

## Episode 17 – “It’s Better Than Nothing”

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SALLY: Emily bought me flowers today because she’s a good boyfriend

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: She’s so good to me

EMILY: And I made mac n cheese, which was the real –

SALLY: Because she’s a good boyfriend

EMILY: – Boyfriendly duty

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: It was yummy mac n cheese, if I do say so myself

SALLY: It was really good. I ate too much of it, and I feel...very sleepy

[both laugh]

EMILY: So this will be an interesting episode. Heey

SALLY: Heeeeey, but it was very good. It was very like nice and [weird voice] Spi-cy

EMILY: [copying that voice] Nice and spicy

SALLY: [same voice] Nice and spicy. It was very good

EMILY: Yah, I am my father’s daughter. I just throw random spices on things to see how they turn out. One time I asked my dad what his mashed potatoes recipe was and he told me what he does, and then at the end he was like, “And then I just grab some spices from the spice rack, and toss them in there.” And I was like, “What? What spices?”

SALLY: Yeah, like cinnamon, Chris? What are you doing?

EMILY: He was like, “Just whatever looks good to me.” And I was like, “What the hell?”

SALLY: A lot of spices look really tasty. Like turmeric’s got a really nice fun color

EMILY: Yeah, I agree

SALLY: Do I want to put it in mashed potatoes? Actually I don’t know

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Could be interesting. I picked a bad example

EMILY: Yeah, it's hard to think of something that would be really terrible in mashed potatoes

SALLY: Mashed potatoes are just a perfect bed upon which to lay your spices

EMILY: Yeah, they're just so bland. I guess, yeah. Maybe Chris is on to something. He's never made bad tasting mashed potatoes

SALLY: Can you make bad tasting mashed potatoes?

EMILY: Exactly. So who knows? He's never screwed them up so badly that I believed his other recipes were, you know, acts of creation. [laughs] Anyway

SALLY: Anyway, stay tuned for our spinoff podcast about mashed potatoes I guess

EMILY: Um. Drunk cooking, but not drunk, because we don't drunk. So sad cooking

SALLY: Well, work's been pretty shit lately

EMILY: Okay, yeah. [laughs] Work's driving Sally to the bottle

SALLY: Work is driving me to a lot of things

EMILY: Copy

SALLY: We could do sad cooking

EMILY: Sad cooking

SALLY: It doesn't sound like a podcast anyone wants to listen to

EMILY: Sad kitchen [laughs]

SALLY: Welcome to sad kitchen

EMILY: We're all sad here

SALLY: We're all sad. Today we've met yet more pre-cut cookies. Then we talk about why we're sad

EMILY: Yeah. Oh, we should make cookies right now. Just kidding. It's late. 7:44pm. Our book news today is that when this episode comes out, it will be the week of Mother's Day

SALLY: Yeah!!

EMILY: So we both asked our mom what their favorite books were [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Okay, so my mom said that her favorite book – this is exactly what she said: “And Then There Were None by Aggie” [laughing] by which she means Agatha Christie

EMILY: I love that because it creates a world where your mom and Agatha Christie are on first name terms, and nicknames. And your mom's like, "Aggie, how are you doing, sweetheart?"

SALLY: She would

EMILY: And Agatha's like, "Sally!"

SALLY: Awww! Yeah, my mom and I do have the same name

EMILY: Yeah. Mama Sally

SALLY: Mama Sally. Everybody's sweetheart. But she said that was her favorite book. And she said it was her favorite book because it was a true mystery and she had no idea the ending. My mom is like – I know everybody is like, "I'm freakishly good at this," but my mom is like freakishly good at predicting how murder mysteries are going to come out

EMILY: Yeah, your mom reads so many murder mysteries and watches all the crime procedurals

SALLY: So she is like – yeah. Her favorite show, like, she still watches NCIS

EMILY: [softly] oh my goood

SALLY: She's probably that show's only viewer still

EMILY: I love her

SALLY: Yeah, I know. She's so weird, [laughs] but she had no idea what the ending was, and she said – she claims it was, "Very well written." So, there you go Aggie

EMILY: It was very well written

SALLY: I really like that one. I really like Agatha Christie books. They're really fun

