

Episode 15 – “Sit On Your Laurels”

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Run Time: 52 Minutes

EMILY: This isn't a very funny opening. We're already four minutes in. I'm probably going to cut all of this out

SALLY: You can totally cut all of this out

EMILY: Let's talk about book news

SALLY: I'm just getting the talking juices going

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Gotta lubricate the mouth [laughs]

EMILY: That's where I'm gonna start

SALLY: [laugh]

EMILY: And I wanna kill myself for it. It's just too good not, too. No, you just take a packet of lube and just

SALLY: EW

EMILY: Squeeze it like a ketchup packet

SALLY: [laughs] Gross. Disgusting. So gross

EMILY: There's edible kinds, aren't there?

SALLY: Yeah, I was just about to say have you seen that video where that fabulous YouTuber tests out flavored condoms? There's one where he tests out lubes

EMILY: I feel like I've seen that. Doesn't he mix it in ice cream or something?

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah it's ice cream!

EMILY: So funny!

SALLY: Stop this podcast and watch that video. I have no idea what it's called. Just type 'flavored lube' into YouTube that seems safe [laughs]

EMILY: O-KAY. Do not under any circumstances type 'flavored lube' into YouTube. God that rhymed. That was like a ...flavored lube into YouTube. Okay, you start talking about book news, I'm gonna get the actual...

SALLY: Okay! So our book news this week is more book news about another exciting release that's coming up. 2018's been so far a really good year for books coming out. Just a really strong lineup. Maybe

this is just the first year I've paid attention because we've been doing this. Okay, but on May 1st, a book called *The Poppy War*, one single poppy war, is coming Rebecca F. Kuang. And it's, like, I don't even know how to summarize because it sounds pretty whack, but the general premise is that a young peasant girl in – and the reviews are a little bit unclear so I can't wait to read it and see how this actually plays out – but it seems to be a kind of like...like a fantasy version of China

EMILY: It's a fantasy world with strong 20th century Chinese influences

SALLY: Okay, so then you've read different things than I have

EMILY: Have I?

SALLY: I don't know

EMILY: I don't know. We're not very good at doing research

SALLY: No, I think I might have just read one review that misunderstood the book

EMILY: Oh. Yeah, what I got was that it's a fantasy world and that it's just influenced by China

SALLY: That makes more sense

EMILY: Yeah, so –

SALLY: No, I know what happened. I know where I got confused. I read the word “alternate” and I was think “alternate history.” This is where I got confused, kiddos. It is not real world related at all

EMILY: Copy

SALLY: Got confused. Alternate history

EMILY: Not real world related, but influenced by

SALLY: But strongly influenced by Chinese history. Don't be confused like me, but a lot is happening. This young girl gets accepted into a military academy, because it's a very – there's a lot of warfare going on. She basically becomes this super power mage person who drops acid, and can summon gods. And it's fucking awesome

EMILY: Everything you just said was like a trigger for me for excitement. God I love that

SALLY: I'm super excited. I'm really, like I'm excited for a lot of reasons, but this book in particular just hits a lot of, again, like a lot of triggers of excitement for me, because this author is – first of all, I'm obsessed with her, let's just get that out there

EMILY: We just watched a video of her opening the first copy of her book [whispers] and she was so adorable. She was so cute UGH

SALLY: UGH I'm so excited!

EMILY: She's also incredibly young

SALLY: She's, like, younger than us. She's our age

EMILY: Yeah, she's a little younger than us

SALLY: She just graduated college, or is about to. She's at Georgetown right now where she is studying Chinese military strategy, collective trauma, and war memorials, which are just like *things I am so interested in!*

EMILY: Yeah, take me, Rebecca

SALLY: Like, *god* [groans]

EMILY: What do I have to do to convince her to be my friend?

SALLY: Be my best friend! You're so cool!

EMILY: [crying noises] Ahhhh, I've been replaced [laughs]

SALLY: ...no we're dating [laughs]. Anyway, before Emily interrupted me

EMILY: [laughs] SORRY

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: You know we're dating 'cause –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Are we fighting now?

SALLY: We're fighting now

EMILY: "Hi, Rebecca, do you want to be my best friend? No, that's not my best friend, that's my boyfriend. That's Emily. She fixes things around the house and interrupts me a lot."

SALLY: Yeah, that's all that boyfriends – haven't you ever watched a sitcom? That's all that boyfriends do

EMILY: We do a few more things

SALLY: Like what? What do boyfriends do? What do sitcom boyfriends do? Fix things? No, you don't. That's another part of the sitcom plotline

EMILY: Oh, what? That I don't rock your world in the bedroom?

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]. Have you never watched a sitcom?

EMILY: I feel like everyone's usually pretty sexually satisfied in the bedroom...it depends. On the mediocre white boy, who's staring as the love interest

SALLY: That's true. I was thinking of Ross Geller, so

EMILY: Oh, no. See I'd be Joey

SALLY: [GROAN/MOANS] Joey! I could speak for hours and hours about how Joey is – I can't do this right now

EMILY: Okay, I haven't watched any *Friends* ever. I just know that I'm a Joey. I do eat a lot

SALLY: Rebecca is a 2018 Marshall Scholar, which means – the Marshall Scholarship is, um, designed for, uh, I can't even speak

EMILY: It means she's smart

SALLY: It means she's really intelligent. It's a scholarship that allows American students to do graduate work in the UK specifically I think, but at least in Europe for up to three years. And she's going to Cambridge to, I assume, continue to study politics or this type of realm. I hope she continues to study trauma and stuff because that's super fucking lit. And the book seems to draw a lot on that, and from what I've read, and what I've gathered – when I'm actually not getting caught up in my own thesis work, which dealt with alternate histories and trauma, so there's some crossing of the streams there

EMILY: Crossover, yeah

SALLY: So keeping my fucking summary straight, she's doing a lot with how warfare impacts the society on the whole. What the repercussions are and what it means to be complicit in, one of the reviews uses the term 'scorched earth strategies' for military

EMILY: Oh. See, have you ever thought to yourself, "I want a book that has X, Y, and Z, but it isn't out there," but then three weeks later it comes out

SALLY: Three weeks later this comes out?

