: [laugh]

S: "The Wheel of Time . . ."

E: Stop!

S: It just – it keeps doing it.

E: No.

S: "The wheel of destiny"? Or the hero of destiny, I'm not sure.

E: Both, probably. [laugh]

S: Something about reality.

E: I can't believe that in reality you're listening to this.

S: Oh! Guys, we're picking up.

E: She's bobbing her head. It's a banger.

S: It is kind of a banger, honestly. [laugh]

E: [laugh]

S: It's like – I can't, I can't understand the words, basically at all.

E: I wonder what they are. I bet if I Googled them I wouldn't be able to find them, that's how obscure this is. The cover art is like Rand pointing his sword out over a valley while he's standing on a mountain.

S: Yeah.

E: And behind him there's . . .

S: An unidentified Aielman? [laugh]

E: We think it's Aiel? Unsure. Let me see. Yeah, he's got a bunch of spears and arrows . . .

S: [singing] "The Wheel of Time."

E: Fuck you. Performed, produced and written by Robert Berry. That means this guy sat down, wrote this music, sang this music, edited this music, and then put it out there. No offense, but I hate you, Robert Berry.

S: [singing] "The Wheel of Time."

E: Oh, Rand's even got his Seanchan spear that he gets in book five. He's wearing some sort of kilt get-up.

S: Honestly, the end of this song is going real hard.

E: Yeah, Sally's like –

S: It's pretty wild.

E: Swaying. Bopping her head.

S: It's really kind of death metal.

E: Oh my God. "It's really kind of death metal."

S: It's just like vocal work right now. And then we're back to "The Wheel of Time."

E: [sigh]

S: Something like "with every turn of the world and [nonsense]?" Here, we'll go to the next one, which is called "Return to Emond's Field." I don't know when they left. This is the second track on the album.

E: Is it supposed to go in chronological order? Given that the cover art is like, I don't know, book five-ish, it has to be?

S: Starting out really slow here. "Return to Emond's Field."

E: Is it supposed to be Perrin's return to Emond's Field?

S: If it is I will kill myself.

E: Oh, God. He's the only one who ever returns, as far as I know. Unless it's like, you know, the symbolic return to Emond's Field.

S: Yeah. Oh, we got drums.

E: Were – were there not drums in the last one?

S: I think there were drums in the last one. But they weren't the focal instrument. This one, it's like – it's supposed, I think, to be like people marching, you know?

E: I hate this.

S: I love it.

E: I – okay.

S: Ooh, picking up. Think we're back with the acoustic guitar. [inaudible]

E: I hope it's Robert Berry playing each of these instruments and then . . . like, I hope he's a one-man band.

S: I also hope he's a one-man band. Honestly, it has to be, cause who's going to make this with him?

E: Robert Berry's like, "Folks . . ." On Facebook. He's like, "Does anyone want to join my Wheel of Time band? We'll be sitting in my mom's basement, playing music and recording it. It'll be pretty sweet. We'll make some fuckin' bangers. No one will listen to them, cause . . ."

S: Surprise, Robert Berry! I'm listening to them.

E: You must be the first person besides Robert Berry's mother.

S: RIP Robert Berry – Mrs. Berry. Or whatever her maiden name would be.

E: [laugh]

S: I should make no assumptions about his parents.

E: You also shouldn't say "RIP!" What if she's still alive?

S: She might still be alive. I apologize, Mrs. Berry, start to finish. This is very Celtic? Which is confusing to me for Perrin.

E: Yeah, Perrin's not really our Celtic . . . Also, I associate – I don't know, I always think of the Aiel as kind of Celtic.

S: Yeah. What is it, the ginger Irishmen in the desert?

E: Yeah. They're like . . .

S: Or whatever . . . this song is boring, like Perrin's return to Emond's Field. Moving on.

E: Okay.

S: Ooh, this one's "Song for Moiraine." I'm nervous?

E: If there's not a fucking Maori men's choir singing I'll be very disappointed.

S: Again, we're starting out with some slow chords – on the guitar, I believe. Some sort of wind – string instrument. Ooh. It's getting very quick.

E: Is there a lady singing?

S: No, it's like a really fast plucking on a guitar. Like [imitates guitar noise].

E: [also imitates guitar noise]

S: The fuck?

E: [cough]

S: This is very bizarre.

E: How many songs are there on this stupid album?