EMILY: I do, too. I mean it's always jarring to read them now because they're super racist

SALLY: Oh yeah. I mean they are a product of their time in that they are ridiculous and racist. Like "Murder on the Orient Express." Orient

EMILY: Yeah [laughs]

SALLY: But murder mysteries are fun

EMILY: Yeah, they're super fun

SALLY: Period

EMILY: I don't know if I would have predicted that for your mom, but it makes so much sense

SALLY: I don't know what I predicted. I honestly predicted her to say the "No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" because she *loves* those books

EMILY: My mom loves those books too. So, goes to show you. They'd be friends

SALLY: I know. Our moms are weirdly similar in a lot of ways

EMILY: Yeah, although, Sally and I asked our moms this question around the same time. Sally's responded within 30 seconds. Mine got back to me 3 hours later

SALLY: [laughs] She's a busy lady!

EMILY: She doesn't believe [laughs] in speaking to me

[both laugh]

EMILY: So what do you think your favorite book is? I had to add the addendum 'besides religious texts' because I was worried she'd say

SALLY: The Bible

EMILY: The Book of Mormon or something like that

SALLY: Oh, I can't believe I just did that

EMILY: What? That's okay. Her favorite book could be the Bible. I don't know

SALLY: Could be the Bible

EMILY: It just Anne – my sister texted us in the group chat the other day and was like, "What are some self help books?" and I was like, "The Book of Mormon lol." And I literally said I only said that so no one else could make the joke, and then everyone else piped in with their self-help books that they actually knew. And then Anne said, "That was a test. Only Emily passed." And I was like [slapping the table], "I literally said it was a joke."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: My dad got all offended. Anyway, my mom said her favorite book was – that it changed everyday, she said, but "To Kill A Mockingbird" is one of her favorites

SALLY: Awww

EMILY: Yeah, which also makes sense. My mom is a great lover of fiction, especially like, not necessarily historical fiction, but realistic fiction. She doesn't read a lot of fantasy and stuff like that. And of course, "To Kill A Mockingbird" is a lovely book

SALLY: It's a lovely book

EMILY: She loves Scout, I'm sure

SALLY: Who doesn't?

EMILY: Yeah, who doesn't? Scout's loveable

SALLY: Dressed up as a ham [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] We also, um, my older sister when she was born, for some reason, was called ‘Boo’ by all my family members, which sometimes lengthened to ‘Boo Radley.’ I have no idea why, because my sister is the least Boo Radley like figure in the entire world

SALLY: It’s like Boo Radley’s exact opposite. On the other end of the spectrum you will find Sarah

EMILY: Sally met Sarah when Sarah screamed at her from a moving car

SALLY: [laughing] And I was like, “Okay. There it is.”

EMILY: She was like [high pitch], “Hi Sally!!”

SALLY: She’s very lovely. I love you, Sarah

EMILY: She’s also very loud and very dramatic, but

SALLY: We’re kindred spirits in that way

EMILY: Probably her favorite book is “To Kill A Mockingbird” too. I should ask. But that’s it.

SALLY: Those are our moms favorite books

EMILY: Read ‘em if you haven’t already. They’re classics

SALLY: Yeah, they’re both great ones. And ask your mom or mom figure what her favorite book this Mother’s Day. Start a conversation with your loved ones

EMILY: [laughs] hashtag

SALLY: This has been a public service announcement

EMILY: Ask your mom

SALLY: Ask your mom! Yeah! Hashtag ask your mom. About her book...s

EMILY: Yeah, you could ask her about

SALLY: You could ask your mom about a lot of things

[THEME SONG – “Tubthumping” by Chumbawamba]

EMILY: I always forget how to introduce us

SALLY: Well, this is episode 17?

EMILY: Yeah, hi. This is episode 17 of Everybody Hates Rand, the *Wheel of Time* podcast that just keeps coming back

SALLY: Ooh! Can’t keep us down

EMILY: No matter how you feel about it. We're still here. I'm Emily Juchau

SALLY: and I'm Sally Goodger

EMILY: And we are tired from eating lots of mac n cheese

SALLY: So much mac n cheese

EMILY: Probably gonna eat more after this. We might as well be honest

SALLY: If I don't fall asleep in the middle of this recording I will eat more mac n cheese

EMILY: Okay, don't fall asleep in the middle of this recording

SALLY: I'm so tired

EMILY: [laughing] Oh my god. Okay, we're gonna keep this short

SALLY: No! I will do it for my adoring fans

EMILY: Yep

SALLY: I will talk. I – no – I talk so much

EMILY: What?