EMILY: I'm so glad you found out about this

SALLY: I'm so fucking psyched about it. So, again, haven't read it because it hasn't come out, but

EMILY: Looks promising, though

SALLY: Looks really promising. Really excited about it

EMILY: Two books for us to buy on May 1st

SALLY: Yeah! Look at that

EMILY: *The Poppy War* and

BOTH: *The Burning Maze* by Rick Riordan

[THEME SONG – "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba]

EMILY: Hi! Welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I'm Emily Juchau. This is my cohost, roommate

SALLY, speaking over her: I'm Sally Goodger! [laughs] Sorry

EMILY: Not best friend, I guess. Wow. Interrupting me now. Who's interrupting who?

SALLY: I didn't – you said it! I thought I was gonna say my name!

EMILY: [whispers very softly] It's because I paused

SALLY: Okay, let's try it again

EMILY: Let's go to marriage counseling

SALLY: [laughs] I think everybody should be in therapy. Anyway

BOTH: I'm –

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I was about to apologize for interrupting you, so that went really well. Ahhh!

EMILY: I'm Emily Juchau

SALLY: I'm Sally Goodger!

EMILY: Annnnnnd we are going [singsong] to talk about the *Wheel of Time* today. Surprise. I know you came here for something totally different

SALLY: Yeah, you came here for our *Outlander* podcast – PSYCH! That's on Patreon

EMILY: Yeah, you need to pay us five dollars in our dang pockets. Right now we only have one listener. It's Cambria. I hope she enjoys it

SALLY: I hope she enjoys it, too. I totally didn't even realize that Cambria would be listening to it? [laughs] I don't know why

EMILY: We should address the next episode specifically to her

SALLY: I feel like *Outlander* is for the three dollar level, though, in which case there would be four?

EMILY: Oh. [deep voice] Fuck. Yeah, it is. You're right. My sign offs are just for Cambria. I'll address the next one to her. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.

SALLY: Okay! This is our *Wheel of Time* podcast

EMILY: How many times can we say that?

SALLY: Spoiler alert, we play pretty fast and loose with the events of all books up to book fourteen, which I have not read, and therefore Emily refuses –

EMILY: And I barely remember

SALLY: Yeah, well. There are fourteen of them

EMILY: But luckily we are now going back to a Nynaeve point of view

SALLY: Holla holla

EMILY: Thank God. We left off with an extended rant about the Whitecloaks, 'cause Perrin and Egwene had just been captured. And in the books physically, between what we're going to talk about today and what we talked about last time, there is a pretty significant swathe of chapters, where it bounces over to Rand and Mat. We're going to get into that next week, though. We figured it was best to tie up Perrin and Egwene's arcs. Yep. Sally just made a little bow tying gesture. It was very cute

SALLY: [weird high pitch voice] Yeah, I'm pretty cute

EMILY: So there's a time skip here that's sort of implied. Robert Jordan's really good at just skipping forward in time and making you feel like time has passed without feeling like you've had an agonizingly long time doing the same thing. I don't know how to describe that

SALLY: Compare it to Frodo and Sam in the second half of the *The Two Towers* books

EMILY: Yeah, that's a good point

SALLY: Where it's literally like JRR Tolkien [strained, whispery voice] *has to describe every goddamn step that they take*

EMILY: Every rock that they see

SALLY: [strained, whispery voice] *Every rock that they see*

EMILY: Tolkien describes in excruciating detail

SALLY: [whispers] he sits down and he's like, "This rock was round, and the next one was more hexgon..." yep nailed it

EMILY: Hexang – hexagonal

SALLY: Hexagon

EMILY: Hexagonal?

SALLY: Hexagonagal? ... Yeah, exactly

EMILY: We're such good English majors

SALLY: I'm incredible at it

EMILY: Anyway, this Nynaeve chapter picks up *in media res* because we've got Nynaeve literally standing with the horses while Lan and Moiraine go off to scout something. They didn't really tell her what's going on. But she's been on the road with them since they left Whitebridge. They followed the Caemlyn Road for a little while, until they finally branched off because Moiraine was like, "Okay, we've

got to go find the one who still has the coin.” Which, she doesn’t know, but we know is Perrin. So they’re just kind of hoping that Mat and Rand stay on the road and get to Caemlyn. [nervous laughter] Godspeed my boys. But there’s a – Nynaeve recalls a moment where Moiraine reacted to Perrin losing the coin. That was when they actually got captured by the Whitecloaks, but the a second later, like, in the chapter, Perrin wakes up from losing consciousness and has a chat with the Whitecoke – Whitecoke. *Whitecloak* captain of this unit, Bornhald. His name’s Jeffrey or something

SALLY: Yeah like with a G? Like he’s some type of a fancy bitch

EMILY: Gee-offrey

SALLY: Gee-offrey

EMILY: That’s his name name

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Anyway, Gee-offrey returned the coin, so

SALLY: Do you think that’s how George RR Martin got Joffrey?

EMILY: What? From Jeffrey?

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Absolutely I do

SALLY: Like playing with it like, “Gee-offrey. Ah! Joffrey.” Okay. Well.

EMILY: I think he literally was like “What’s a normal name? I just gonna throw some different vowels in there.”

SALLY: I mean, yeah. Absolutley that’s what he did

EMILY: What kills me is that he took the name *Jefffreeey*

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah and he was like

EMILY: *JEEFFFREEEY*

SALLY: [laughs] But I specifically –

EMILY: I’m gonna make this child sociopath the king. Jeffreeeeey the king!

SALLY: [laughs] No but I really like to think he was playing with a fantasy spelling and he was like “G-e-o. Geo-ffrey. Joffrey.” But yeah, still. This tiny sociopath is gonna be named Jeffrey

EMILY: I exclusively refer to Joffrey as Jeffrey. It’s just so much funner

SALLY: It’s nice that you ever think of Joffrey [laughs], because I’m like, “Out of sight, out of mind, bitch.”

EMILY: Yeah, I haven't thought about him since he died probably

SALLY: Yeah, but when you watch it he's Jeffrey

EMILY: [whispers] I know

SALLY: Fuck this kid

EMILY: Yeah, Jeffrey. And every time they refer to him, I just like mentally swap out Joffrey for Jeffrey

SALLY: [in a very bad British accent] Jeffrey! [normal voice, laughing] First of his name

EMILY: [laughs] So when fucking Cersei is like, "Since they killed Jeffrey!"

SALLY: [cackles]

EMILY: Exactly! While she's, like, swirling a wine glass and intimidating Peter Dinklage. Isn't it so much better?

SALLY: [laughing so barely audible, sort of squeaks] yeah

EMILY: And like one of her boobs is out. I don't know

SALLY: Probably. Don't you drown with your titties out? [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, don't you drink wine with both titties out?