S: A lot. [laugh]

E: Oh, God. We have to stop. What are some . . .

S: Here. We've got "Song for Moiraine," "Traveling the Ways," "Spears and Buckler," "Dreamwalker," "The Knowledge of the Wise Ones," "The Winespring Wheel – *Reel*," excuse me, "The Hills – the Halls of Tar Valon," "Search for the Black Ajah," "Ladies of the Tower," "The Game of Houses," "Voyage of the Sea Folk," "Heart of the Wolf," "Journey Through the Waste," "Lan the Warder" –

E: Oh my God.

S: "March of the Trollocs," "Rand's Theme (Fanfare for the Dragon Reborn)," and "The Aiel Approach (Dahl of a Chant)." Okay. I'm just going to hit the highlights really quick.

E: [distant] I have some disappointments.

S: "The Winespring Reel." This is exactly – oh. Exactly the type of reel you'd expect it to be, like a little more metal.

E: [blowing her nose] Like, all those songs – I saw some about Moiraine, and "Dreamwalking" has to be about Egwene, and "Search for the Black Ajah" has to be our super-ladies . . .

S: Yeah.

E: But where's Mat's theme? [laugh]

S: Yeah. Honestly, "The Winespring Reel" claps. It claps. This is a great song.

E: Oh, my God. If Sally starts listening to this on the reg –

S: [laugh] Catch me doing it.

E: I'm going to kill myself.

S: I like this a lot. "Search for the Black Ajah." Appropriately intense. It also sounds a lot like the rest of the music? There's not a whole lot of variation on this album.

E: It's a guitar, drums, and an unnamed wind instrument.

S: Yeah. It's like – it's like a typical search – kind of dramatic. [sniffs] Excuse me. Runny nose. "Voyage of the Sea Folk." Ooh. Dun. Dun.

E: The troubling thing about this dress is that it's very poorly made.

S: Dun. Well, it's very pretty. Emily looks very pretty today.

E: It's my first time I'm wearing a dress in . . . five years. Approximately.

S: You wore a dress for your sister's wedding, so stop lying.

E: I did!

S: [laugh]

E: I forgot about that. I blocked it from my memory. And only because my mom made me.

S: It was a very beautiful dress.

E: No, it wasn't.

S: She did a fashion show; it was very good.

E: It was a good fashion show. Lee took lots of very sexy photos of me.

S: I don't know why this guy thinks. Wheel of Time should be set to a really pepped-up soundtrack, but a lot of these songs just go real hard. OOH MY GOD, BAGPIPES.

E: Ohhhh, my God.

S: [laugh]

E: What song is this?

S: It's "Voyage of the Sea Folk," so that makes absolutely no sense.

E: The Sea Folk are not Scottish!

S: [laugh] Apparently they're all Scottish!

E: The Sea Folk are some of our only canonical people of color, actually.

S: Yeah. "Lan the Warder."

E: Oh, God. I don't want to know. Is it boring, like he is?

S: It's very masculine so far, at the beginning.

E: Great, well.

S: Here, let's . . . there's no difference between the first three seconds and at thirty-seven. So I wonder if it's just this drum thing over and over again for a minute. Probably.

E: Is there any music that actually makes you think of Wheel of Time? Cause I have a few songs on my iPod that are like . . . "This reminds me of Mat. Because it's about luck."

S: True. So far . . .

E: "Luck" by American Authors. Look it up. [laugh]

S: Oh. Oh, I will. "March of the Trollocs" is – Trollocs [pronounced differently] or whatever the fuck they are.



E: Tro-la-la-la-locs.

S: Tro-la-la-la-la-la-la. 'Tis the season. Is, um – have you ever heard the music from Gods of – the God of War games? Where it's like, "Hreagqp-e8dsdq4uga." It's like a chanting. It's – that's what this sounds like.

E: No, but I've heard chanting music before. [laugh]

S: Okay, well. Sorry that I had a specific instance. This is "Rand's Theme (Fanfare for the Dragon Reborn)." This is the first song that I discovered – this is how I discovered this album.

E: [sigh]

S: Cause we were picking theme music. And I was like, "I wonder if there's any Wheel of Time music."

E: Settled on "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba.

S: Yeah, and then we settled on the best song ever made. You're welcome. Um, this is the worst possible theme they could have created for Rand because it's, like –

E: Fitting. [laugh]

S: Yeah. Which is thematically appropriate, but also, I think that this guy probably has a hard-on for Rand. Like Rand is probably his favorite character.