SALLY: I'm so chatty

EMILY: Not when you're sleepy your not

SALLY: I don't have any concept of myself as a sleepy being because I feel like I never sleep

EMILY: That's actually – yeah. Sally has terrible insomnia whereas I can sleep literally anywhere

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: At the drop of a hat

SALLY: Speaking of two ends of a spectrum

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: We complete each other

EMILY: I was really jittery the other day and it was really troubling to me because my usual like resting state is just sort of vaguely sleepy and emotionless so. I was like [laughing], "What do I do? Is this what Sally feels like all the time? How do I handle this?"

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: “It’s too much energy. I’m gonna punch a wall. Aaaaaah”

SALLY: Yeah, like Mat. Mat punches walls

EMILY: Mat does punch walls

SALLY: There we go. We’ve connected it back to *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: Yeah, but not yet

SALLY: Sorry about my phone

EMILY: I have to look at this

SALLY: [singing] It’s all in the way! Okay, so welcome to your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. Spoiler alert, we play pretty fast and loose with the events of all books up until book 14 – what the fuck is that book called?

EMILY: [hesitantly] *A Memory of Light*?

SALLY: Sure. Up until that way

EMILY: [laughs] “What is that book called?”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Some dumb shit

SALLY: Some dumb title that nobody cares about. Because I haven’t ready. Emily doesn’t want to spoil the final battle, etc, for me. So if you care about that, spoilers and stuff, I’m sorry, but [sadly] I guess you should leave me, and Emily, and go do something...like eat mac n cheese

EMILY: Stop this podcast and eat mac n cheese. Ha! Beat you to it!

SALLY: Stop this podcast and eat MAC N CHEEEEEEESE! Everybody should be eating more mac n cheese, it’s God’s perfect food

EMILY: Okay. We’re still with dem boys

SALLY: DEM BOYZ

EMILY: It’s a little jarring, because actually we recorded our last episode earlier this week, so we just talked about them two days ago, and it’s like, I haven’t had enough time to separate myself from them. I’m still stressed.

SALLY: Do you know, in the last two chapters – I didn’t mention this in our last podcast – Mat is referred to as badger like once in each of those chapters?

EMILY: Are – you counted?

SALLY: Yeah, because I was like, “It’s weird to me.”

EMILY: I do recall reading the first little bit. I was skimming so I don't think I saw all four

SALLY: No no. Sorry. Once in each chapter, so twice in total. I don't know how to count

EMILY: Oh, in those two chapters

SALLY: In those two chapters that we talked about last week

EMILY: Okay, I did recall that it was weird that he was being referred to as a badger

SALLY: Yeah! It was just in such close proximity. Twice in two chapters, and earlier, of course, Mat infamously is introduced when he's like, "I got a fucking badger." So just

EMILY: What in the world? What does it mean?

SALLY: I don't know. Yeah we gotta unpack that

EMILY: He's – I'm so confused?

SALLY: Like, what is badger symbolism? I'm gonna have to dive – [sings] diiive in – to this badger symbolism

EMILY: I don't know if it – yeah. All Mat's symbols are trickster animals, which are usually like foxes and ravens. He's obviously always kind of described as long-limbed kind of like Anansi the spider god, a little bit. Just stuff like that. Or long legged like a stork. I don't know. Bird like

SALLY: [laughs] like a stork

EMILY: So the badger thing is a first book only, as far as I recall

SALLY: Yeah, and it may not mean anything. I was just like, "This is the third time in this book that Mat Cauthon has been badger adjacent."

EMILY: Associated with badgers

SALLY: [laughing] So I don't know what to make of that

EMILY: What a weird

SALLY: Very weird thing

EMILY: I mean it could be that – I'm not an expert on badgers, but don't they just hide underground? And aren't they just really scary?