SALLY: [sighs] Okay

EMILY: That's how we do in *Game of Thrones*

SALLY: Okay, Gee-offrey Bornhald

EMILY: [laughs, muttering something] Perrin got the fucking coin back is the point, so now Moiraine can bloodhound track him down

SALLY: Okay, but how funny is the scene where they're by the fire, and they sit down and Lan just goes to sleep, whatever, and Nynaeve is like, "Moiraine was just laying there with her eyes closed, but I knew she wasn't asleep." And so it's Moiraine just like [laughs] being super weird. Just laying there with her eyes closed

EMILY: Moiraine is fucking meditating. I'm not convinced – you know how in D&D some species don't actually need sleep, they just meditate? I'm convinced Moiraine doesn't, like, has transcended the human need for sleep

SALLY: Yeah, and she just meditates herself into new energy

EMILY: Yeah. I mean, do we ever see her sleeping? I rest my case

SALLY: Exactly. Out of sight, out of mind. *Ow*.

EMILY: Are you okay?

SALLY: Oh my god, yes.

EMILY: Did you poke yourself?

SALLY: No, I just cry a lot when I laugh

EMILY: Oh, same

SALLY: And I tried to wipe my tears and I went way too hard into that left eyeball [laughs] It's fine. [laughs] It's fine. I'm okay

EMILY: Okay, yeah that scene is hilarious, though

SALLY: It's so funny

EMILY: Because Moiraine is like

SALLY: Yeah, you just imagine – [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] I just did a coffin pose with my arms crossed over my chest. Moiraine is, like, with her eyes closed. Suddenly, her eyes open. She's like [in the Moiraine voice from way back when], "He found the coin."

SALLY: [laughs] [in the same Moiraine voice] "He found it."

EMILY: [Moiraine voice] "It has been returned to him." And Nynaeve's like, "Okay, bitch."

SALLY: Nynaeve's like, "Ohhkay."

EMILY: And then Moiraine just like goes straight to sleep. Oh, yeah. I guess she does sleep there. Whatever

SALLY: Does she? [makes the *wra-wra* sound from *Psycho* or whichever horror movie that is]

EMILY: [makes the same spooky knife noise]

SALLY: [laughs] So anyway, I just that scene. It's super funny

EMILY: I do too. Anyway, time skip forward to Nynaeve standing with the horses. Boring. She's been relegated to this task for unknown reasons

SALLY: Yeah, and she's like, "What am I? A stable boy?"

EMILY: Yeah, honestly. Blah blah blah. But then Lan comes back for her

SALLY: Yeah, and then he leads her by the hand through the night and it's very like... blegh

EMILY: It's very blegh. Straights. Heterosexuals are up to it again

SALLY: Yeah. I don't know. It's like a weird...they have a lot of weird...

EMILY: Yeah, they're really turned on by each other's –

SALLY: ...sexual tension this chapter

EMILY: – woodcraft. Nynaeve's like, "Look at how good he steps over tree branches. Ooh."

SALLY: And he's like, "Oh, she's keeping up with me stepping over tree branches."

EMILY: "Damn."

SALLY: It's so weird. They have a lot of weird sexual tension in this chapter that I like

EMILY: Can't comprehend. I can't wrap my mind around it

SALLY: Their [sputters for a moment] the arc of their relationship is so bizarre. Just because you know it's happening, and in a way I really appreciate that it's pretty delicate. That Robert Jordan doesn't put it so in your face as something like, I don't know, *Twilight*. We talked about that a while ago. No, I just transcribed that episode

EMILY: Oh

SALLY: That's what's happening. But on the other hand, it's so *weird*? And it's almost like weirder to me that they're not talking about it...at all...

EMILY: I'm always trying to wrap my head around this because, on the one hand, I love it when a romance does not take center stage

SALLY: Yeah! Love it

EMILY: Like, casual romance going on in the background is like – I live for that, man. I do, yeah, find Nynaeve and Lan's relationship, because they're so little actual communication between them, it's all just very, like, being attracted to each other and having little side glances and little moments. Later on, when we bounce over to Perrin's point of view, after they've been rescued, there's the whole sequence where Nynaeve isn't back yet, because she's sort of delayed in getting the horses. And Lan wants to go off and look for her, obviously. And we know this as the reader, Perrin has no idea what's going on. And Moiraine has to be like – calls him by his full name, like his goddamn mother. And all his fucking titles, honestly. "Lan, first of your name, unburnt, mother of dragons over here"

SALLY: Yeah, you could have saved Nynaeve by now, Moiraine, if you would have just shut the fuck up

EMILY: [wheezes] I know. Whatever. Whatever. I don't even care. Whatever. Anyway, there's a whole moment where Nynaeve does come back where Lan goes over to her and grabs her arm, and they exchange a meaningful look, you know? And, like, Nynaeve kind of laughs, and you can guess what's going on there, because we've spent enough time in Nynaeve's head now to know that she considers that his obvious gesture of concern, as kind of a point in her favor. Because she kind of views their relationship as a competition.

SALLY: [laughs] Which is a whole other bag

EMILY: I know, which is a whole other thing. It's kind of funny, it's kind of really immature. Troubling. But, anyway, but the fact that their entire sweeping romance that's gonna take place over the next fourteen books is built on these little moments? Like doesn't really convince me, I guess.

SALLY: Yeah, it's weird

EMILY: Because they have so little in common to begin with

SALLY: *yeah*

EMILY: I just don't buy them as a couple

SALLY: And also, coming in as the person with, um, deep trust and commitment issues

EMILY: Sure

SALLY: I cannot wrap my head around the idea that somebody would feel confident enough that a meaningful glance quote unquote, whatever the fuck that means

EMILY: Actually meant what you thought it meant?

SALLY: Exactly. How do you not believe that you're totally projecting? And yeah, whatever. We've been in Nynaeve's head, but at this point we have nothing from Lan except this one "meaningful glance," so it's like

EMILY: And a few other gestures of concern over Nynaeve and expressing admiration for some of her skills, but that's all, like....yeah. It's all subject to interpretation. He complimented her once. Like, big deal. You know?

SALLY: Yeah, like that could be totally platonic?