E: Yeah, well, the cover art is of Rand, so I wouldn't be surprised. And all the stuff about the Aiel. Which, sadly, are associated with Rand because he's genetically Aiel or whatever.

S: "The Aiel Approach (Dahl of a Chant)." This is very bizarre chanting. I wonder if he's – if he chose words from the Aiel language?

E: The Aiel don't have a language, specifically.

S: I thought they did. They say stuff in another language, don't they?

E: The Old Tongue?

S: Sure. As we recollected, I'm not good at remembering parts of these books.

E: The Wheel of Time has like no languages. It's shocking. It's just the regular, widely-spoken language, and then the Old Tongue.

S: That's nice.

E: Even the Seanchan, who live a fucking ocean away, are just like, "We have a weird accent." Yeah.

S: That's nice, though.

E: I mean, it's nice for, like – logistically, the books. But also, it makes no sense.

S: [simultaneously] It makes no sense.

E: Given that this book is all about the passage of time since the Age of Leven – Legends, you'd think there wouldn't be a universal language anymore.

S: Yeah, unless it's like . . . an interesting fact about the "Lord of the Rings" books – everybody probably knows this –

E: I don't.

S: But it's like the Elvish and Dwarvish at the actual physical beginning of the book, on the title page –

E: Uh-huh.

S: Reads, in those languages, like, "This is a translation from the Red Book of Westmarch."

E: Ooh.

S: And so the entire "Lord of the Rings" trilogy is presented as a translation from a text from Middle Earth into our language. So, like Frodo's name isn't actually Frodo, like that is a translation from his actual name in, I don't know all the languages, but it's Maura Labingi.

E: What?

S: Yeah, and it's translated to Frodo Baggins to – because Frodo Baggins is just – sounds like a little English lad that you want to be friends with. There's a translation factor there. And that happens with – all the names are translated. And so it's translated into, I assume, like some sort of common tongue, which is English. So I wonder if there's the – with the notion of Loial offering up a translation, if that's just another type of thing where the language variation has been written out of it.

E: Well, okay, first of all you said, "I bet everyone knows this" –

S: [laugh]

E: But who in the world knows that Frodo's real name is – what was it?

S: Maura Labingi.

E: I was gonna say "Moiria Lavingial." [laugh]

S: [laugh] Moira Lavingial.

E: You're welcome.

S: You're welcome.

E: Um. Also . . . yeah, but like there are instances in Wheel of – I mean, in Lord of the Rings, where people are using other languages, right?

S: Yeah. For sure.

E: And like, they talk about that.

S: They talk about Elvish. It's a huge deal.

E: In Wheel of Time it's only ever the Old Tongue. Which is just shocking to me.

S: No, it's definitely very weird. And my – this is me, I think, being hopeful, being like, "It's just a translation thing," 'cause the idea that all these various countries would not have different languages is really weird.

E: Well, I guess it's like . . . you have to pick and choose what you're going to commit to in your storytelling, and Robert Jordan was like, "Ain't nobody got time for this."

S: True. That's fair.

E: But it would have been really cool to track the development of languages from a root language? Because I find it really easy to believe that in the Age of Legends – since it's a utopia type of thing –

S: Yeah.

E: That there was one language that everyone used.

S: Yeah.

E: But also, isn't that language the Old Tongue?

S: Yeah? I would guess – I would assume so.

E: So is English just like the single language that – [laugh]

S: [laugh] It's only –

E: Came out of Wheel of Time?

S: Which would be hilarious because English itself is such a smorgasbord of –

E: A bastard language of everything.

S: Of, yeah, language. I dunno. See, that is one thing.

E: Can't wait to go into hell and talk to Robert Jordan about it.

S: Robert Jordan isn't in hell. And neither will you be.

E: [whisper] You don't know.

S: Okay, well, if you go . . . be sure to moonwalk in.

E: I will. Backwards. [laugh]

S: My review of this album, finally, is that it is hilarious and I will probably continue to listen to it because some of the songs bang, but I don't know if I would ever associate any of the music with Wheel of Time, so it's an interesting instance of fandom, but . . .

E: A lot of fandom doesn't really make sense.