SALLY: Yeah, badgers are mean

EMILY: I kind of picture them like swiping at something that gets too close to its nest

SALLY: Mat is very swipecy these chapters



EMILY: Swiper no swiping [laughs]

SALLY: Swiper no swiping

EMILY: So I guess it's kind of like adjacent to his dagger-influenced mental state? A little bit

SALLY: Dagger. Badger. Figured it out

EMILY: Yeah, and the badger in the beginning? That was just foreshadowing

SALLY: That was just foreshadowing. Damn Robert

EMILY: What a world. Glad we figured it out [laughs]

SALLY: Do you know – here is a fun fact, listeners – that I frequently introduce myself as Sally Goodger, like badger, but Goodger, because people never know how to say my name. Which I know everybody has that chronic problem, so there you go

EMILY: No that's okay. Do people go Good-gur?

SALLY: Mm-hmmm

EMILY: Huh

SALLY: I've gotten Goodyear, [laughs], which is confusing because that's a whole other letter. Anyway, we don't have to talk about that. That's just a fun fact, and also why I'm hyper-aware of badgers and their presence on the page

EMILY: Love badgers. We should look at some pictures while I synopsise

SALLY: I'm gonna look at pictures of badgers right now, while Emily is summarizing

EMILY: Yeah, okay. So these are – we're going to try to get through the next two chapters, up until where they get to Caemlyn, but again we're returning this really weird structure –

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Oh my god are you looking

SALLY: Their heads are so loooong

EMILY: [laughs] Show me

SALLY: Maybe it's just this one badger that's got a long head. Look at that head!

EMILY: What in the world?

SALLY: It's like it – [laughs really hard]

EMILY: Ahhhh! I hate it. It's mean! It's got fangs

SALLY: This one's very fierce. Strut

EMILY: Okay, now I'm picturing Mat Cauthon like

SALLY: Strut baby strut mmm mmm. Lives. They have really long faces. This is unexpected. This one's weirdly not badger like

EMILY: That doesn't look like a badger

SALLY: That's a fucking mongrel badger

EMILY: That looks like a ferret

SALLY: [whispers] Janus

EMILY: I need you to stop

SALLY: The two headed badger god [laughing]

EMILY: Stop

SALLY: Okay, synopsise. I'm gonna keep looking at badgers. They're kinda cute

EMILY: Ooo-kay. We're back to that weird –

SALLY: [laughs really loud]

EMILY: STOP IT!

SALLY: I'm sorry! The line under her is "Can badgers," – no "can *badger* catch STDs?" People's Trust for Endangered something

EMILY: People's Trust for Endangered Species. Are badgers endangered?

SALLY: I mean maybe. But can they catch STDs is the more important question. Koalas can give you chlamydia

[both laugh]

EMILY: I can't believe this badger sidebar is about to rival the *Hatchet* discussion

SALLY: No, I learned that Koalas can give you chlamydia from a One Direction meme

EMILY: [voice shaking] Oh my gooooooood

SALLY: Okay, Emily's telling you about these chapters that we read

EMILY: Yeah, can I say one thing? We're back to dumbass structure of these four or five chapters wherein it's like there's two timelines. There's the one that Rand's in when he's telling it to us, and the retrospective timeline, and instead of just doing a frame for the very beginning and very end of this retrospective, there's this middle section here, where it kind of flashes back to Rand on the road a little bit

later and now we've physically passed the point we were at in the very beginning. So it's almost like two little frames in each other

SALLY: The structure is very weird

EMILY: What a weird thing

SALLY: Here's a fun fact. More Russian Formalism. The Russian Formalists have two words, kind of words, for plot. I mean they are words – oh, Lord

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] The Russian Formalists have two words that can be applied to plot, and one of them is *fabula* and the other is *syuzhet*. Oh, I hope I get these right.<sup>1</sup> *Fabula* is the general narrative start to finish, like how the plot plays out, and *syuzhet* is the artful arrangement of events. So when you get narratives that are told out of chronological order or something like that, that means the book is being constructed in a different type of narrative or the *syuzhet*, so it's kind of a little bit what we have happening here