EMILY: And then at the end of this book Nynaeve's gonna be like, "I know you feel – I know you're, like, in love with me." Whatever the fuck. They have they're little talk about how he's cursed and can't love her back. Whatever

SALLY: Boring

EMILY: I know. So boring. Ugh

SALLY: So it's just very bizarre, and I just, like, don't want to project my own issues onto a character, but it's just, like, I find it so incredibly wild that this is just something that we're supposed to just buy

EMILY: No, it's representative of a greater problem in *Wheel of Time* I think with most of the couples, which is that they sort of end up together without doing any work on the back end of their relationship

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Like Egwene and Gawyn

SALLY: UGH

EMILY: Much later in the series – for some godforsaken reason – Moiraine and Thom. I’ve told you about that, right?

SALLY: Yeah, I think I blocked it out and then I just, like...god

EMILY: It makes zero sense. They spend very little time together. They have no chemistry. And suddenly they’re, like, moony eyed over each other? It’s like Robert Jordan, I don’t know, like made a list of his characters and was just, like, pairing them off, you know? Just to add some romance to the story

SALLY: Which is, like, Bob.

EMILY: Bobby!

SALLY: Bobert!

EMILY: Bob!

SALLY: Oliver!

EMILY: Oliver! Olly!

SALLY: You could have just left some people unpaired. That’s fine

EMILY: People don’t have to have romance

SALLY: Besides, Moiraine is a huge lesbian. She and Siuan are in love

EMILY: I know, it’s so insulting to me

SALLY: But, yeah. This is just another example, but the scene where Rand and Aviendha have sex in an igloo

EMILY: [whispers] oh my god

SALLY: And they just, like, decide that that’s gonna happen. It feels very like

EMILY: Convolutd that they got there?

SALLY: Yeah, and we all know, throughout these whatever, how many books Aviendha’s around, that she’s so mad because she wants to fuck Rand

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: An inexplicable feeling, but the fact that they get there and they’re like, “I don’t know! I guess we have sex now.” It’s so bizarre

EMILY: It’s particularly funny because Aviendha and Rand is one of the relationships I have less trouble buying because at least they spend a significant amount of time together

SALLY: True

EMILY: Beforehand

SALLY: That's fair

EMILY: No, but you're right. Still, that moment of sex makes almost no sense

SALLY: It's so weird!

EMILY: Because Rand is still confused. He doesn't think she's into him

SALLY: And it's like why did you have sex with her, Rand?

EMILY: And suddenly he's in her, so. I assume. We don't know what happened

SALLY: We don't know what happened. They say they were in there for hours or some shit, so

EMILY: Hopefully they did lots of things

SALLY: Yeah. In an *igloo*. That's such a weird scene [laughs]. I don't know what's happening there

EMILY: I stand by my constant statement, which is that Mat and Tuon's relationship is the only one that actually feels like an organic relationship. Everything else feels like bad fan fiction. Sorry, Rob

SALLY: Well, it's true

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: [very softly] I'm trying to think if there's anybody else

EMILY: Perrin and Faile kind of

SALLY: Kind of

EMILY: But because they're equally immature

SALLY: Yeah, they don't feel mismatched, at least

EMILY: Yeah. They feel like a couple that would get together. That doesn't mean I'm committed to their relationship

SALLY: I'm not committed at all

EMILY: But, yeah, they never really throw me off as a couple

SALLY: At last it makes sense

EMILY: Yeah, okay. That's two

SALLY: That's two, out of how many? A billion

EMILY: A billion

SALLY: I still can't believe that Egwene and Gawyn get together

EMILY: It's so unbelievable

SALLY: You told me that and I was like, "That – I can't – that's – she's lying to me."

EMILY: It's so difficult to believe. He's the most annoying character in the entire series, and she's the most delightful. What the hell?

SALLY: At least give her Galad. At least he's hot

EMILY: Yeah, but he's gay

SALLY: I mean I know Galad is annoying, and he's gay, but

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Canon [laughs]

EMILY: It's not. Oh god. There's a book fourteen spoiler I can't get into

SALLY: That's fine. I guess I'll just have to hurry up and read...eight books

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Ummm [laughs] God, that made me so sad. I can't believe I still have eight more

EMILY: [laughing] I know. I'm so sorry

SALLY: It's like this series NEVER ENDS

EMILY: Ugh, rough.

SALLY: Okay, we got on this weird tangent about pairings

EMILY: I know, but now we don't have to talk about it anymore. We're done. That's really the only important thing that happens in Nynaeve's point of view is her subtext with Lan. She also does a lot of – I like this little scene with Nynaeve because she just demonstrates a level of competence that no one else really questions. She's sent to do this thing that involves a lot of sneaking. I love that she just ties her skirts up, all business like, to free up her legs, and that's not a problem. She gets there, she's freaked out, but she does it all super competently. Then when she's done, she realizes that she can do more

SALLY: And then she saves Bela the horse

EMILY: And she ensures Bela's continued – continuation in the plotline. [whispers] God, what the hell

SALLY: Here's a fan theory, based on nothing

EMILY: Sure

SALLY: Bela is god. There we go

EMILY: [laughs] Good one

SALLY: Think about that one. She's always around. Always surviving. [Struggles to say this] the wheel weaves and the wheel wills

EMILY: [laughing] Your basis for her being God is that she's always around, and she's always surviving? Is that, like, a god thing to do?

SALLY: Always survive? Yeah

[a beat]

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Just sayin', my dude. Divinity takes many forms, not all of them corporeal, but it's still around

EMILY: Listen, I have a much less difficult time than most people, I admit, believing that God could be a horse, but what I do have a hard time with

SALLY: They're God's most perfect creatures, you've said that, so what if we just take that up the next level.

EMILY: They're God

SALLY: They're actually God

EMILY: Every horse is a fragment of God's body

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Read my next fantasy book. I'll be writing it with Brandon Sanderson. That seems like something he would be into. You – read his books, man

SALLY: That paints an odd dimension to my portrait of Brandon Sanderson

EMILY: Exactly. Anyway, [laughs] my point is, what I do take issue with is your parameters for godhood. You could apply those to almost every character in the book as we've talked about

SALLY: I've actually – I'm gonna – 'kay. I'm gonna re-read something – theory. JRR Tolkien's "On Fairy-Stories." Talks about consolation, which at some point I wrote a mini-essay on

EMILY: Sure

SALLY: Applying that to Bill the Horse in *Lord of the Rings*

EMILY: Awww. You've told me about that. It's great

SALLY: So I am going to do this in response to Bela, and then we will talk about Bela that horse as a frig – a fagment – yep, fucking killing it.