S: Yeah, but it doesn't make a lot of sense. It was like some guy who wants Wheel of Time to be this epic, raging death metal hardcore action move – which is like, it might be in some ways, but that's not how I read it.

E: We haven't talked about the TV show Wheel of Time that they're going to make.

S: Oh my God, I forgot about that.

E: I know, I've been trying to forget about it, but when I was going through the Wheel of Time Tumblr tag the other day I had to face it again and it was really upsetting.

S: Um, we should do a fancast for it.

E: [sigh]

S: It would be hilarious.

E: You already know I'm going to cast Daveed Diggs as everyone.

S: Yeah.

E: [laugh]

S: Hi, this is the cast of "Hamilton" playing Wheel of Time.

E: But you know that would be better. Lin-Manuel Miranda IS Moiraine. [laugh]

S: Okay, this is a total sidebar, but sometime Emily and I need to tell you about our fancast for a new "Lord of the Rings." That it casts entirely women of color, except Lin-Manuel Miranda is Galadriel. [laugh]

E: We just wanted to genderbend it so the three women characters would then become the three male characters.

S: Yeah.

E: And yeah, Galadriel was going to be Lin-Manuel Miranda, Eowyn was going to be Chris Hemsworth. [laugh]

S: [laugh] Chris Hemsworth.

E: "I am no man."

S: "I am no man." [laugh] "What do you fear my lady?" [whisper] "A cage."

E: [simultaneously, whispered] "A cage."

S: [laugh] And you're welcome for that image.

E: Who was El – not Elrond, Arwen?

S: I don't know if we cast Arwen.

E: I feel like we kept arguing about it.

S: Yeah, I feel like Arwen is still up in the air.

E: If you have any good ideas –

S: If you have – yeah, Tweet them, because we now have a Twitter.

E: It was probably like Travis McElroy or something.

S: Oh my God. It would be amazing if it was Travis McElroy.

E: Because our men that we cast were purely men we trust.

S: Men that we trust.

E: Which is a very short list.

S: Yeah. A very short list.

E: Might've been Barack Obama. We trust him too.

S: Yeah. Barack Obama would be hilarious as Galadriel? Not as Galadriel. Oh, man. As Arwen.

E: As Arwen. I would one hundred percent believe Obama as Arwen, especially because – isn't Michelle Obama playing Aragorn?

S: Yeah, Michelle Obama, I'm pretty sure, is playing Aragorn.

E: [laugh]

S: I'm pretty sure we cast Michelle Obama as Aragorn.

E: You know that part at the end of "Return of the King" where Arwen is demurely hiding behind the fucking banners?

S: Oh. Imagine if that was Barack Obama.

E: Yeah. Like, they move aside. Legolas is like, "Bro."

S: "Bruh."

E: "Brought you bae."

S: Yeah, I also need you guys to understand that it's not like a remake of "Lord of the Rings"? It's the same movies, frame by frame, just recast.

E: Just recast with Michelle Obama as Aragorn.

S: As Aragorn.

E: So there would be a scene where Michelle Obama is lying on the earth with her ear to the ground and saying – what does he say?

S: I think it's like, "They're picking up pace" or something?

E: "They're picking up pace."

S: Yeah. "We must –" Like, "We must make haste." And Michelle Obama pops up and is chased by whoever we cast as Legolas. Someone with long flowing dreadlocks, probably.

E: Yeah, definitely someone with long flowing dreadlocks. God, we've got to write it down.

S: Braids.

E: Yeah.

S: And then – whoever plays Gimli, which I want to be like Mindy Kaling or something –

E: Ooooh my God.

S: [laugh] Just because I feel like Mindy Kaling would bring a lot to that role.

E: Mindy Kaling would bring the most to that role.

S: Yeah. Mindy Kaling would go hard. And she wouldn't need to. But she would do it for us.

E: Just like Robert Berry on that soundtrack.

S: Just like Robert Berry. Robert Berry did not need to go that hard for us, but he fucking did.

E: He brought it.

S: He brought out his bagpipes. He brought out fanart. Damn. Robert Berry brought it all. For you, lads. Emily's staring at me with like the deadest, saddest eyes –

E: It's cause I'm sick.

S: But I am living.

E: I hate it.

S: I'm so excited.

E: I'm gonna finish watching "Law and Order: SVU." Back to my regularly scheduled programming.

S: Okay. Um, thank you for taking that tangent with me.

E: You're welcome.

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