EMILY: I guess it's very telling that Robert Jordan has a very straightforward narrative structurally until this point

SALLY: And this is where Rand's brain starts to

EMILY: Fuzz a little bit

SALLY: Fuuuuu. So does Mat's. Everyone's just fucked

EMILY: This is a very liminal set of chapters where everything's just kind of going to hell, but we're not quite as aware of it as we could be

SALLY: Yeah, nobody really knows quite what's going on

EMILY: These are also significantly traumatizing chapters and they shape a lot of our characters going forward – Rand and Mat, I mean – and yet they're very rarely recalled

SALLY: Yeah, they never refer back to these chapters

EMILY: Yeah, which is interesting, because you would think these chapters would be so important. And I guess you could say the same about Perrin and Egwene's chapters. They rarely refer to them, except in terms of Perrin talking about the wolves, generally

SALLY: Except I never think of Egwene being like, "Ah, Elyas."

EMILY: Egwene never does, yeah

SALLY: I guess the Tinkers come back. Aram comes back

EMILY: But those are more like little narrative points that are coming back around

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<sup>1</sup> She did!

SALLY: That's true

EMILY: It's not like Mat and Rand are consciously thinking like, "Oh, that time on the road with Rand."

SALLY: Mat doesn't have the memories

EMILY: Mat has a decent excuse for it

SALLY: Rand doesn't

EMILY: Rand – yeah, I'm a little bit confused as to why Rand doesn't think about this more. When he thinks about – the more significant trauma for him I guess is sort of the events of Book 2, the end of Book 2, and his lonely road life in Book 3. Where a lot of similar things happen to him in Book 3 that happen to him in Book 2. He's kind of being hunted by Darkfriends, and he just kind of has to mercilessly deal with them in order to keep going. And again, that's sort of a weird liminal headspace that he's in in Book 3

SALLY: Yeah, Book 3 is great because Rand isn't in it much, and also great because the most interesting parts of Rand's story begin to happen. His battle with trauma and insanity. But those types of things also start to happen here, which is why I would argue this is really interesting for Rand as well, because it foreshadows Rand al'Thor in Book 3 *The Dragon Reborn*

EMILY: Yes. Yes. So, where we start Rand and Mat are kind of in a cart. They're hitchhiking. As anyone who lived in the 70s or 80s, or knows anything about the 70s or 80s, hitchhiking is a terrible idea

SALLY: Because that's how the serial killers get you

EMILY: That's literally how the serial killers get you. Oh my god it's such a bad idea. So really I'm more shocked that one of these wagon drivers isn't just like

SALLY: Isn't just a total creepo

EMILY: Yeah, but then again there's constantly in the chapters particularly, but also throughout the narrative, Darkfriends are more equated with the aristocracy

SALLY: Yeah, which is interesting

EMILY: They're supposed to be, like, people from all ranks and files and classes are supposed to be able to be Darkfriends, but at least through the point of view of Rand and Mat they tend to skew aristocratic. Whereas the more everymen dudes that we see here, the various wagon drivers that are helpful to these boys, and give them scarves and help them a little bit, are just, like, trustworthy figures

SALLY: Yeah. Hmm. This book is a communist text

EMILY: Yeah

[both laugh]

EMILY: [laughing] That's the conclusion that we've come to

SALLY: Only trust the working man

EMILY: I mean if this were through Mat's point of view then I would say it's because Mat himself is a Robin Hood figure so he's supposed to be representative of the everymen in the war against the aristocracy, but it's through Rand's point of view and his journey takes him into the heart

SALLY: Into the heart of the aristocracy, yeah

EMILY: How many times can I say aristocracy

SALLY: Ar-is-to-cra-cy

EMILY: Ugh god. Anyway, then it flashes back to them immediately after them leaving the inn where Rand called the lightning. It's really scary because there's a storm. Rand has to lead Mat by the hand. Finally they stop under some bushes. They both dream. Rand dreams of seeing Ba'alzamon with this Darkfriend who just almost caught them

SALLY: Yeah that dream is weird

EMILY: Yeah it's a weird dream because Ba'alzamon basically says, "Alive or dead, you are mine. The grave belongs to me." Which is just a straight up lie basically. So that's cool

SALLY: He's a liar!