EMILY: A fragment

SALLY: A fragment of the divine. Arc of fantasy. We're gonna fucking talking about this. Sit...on your laurels [laughs] I don't know

EMILY: *What?*

SALLY: [laughing] I'm having the worst time today, you guys

EMILY: We just need to get through this. Okay, stay tuned

SALLY: Stay tuned. Yeah. That's what I was trying to say

EMILY: Anything else you want to say about Nynaeve?

SALLY: Nothing I want to say about Nynaeve. This is just a fleeting thought, but I'm really in love with the fact that it's always lightening that is used as the One Power. Always explosions from the sky. Like the whole point of *Fires of Heaven*, one of those ridiculous titles, is that at the end of the book, people are throwing fireballs from the sky. I don't know. I just really like it. It makes Moiraine like this weird Zeus figure

EMILY: Yeeeah

SALLY: I'm into that

EMILY: It makes them very godly – I don't know. All the Aes Sedai are

SALLY: Bela's there too

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [in a voiceover voice] Bela was a Channeler the whole time [makes the *wrah wrah* knife sound]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, it's a really cool image. We picture Moiraine standing Moses-like with her arms spread, just calling down lightening. And a lot of the Channelers do that throughout the rest of the series. It's really cool. Once the Seanchan, like Domon, get into it they do a ton of lightening stuff. It's just really

SALLY: I'm just really into lightening

EMILY: No, I think it's really cool

SALLY: The best scene in all of television, I think, is when Prince Zuko faces his father

EMILY: OH MAN

SALLY: and he redirects the lightening [SHOUTS]. That changed me fundamentally as a person

EMILY: I will never get over the episode where Iroh teaches Zuko to redirect the lightening

SALLY: It's so good, right?

EMILY: And the metaphor of lightening being abuse and how you redirect it through your body. [Crying noises] It's so good. I'm gonna fucking die

SALLY: We need to re-watch *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. That's the next one we should tackle. It's so good

EMILY: What, like as a couple? Or on the podcast?

SALLY: As a couple. And on the podcast. We can do both. It's just, we did *Fullmetal*, and then we did *Haikyu*, so now we gotta go back

EMILY: We watched the third season of *Haikyu*, which is a volleyball anime [laughs]

SALLY: Stop this podcast and go watch *Haikyu*

EMILY: Yeah, I promise you it sounds weirder than it is. Actually, it is pretty weird

SALLY: It sounds like a weird you wouldn't like, but it is a weird you will very much like

EMILY: Yeah, we spent the entire day in my mom's basement watching – *re-watching*

SALLY: Re-watching

EMILY: The entire third season. It's only ten episodes

SALLY: I think that's, like, the fifth time I've watched it

EMILY: Christ

SALLY: Sometimes I just get really sad and I watch *Haikyu*

EMILY: Yeah, doesn't it make you happy?

SALLY: It absolutely makes me happy

EMILY: So funny

SALLY: It's just a bunch of dem boys

EMILY: It's just a bunch of dumb athlete boys running around

SALLY: Playing volleyball

EMILY: Loving each other. I just have a lot of feelings. It's just really good

SALLY: It's excellent

EMILY: But we leave Nynaeve, roll over to Perrin, who has experienced this time jump severely because he's been under the Whitecloaks care, and it sounds like it's mostly been a monotony of days where they're riding – not even riding. They're walking behind the Whitecloaks column with halters around their necks. So just ropes. So if they fall, you know, there's no guarantee that they guy will stop and then you die. So they're really stressed about that. They're days are, like, when you really imagine that you're just like, god. The tension in your body would be unbearable. Once you finally got to sleep – which is why Egwene is just knocked out cold even though they're on the ground basically. And they're under guard, but Perrin's awake because he's stressed because as far as he knows, as soon as they get to Amador, which is like the Whitecloaks home base country, then they're going to execute Perrin. Which is like – it's such a long way away, you know? Before that they have to get to Caemlyn. It's interesting to me that Perrin's not, you know, thinking about escape at all

SALLY: [laughs] I know, he's just like, "I guess I'm gonna die."

EMILY: He's just like, "I guess we die." I mean I don't want to victim blame you for surviving in the way that you choose, but it's a pretty – in most fantasy books this scenario would have the speaker mapping out possible escapes

SALLY: But instead Perrin's just like, "Guess I'm dead."

EMILY: Yeah, Amador's just like this vague, but also nearby future. Whereas, in reality, it's going to take them, you know, another few weeks to get to Caemlyn. And then whatever's happening in Caemlyn's gonna happen, and then you have to get to Amador, which is another many weeks away

SALLY: It's wild

EMILY: Yeah. Anyway, Perrin's most favorite Whitecloak buddy pal, Byar, comes in, kicks them awake. He's such a ray of sunshine, that guy

SALLY: Yeah, I do want to talk about him for a second

EMILY: [laughs] You don't have to. Sorry I paused

SALLY: No, it's okay. This is a little bit adjacent – surprise. I'm not staying on topic. I'm sure after – what is this? Episode 15?

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: After fourteen episodes I'm sure you are shocked that I'm not staying on topic. As Emily brought up last episode, Robert Jordan makes a very weird point of always talking about how Byar isn't hateful, this is just his nature. He just hurts people blah blah blah blah. Which is stupid [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah [whispers] yeah

SALLY: But just in – and this is, again, a little bit off topic – but just thinking of what we talked about in book news, talking about a book that deals with a lot with collective trauma and all that type of stuff it is interesting that – it's not done very well here, or very elegant, or very graceful. It's not really even done here at all, but this idea that overemphasizing that the evil that's around you is not evil or hateful, it just

is, very much ties into the concept of the “banality of evil.” Which is an idea first posed by the – I believe she’s a philosopher – Hannah Arendt

EMILY: That sounds super familiar

SALLY: Yeah, she wrote *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, which is a very famous account of the trials that happened – I think it’s *Eichmann in Jerusalem* – that happened after the Holocaust. Sort of look at how this happened and who was to blame and how they could be punished, and what she kept running into time after time was that these people were just, like, bureaucrats. And that’s just a whole thing coming out of World War II, coming out of Nazism and the Holocaust, is that so much of what happened was so bureaucratic, and it was this incredible betrayal of logic and scientific methods being applied to systemic execution and systemic genocide. And so a lot of times, she just noticed that it was like – so the banality of evil is that it’s just an everyday thing. We keep wanting to explain away the hate, explain away what is it in these people that makes them so dark and so evil, but the idea is that it’s just everyday people

EMILY: Once you’ve translated human lives to paperwork it becomes

SALLY: Yeah, that too. Absolutely. You’re translating people into paperwork, but the idea is really that evil is just – its face is a human face. Its face is just – it’s not anything big and spooky and scary and monster, it’s just

EMILY: It’s not necessarily the Dark One, gnawing away at the

SALLY: Gnawing away at the edges of his prison

EMILY: It’s just that people are gross

SALLY: And at the end of this chapter, Lan has this dramatic monologue about the Dark One picking at threads of the Pattern, or whatever. Being ridiculous. But it really is just people, and oftentimes it is bureaucratic. Like you said, once you reduce humans to numbers that’s just how evil plays out sometimes. It’s not anything big and world ending. It’s just human people doing paperwork and having these incredible repercussions. So, Byar is *kind of* in that vein, though mostly he’s just a stupid character

EMILY: Mostly I think what Robert Jordan was trying to do was have a sociopath character in that he lacks an ability to feel empathy, but, either way, it doesn’t come across great

SALLY: Either way, it’s just like, “Okay.”

EMILY: Yeah, it’s boring. Who I would expect to be in the Whitecloaks ranks

SALLY: Also, like, this is the oldest, corniest writing advice in the book. The idea of show don’t tell

EMILY: Oh, yeah. Yeah

SALLY: Robert Jordan all the time is telling you that this guy doesn’t feel anything and is just super hateful, and not that I want to read an extended torture scene – never want to read that, and also Robert Jordan isn’t super big on putting violence like this on screen, so, again, I get it. But you gotta do something, homie, other than just tell me that this guy’s got no feelings

EMILY: Yeah, like I would believe it enough with the sequence about him kicking Perrin awake and then Perrin wakes up Egwene, and the guy isn’t bothered by that

SALLY: He's just like, "Guess I'm not kicking her."

EMILY: He's just like, "Okay."

SALLY: [laughing] He's the stupidest character. All the Whitecloaks

EMILY: I hate him. I'm so mad he sticks around for so long. I'd rather have Gee-offrey

SALLY: Gee-offrey

EMILY: Anyway, so Byar has come in there to test their bonds, but also to offer supposedly a chance for them to escape. He basically drops a sharp rock and is like, "If you happened to escape your bonds that would really help us out, because we don't actually have time to be dragging you across the wilderness." And Perrin, luckily, thinks this through. One wonders what Egwene is thinking this entire time. If only we knew

SALLY: If only we got Egwene's point of view instead of Perrin's

EMILY: Yeah. Ugh. Perrin thinks this through and realizes what's actually gonna happen is that they'll just

SALLY: Kill them

EMILY: Feign escape and kill them, and that will be the way to get rid of them quietly. They're not going to let them go free because they think they're Darkfriends. But this way they don't have to deal with the bureaucracy of a trial, and actually carrying them through the wilderness. So we don't really know how that's going to play out. Perrin seems to think the trajectory is that Byar's going to kill them, but luckily Lan sweeps in and [singsong] *rescues them*

SALLY: [sings the victory song from *Final Fantasy*]

EMILY: Yeah, he just Donnie Yen's the other two guards and knocks them out

SALLY: He literally is Ip Man

EMILY: He literally is. He doesn't have weapons he's just yeah, Ip Man-ing them

SALLY: Ip Man-ing them to d – unconsciousness. And then he has this line about "I don't kill people unless I mean to" or whatever. And I'm like, "What the fuck does that even mean?"

EMILY: [slaps the table] I will literally die any time someone says that in a fucking book or movie. "I don't kill unless want to." You know what happens? People die as a result of really common injuries. You can't fucking control what the human body's going to do

SALLY: You can't just run around knocking people unconscious without thinking. There's a very, very thin line between head trauma that knocks you unconscious and head trauma that kiillllls youuu

EMILY: Or head trauma that leaves you severely disabled

SALLY: Yes

EMILY: Or otherwise impacts your quality of life

SALLY: Exactly

EMILY: *Oh my god*

SALLY: Those lines are so thin they're, like, not even lines

EMILY: It bothers me so much

SALLY: Stop hitting people on the head [laughs]

EMILY: Stop hitting people period. Basically

SALLY: No violence. Stop. Don't do a hit

EMILY: Don't [softly] hit people

SALLY: [softly] Don't hit people

EMILY: I mean I don't know what I would want Lan to do here. I guess I would just want him to kill them. Like, just be upfront about it

SALLY: And that's the thing. It's like, so, and we can have whatever type of conversation we want to have about the value of a human soul – [imitating the narrator from *Fullmetal Alchemist*] for what is the value of a human soul?

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] But it's just like oh my god if I have to hear one more time like [grim voice] "I don't kill needlessly blah blah blah" like, bruh? Seriously? It's so boring as a plot at this point

EMILY: You're commitment to the value of human life is admirable, but I don't believe it, so

SALLY: YEAH! That's the thing. He goes into battle and he's just chopping people's heads off right and left, and in this situation – [whispers] and I know they're different situations, but it's just annoying. Anyway, I can't really tell you why I hate it, but I hate it

EMILY: It's annoying because it's basically a way for authors – it's like Rick Riordan having the monsters turn into dust. It's a way for authors to have violence on page without endorsing

SALLY: Murder?

EMILY: Yeah, their good guys being violent

SALLY: You're right. Exactly

EMILY: It's a way to create a line between good guys and bad guys. If Lan were a bad guy, he'd just kill them

SALLY: [softly] you're right

EMILY: It's dumb

SALLY: It's soooooooooo – yeah. It's very black and white

EMILY: I'm a reader with a brain. I can do the work to figure out whether Lan's a good guy or a bad guy by myself. Here's the deal Robert: I've settled on he's neither. He's a boring guy. Move on

SALLY: Yeah, I'm not going to like him even if he is your *hero*

EMILY: Yeah, oh god

SALLY: So anyway, Lan doesn't kill the Whitecloaks

EMILY: But knocks them unconscious. They successfully escape. Moiraine creates a distraction with the hella lightening

SALLY: Fucking awesome

EMILY: They run out of camp, reunite with the others, Nynaeve comes back. There's that meaningful romantic moment. She also brings the horses so that they're not riding double

SALLY: Fucking icon

EMILY: Yeah, she's so great. [softly] God, she's doing all the work in this chapter

SALLY: She's doing all the work in this *book*

EMILY: Honestly! Anyway, they ride for a little while until they're safe distance. Then they camp. The relevant things that happen there is Nynaeve dresses Perrin's wounds, which are pretty significant because Byar's a rat fink. Whatever. That's when she notices *whoa* his eyes are yellow. And I think that's the first time Perrin notices that his eyes are yellow?