EMILY: Partly because Rand is part of the reincarnation cycle so physically it's not happening, and also this is Ishamael speaking. He has nothing to do with anything

SALLY: Fucking Betrayer of Hope, Maker of Lies. Piece of shit

EMILY: But anyway, he has this troubling thing where he just disintegrates this Darkfriend

SALLY: Ugh

EMILY: Yeah, gross. But anyway, then he hits Rand with a fireball and that wakes him up, and he sees that Mat is also dreaming. And Mat says, "My eyes. Oh Light, my eyes. He took my eyes." Which of course is related to Mat's recent trauma of being blinded, but is also foreshadowing for Mat literally losing an eye in book...thirteen

SALLY: It happens in book thirteen?

EMILY: It's a long way coming, man

SALLY: God, for some reason I thought that happened like...soon

EMILY: Earlier? No, he has to get through a lot of shit to get there

SALLY: Poor baby

EMILY: It is, however, I guarantee you, one of the most narratively satisfying –

SALLY: I believe it, yeah

EMILY: – arcs, [whispers] ever. Basically [laughs]

SALLY: I believe. I believe

EMILY: My good boy Mat

SALLY: One eyeball

EMILY: Then there's this tender moment where Mat is crying on Rand, and it's very sweet

SALLY: UGH IT'S SO GOOD

EMILY: Rand's trying to comfort him

SALLY: Because admittedly, though Rand is stupid and I hate him, he's a very big boy

EMILY: He's a big boy

SALLY: And being hugged and cradled by such a big boy when you are sad. That would be really nice

EMILY: That would be nice

SALLY: It would be really good. You're just like lanky little Mat and you're like, "Rand I had a bad dream," and he just envelops you

EMILY: Rand and Mat – we did say in our last episode that they don't have a very touchy feely relationship, but they do have some of the most significant acts of touching each other in the series. Especially later, in book four, which is the next time that they're gonna be alone together, when they go to Rhuidean together and Rand has to resuscitate Mat, which is an extremely visceral and physical act of mouth to mouth and he's doing a ton of stuff to his body. Whatever shit. And then they're physically supporting each other on the way back. So, I don't really know what that means

SALLY: It's just interesting

EMILY: It always interests me that it's Rand and Mat, and that Rand's relationship to Perrin doesn't mirror that in some way. It's nice that there's this triad of boys, and you'd think that Rand and the center would have a mirroring effect on the other two boys kind of, and have similar relationships with both of them. But no, he has extremely different relationships to Mat and to Perrin. And Mat's always kind of like the best friend figure and Perrin's a little bit secondary, which is sad I guess, but Perrin isolates himself also. Especially after this book

SALLY: I'm gonna go get married and do stupid shit at home

EMILY: Save home. Oh wait, my whole family's dead. Oh wait I'm the worst

SALLY: I hate that so much. Don't have given him a whole family, Robert, if you were just gonna kill them

EMILY: He could have just been an orphan

SALLY: He literally could have been – he could have been the blacksmith's literal biological son. How hard would that have been?

EMILY: Or he could have also been adopted. That actually would have been cooler, because then there actually would have been some question in these books of whether ginger Rand, adopted Rand or, hey, adopted Perrin was the chosen one

SALLY: Also more than one person can be adopted in an entire society. There doesn't just need to be one adopted person

EMILY: But only adopted people are special, so

SALLY: Only adopted people are special, because we have to make them feel like they're different

EMILY: We have to other them

SALLY: We have to other them, but anyhow Mat and Rand do have a very interesting physical relationship, which is interesting. I'm going to think more about that

EMILY: Yeah, let me know if you have any thoughts about it

SALLY: I'm sure I won't

EMILY: Well, you might

SALLY: UGH I don't [softly] I'm stupid

EMILY: Anyway, they have a few interactions with these farmers, wagon drivers who are going place to place. They find out a few things: that there are lots of young men who are going to Caemlyn because they're interested in seeing Logain

SALLY: Get shot basically

EMILY: Yeah, and Rand and Mat are getting away with associating with these people even though they're telling everyone that they're not, basically. They have a few interactions with innkeepers. The closer they get to Caemlyn, the higher – the prices get hiked, of course

SALLY: They also meet an innkeeper whose name is Allwine, which is so good

EMILY: Which is, like, you weren't even trying, Robert

SALLY: He was just like, "Ah, fuck it."