SALLY: Yeah, I think that's the first time Perrin...the first time it's brought to his attention

EMILY: So we don't really know when that transition happened

SALLY: Because also, a significant thing that's also happening alongside this is that the wolves are playing some minor to major part of the escape where Lan tells Nynaeve, "I've been seeing wolves. And all these things that are happening."

EMILY: That leads to the most iconic exchange where he's like, "Wolves don't usually bother people," and Nynaeve's like, "I had no idea."

SALLY: [in a sweet voice] "I wouldn't have known that. It's not like I grew up around shepherds."

[both laugh]

SALLY: It's so iconic

EMILY: She's so savage. God I love her

SALLY: It's so good. And Lan's like, "Okay," and she's basically like, "Suck a dick."

EMILY: [laughing] Flips him off

SALLY: Yeah, flips him off and runs off to go do her assigned task

EMILY: MVP

SALLY: MVP I know. Literally. But also, there are some wolves hanging around and while Perrin is having this conversation – quote – with Byar about escape and he's trying to puzzle it out, he hears one of the wolves – I think Dapple or somebody – is like, "Help is coming."

EMILY: And this is his first communication with any of them, and his first indication that Elyas is okay. Which is kind of weird to me that they've been traveling this entire time without any contact with the wolves

SALLY: They're just like, "Oh they got captured and I guess we'll just hang out and come back when it's most convenient for the plot!"

EMILY: I know. Honeslty

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: This does lead to – I think when Perrin receives the information that help is coming and he asks about Elyas, I think that's the first time he returns the communication, so that's an important step in the whole wolf telepathy thing

SALLY: So then you wonder, because earlier one of the wolves, didn't they say it won't be complete until you accept it or something?

EMILY: Yeah, it does seem he's crossed that line

SALLY: So again, that could possibly play into the eyes, but we don't have confirmation on that

EMILY: Yeah presumable Egwene's the only one who could tell us because she's the only one who's been spending a significant amount of time with him

SALLY: But also they're both under extreme duress, so it might not have even been in her mind. He's so tired

EMILY: I mean, if his eyes changed gradually it would just be like, "Oh."

SALLY: But Nynaeve, who hasn't seen him in...X number of weeks

EMILY: She's like, "You're sick."

SALLY: Yeah, she's like, "You have yellow eye fever or some shit."

EMILY: Then Moiraine comes over and is like, “He’s not sick,” and says something cryptic about the Dark One [laughs]. It’s so annoying

SALLY: It’s like, “Oh my god!” What school do mentors go to to learn how to be this god damn cryptic?

EMILY: [sighs] It’s so annoying

SALLY: [laughs] It’s so annoying!

EMILY: She’s basically like, “Nothing bad will happen to you –”

SALLY: “Maybe.”

EMILY: [laughs] Yeah.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [in the Moiraine voice] “Who knows?”

SALLY: “Who knows?” Literally what does she say? It’s so drama

EMILY: She’s literally like, “I was about to say no harm will come of it, but no harm will come of it directly.” Like it’s not gonna kill him.

SALLY: Literally, “I was going to say it will not harm him, but who can say what the end will be? At least I can say it will not harm him directly.”

EMILY: Fuck

SALLY: Like what the fuck does that mean? Fucking vague

EMILY: “You’re not gonna drop dead from wolf poison.”

SALLY: She just subtweeted Perrin [laughs]

EMILY: I know [laughs] She’s like, “Don’t @ me, bitch.”

SALLY: [laughs] Wolf poisoning. True. Anyway, yellow eyes. Golden eyes

EMILY: Yeah whatever the hell. So they kind of leave him alone. Then Lan comes over and says more cryptic shit. No, Lan asks after Elyas, and this conversation actually interests me a little bit because he asks after Elyas, says he knows him. There’s a really quick moment there of referring to the Red Ajah, which, as far as I know, is our first significant mention of the Ajahs, which are going to play such a huge part in the later books. And sort of alluding to the fact that the Red Ajah are some of the most well known, and most feared subsections of the Tower

SALLY: Yeah, because the Red Ajah – last week we also talked about how extremism tends to come out in male cultures and male societies

EMILY: Yeah, but here it is in female culture

SALLY: But the Red Ajah is a really interesting instance of extremism and fanaticism coming out in an exclusively female group

EMILY: Yeah, but the Red Ajah basically deal with men who can Channel. They're the ones that went after Logain, we presume. When that started happening. So it's sort of connected to what Perrin's experiencing, I guess, though it's not a Channeling related, or even adjacent, thing. But that's where the connection is. Anyway, Lan asks after Elyas and Perrin's like, "Well, he's good as far as I know. From what the wolves told me." Then he sort of asks whether it's like – he's like, "Oh, did the Dark One do this? I think that's what Moiraine thinks." And Lan hesitates, which is dumb, because either it did or it didn't, dumbass. But he's like, "No. It's older than the Dark One so you're good." But he mentions quite a bit how Elyas needed to guide Perrin through this experience. I can't remember the exact phrasing, but the implication is that it wouldn't have happened to Perrin unless Elyas had been there. "What chance that you should meet a man who could guide you in this thing, and you one who could follow the guiding." An intermediary. That's the word that Lan uses. So I don't know how I feel about that because, to my memory, Elyas does almost nothing

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, Elyas don't do shit

EMILY: Especially not with Perrin and the wolves. Elyas never – it's not like Elyas is the first step, Perrin reaches through Elyas to the wolves. It's just, like, he meets Elyas and then he meets some wolves who are hanging out with Elyas.

SALLY: It's almost like he reaches through the wolves to Elyas. Honestly. Elyas is the epitome of distant uncle

EMILY: God. He's such a weirdo

SALLY: Which raises some interesting questions about what the role of a mentor is, and how a mentor, or how an intermediary can take shape. Because Elyas, you're right, doesn't really do anything

EMILY: Not significant. Not that Perrin notices

SALLY: Yeah, he just like...it's almost like he's implicitly mentoring, which is weird. But he's just there as an example of what this can look like, and it's admittedly not a super attractive example, because he's a crazy old man who lives in the woods by himself with a bunch of wolves

[both laugh]

SALLY: so I don't really know what

EMILY: Perrin's like, "That's my five year plan!"

SALLY: He's like, "Ooh! That's where I want to be." I mean, it's my five year plan. Sounds pretty ideal. But, yeah when Lan's like, "You're so lucky you met someone who could guide you," you're right, he doesn't do any actual guiding

EMILY: Well, he did guide them to Caemlyn

SALLY: Physically, yes. He guided them to Caemlyn

EMILY: We still don't know whether he was actually [laughs]

SALLY: Or if he was like, “LMAO taking these bitches wherever the fuck I want to take them.” But it’s just like, Lan, he’s not a very good guide [laughs]. He’s just a crazy old man. I mean, I love Elyas. He’s very competent and he is very kind behind that gristly old mustache of his

EMILY: Ugh. No, I do love Elyas, it’s just weird to hear him labeled as Perrin’s intermediary. It feels so much like something that would have happened regardless

SALLY: Which is why I really like that – I don’t like the wolf plotline. We’ve already discussed this

EMILY: Sure

SALLY: But I do like how it takes shape in this section because it is kind of just like happening

EMILY: It’s organic

SALLY: Yeah, it’s very organic. So it feels kind of reductive to call Elyas his intermediary when I feel like Elyas is doing

EMILY: The wolves did all the work

SALLY: Elyas is doing enough to just be a character while the wolves are reaching out to Perrin, so Lan should have mentioned the wolves perhaps, but maybe that is the point. The wolves are being jilted

EMILY: That’s basically it. Lan has a *really* long speech here about how the Dark One’s – the end of the world is happening and, like, Perrin – he just has a really fatalistic thing about the Dark One’s coming, we’re gonna fight him, but there’s nothing else we can do. It’s all about timing and fate and bullshit and whether or not your friends are okay depends totally on whether we get to them in time. And it’s like, “Duh. Okay. Yeah.”

SALLY: This scene really annoys me because these types of cosmic things, it feels like Perrin should be having this conversation with Moiraine. Just because she’s the one who’s been spearheading this cosmic initiative. So it annoys me that – and again, as we’ve discussed in the past with Moiraine and the name Ba’alzamon, and what she should or should not know about that. It could be another instance like that, but I would trust Moiraine – from the character that she’s been set up to be, I would imagine that Moiraine would know more about this than Lan would

EMILY: Yeah, it just makes her weird that she doesn’t want to talk to Perrin

SALLY: Yeah, and it’s, like, admittedly Perrin’s *annoying*

EMILY: Yeah, but like

SALLY: But you are collecting these lads, in your own words basically

EMILY: Wouldn’t you want to have this conversation with him?

SALLY: Wouldn’t you want to have this conversation?

EMILY: No one tries to comfort Perrin or Egwene after this. It’s really just kind of weird

SALLY: It's super weird

EMILY: It's just on to business

SALLY: I like to think off screen Moiraine is just braiding Egwene's hair or something. That's very charged in terms of Emond's Field, so not braiding hair but something else

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: So it's just annoying because it's another instance of Lan existing for the boys to have a male mentor to turn to as opposed to having to turn to Moiraine, who is a female figure of authority in their life

EMILY: Yeah, Lan's constantly giving Rand cosmic advice despite the fact that Moiraine's right there, also willing. Less willing in this particular instance, it seems

SALLY: Yeah, which is weird. I don't know why

EMILY: I put that down to bad writing and Robert Jordan not knowing his own characters

SALLY: We've talked about this before, where Moiraine's characterization is really weird in this book

EMILY: It hasn't settled yet

SALLY: She really pulls back a lot, and it just feels very weird

EMILY: For no reason

SALLY: For no reason

EMILY: Except he wants our first Aes Sedai character to be cryptic and mysterious

SALLY: [weird voice] mysterious

EMILY: Boring

SALLY: Yeah, it's annoying. So, anyway, Moiraine deserves better. Hashtag 2K18

EMILY: [sighs]

SALLY: I almost said 2K16. Wow

EMILY: Whoa buddy

SALLY: That was a long fucking time ago

EMILY: I'm glad it's not 2016

SALLY: Christ, aren't we all

EMILY: BELGH. Okay, well that brings us – plot heavy episode. Not a lot of long, tangled sidebars, I guess

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But that brings us to the end of Perrin and Egwene's side arc, mini-adventure. Next week we're bouncing over to Rand and Mat for probably a few episodes because we have to get through a few chapters with them, and a series of adventures. They're going to be meeting a lot of fucking Darkfriends. God, so many Darkfriends

SALLY: Meet a lot of Darkfriends

EMILY: Flirting with a lot of farmer's daughters

SALLY: Playing a lot of flutes

EMILY: Sleeping in a lot of gutters

SALLY: Yep, and as far as Mat's concerned: losing a lot of his mind

EMILY: Yeah, just losing brain cells left and right

SALLY: Just losing brain cells left and right. There he goes. Loses his sight for a little while. Oooh

EMILY: Yes. Talk about that

SALLY: Talk about that

EMILY: Super significant

SALLY: Got a lot of stuff coming up

EMILY: [laughs] We're more excited about it than we sound, we're just tired

SALLY: We're just tired. It's an interesting

EMILY: At least I'm excited about it. I like this segment. I know you don't

SALLY: I'm curious to see how I feel about it in the re-read

EMILY: We're gonna fight

SALLY: Any-hoo

EMILY: Elise wants to pop her popcorn

SALLY: Our roommate really wants to have some popcorn, which is totally understandable, so we're gonna sign this off

EMILY: Yeah, that's as good an excuse as any to leave this

SALLY: [signing] Popcorn popping on the apricot tree

EMILY: Look us up on socials and patreon and shit

SALLY: Yessss

EMILY: The end. Sign us off, Sally

SALLY: Oh my god. ‘Kay this is not the sign off that I was planning on, but today the intern at my work told me about how – she’s from Ireland so I’m sure this was, like, a total out of body experience for her. It is for me anyway and I live here. She was on the subway, and a woman was sitting and had her bag next to her, which is admittedly annoying when you have a lot of people on the train

EMILY: Yeah, when you want a seat

SALLY: Instead of saying something normal, he slapped her across the face with his newspaper

EMILY: A man? Who wanted a seat?

SALLY: A man who wanted to sit there. Slapped this woman across the face with his newspaper

EMILY: *What the fuck?*

SALLY: YEAH!

EMILY: *What the fuck?*

SALLY: And I was like, “What happened? Did anybody say anything?” And she was like, “No.”

EMILY: Were they both of sound mind? Did it seem?

SALLY: I don’t know. Anyway, that was not a very exciting sign off

EMILY: No, that was crazy. New York’s fucking crazy. Don’t move here

SALLY: New York is wild. The subway is experience like none other

EMILY: Ew