EMILY: Robert was literally sitting at his desk, writing, and he was like [grumbling], "I need a name for this innkeeper." And Harriet came and brought him some wine and he was like, "All wine!"

SALLY: All wiiiiine [laughing]. I like the image that while he was writing Harriet would bring him a glass of wine

EMILY: [laughing] I don't know

SALLY: Why would that make –

EMILY: Maybe that's his ritual

SALLY: Okay first of all, don't make Harriet bring you wine. Get up and get your own damn wine

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Next time I'm writing will you just bring me a glass of wine

EMILY: I bring you things while you're writing all the time, so

SALLY: That's true. Emily's very good to me thus the flowers, thus the mac n cheese

EMILY: I'm like, "Do you want cookies? Do you want your Diet Coke? Do you want some tea?"

SALLY: A very good boyfriend

EMILY: It's just a thing you do when you love someone, is you bring them shit

SALLY: There you go, kids. Life lessons from Emily Juchau. Bring them shit, like all wine [laughs]. Anyway, they meet some innkeepers. Rand is basically like –

EMILY: They meet another Darkfriend named...

SALLY: Yeah, a little –

EMILY: I'm gonna say Peter

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Like every name

SALLY: Pay-terr

EMILY: Pie-ter?

SALLY: I like Pie-ter

EMILY: Pie-ter

SALLY: Pie-ter, like the Pied Piper

EMILY: Yeah, like every *Wheel of Time* name it's basically indecipherable [laughs]

SALLY: It's basically Peter

EMILY: It's Peter rearranged a bit. He basically comes up to them in the common room while they're eating breakfast

SALLY: He's not a very good Darkfriend

EMILY: He's a terrible Darkfriend. Literally Mat's like, "Darkfriend," and he's like [muttering]



SALLY: He's like, "NO!"

EMILY: [muttering] "You have to understand. They made me come here. I heard what happened at the other place." And it's just sort of brings into light – the only interesting thing we learn from Pairt, it's not like he does anything threatening

SALLY: He's just stupid

EMILY: The second Rand looms, six foot five

SALLY: [laughs] six foot nine

EMILY: He, like, pees himself and runs away, but basically the only thing we learn from him is that this web of Darkfriends is by no means good at communicating with each other, and that's the idea. If these people were actually in constant communication, or able at all to relay to each other what was happening, then there's no way Rand and Mat would make it to Caemlyn, because it wouldn't be just these two that they meet. Pairt and –

SALLY: And Gode

EMILY: And the lady

SALLY: Oh, and the lady! With the hissing dagger

EMILY: She comes back

SALLY: Cool

EMILY: No, she's a dick

SALLY: Not cool. Her dagger's cool, though

EMILY: Her dagger's cool

SALLY: But then Rand drops it in a bucket 'cause he's not a nice person

EMILY: [laughing] RIP her dagger

SALLY: He's just like, "Fuck your dagger. Fuck Mat's dagger, too."

EMILY: Oh, Rand punches this guy in the face

SALLY: Yeah Rand definitely punches Pairt in the face

EMILY: That's awesome

SALLY: And I'm like, "'Kay."

EMILY: And this guy's like, [muttering], "I don't care how strong you are. The Great Lord of the Dark is stronger." And a maid is like, "What the shit?"

SALLY: Maid is like, “Excuse me?” and he’s like, “Aw, beans,” and then runs out in the middle of the street because he’s shitty at his job [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] What a terrible Darkfriend. Robert Jordan was like, “My Darkfriends are too competent. I need to make them less competent.”

SALLY: I need to get this ‘My Dad Will Come After You’ kid, is basically who he is. Wait until my father hears about this. My father, the Dark One

[both laugh]

EMILY: [British accent] “Wait until my father hears about this.” Anyway

SALLY: Then they’re back on the road again!

EMILY: They’re back on the road, and Mat’s eyes are slowly getting better. By the time they get to an inn where Mat’s like, “I think I can juggle a little bit, as long as I don’t get too fancy.” That happens to be when Rand gets sick. They negotiate with the innkeeper and they’re sort of waiting to get on the stage and Rand just suddenly gets nauseous and breaks into a fever. It’s very sudden

SALLY: I know ugh

EMILY: His head space skews. He’s not really aware of Mat anymore. He’s dimly aware of Mat moving around and getting the innkeeper, and, [laughing] as we find out – Mat steers him into the stables and Rand’s like, “What’s going on?” and Mat’s like, “The innkeeper was scared the other folk would find out there was someone sick in his inn. I told him if he kicked us out I’d take you into the common room.”

[both laugh]

EMILY: How is Mat such a savage?

SALLY: I know. Fucking asshole

EMILY: He’s like, “There’s someone sick.” [laughing] Mat’s like, “You bet there’s someone sick. Do you want me to have him through up on people? Because I will. Give us a place to sleep.”

SALLY: So then they go into the stable

EMILY: Fucking con artist

SALLY: Mat is a con artist. What a legend

EMILY: I know. He’s such a weirdo. He gets Rand all settled in the stable. Matt goes looking for a lady to help

SALLY: A wisdom

EMILY: A wisdom, yeah. He comes back and he’s like, “There’s not a wisdom. There is a lady, but she’s ...”

SALLY: Creepy

EMILY: Well she's helping with a birth

SALLY: Oh, that's right. I'm getting my ladies mixed up

EMILY: Which is like, no offense, but childbirth matters more than Rand, so

SALLY: Yeah. What if that baby, you know, invents computers? [laughs] You never know

EMILY: [laughing] What if the baby's a human life? And deserves to be alive in the world?

SALLY: Okay, that too, but, like, what if the baby wants to grow up and invent computers?

EMILY: Steve Jobs is this baby?

SALLY: No. More, like who was Lord Byron's daughter? Ada Lovelace, who did all the cool stuff with math?

EMILY: Oh. Lord Byron had a daughter named Ada Lovelace and she was cool?

SALLY: Mmhmm

EMILY: I didn't know that. I didn't know anything good came of Lord Byron

SALLY: Nothing except – I mean, I don't know much about her. I can't assume blanketly that she was a good person. Her dad was a raging piece of shit. Not that that should be reflected on anyone. A lot of us have really shitty dads. My stance sense episode one has not changed. Not interested in dads

[both laugh]

SALLY: Okay. The baby is a human life! Emily is right. It is a human life and it deserves to live. Rand on the other hand

EMILY: Meh

[both laugh]

EMILY: But there is this sequence of care, only now it's reversed where Rand is sort of dreaming and having fevers and hallucinating, and Mat sort of the entire time is next to him fetching him things. Again! If you love someone you bring them shit

SALLY: I know. I'm sorry

EMILY: Mat's like, "Have some water."

SALLY: "Dingus."

EMILY: "Dingus. You fucking idiot, have some water."

SALLY: "Drink some water. AAH"

EMILY: “I fucking hate you!”

SALLY: Throws a Gatorade at his head

EMILY: Oh my goood

[both laugh]

EMILY: I know we don’t ship Rand and Mat

SALLY: But could you imagine?

EMILY: And I would never want to, but, like, in the world where I do ship them, that would be how their sex life would be. Mat would leave the room and throw a Gatorade at Rand’s head

[both laugh]

EMILY: “Thanks for the orgasm, dingus!”

SALLY: “Have some Gatorade. Electrolytes. Be back in 20 minutes.”

EMILY: “Be back in 20 minutes. I gotta...” What does Mat do?

SALLY: Steal shit? Gamble? “I gotta do a round of gambling before I get another round of you.”

EMILY: What the hell? ‘Kay

SALLY: That’s a weird alternate timeline that we’re working with

EMILY: Rand is having a lot of hallucinations. Of course he has one about Egwene

SALLY: [yells]

EMILY: She’s guilt tripping him

SALLY: Did you hear me on the floor over there just yelling? Groaning? That what I was groaning about

EMILY: She’s like [affected overly feminine voice], “Why’d you leave us? We’re dead because you left us.” And he’s like, “No! It wasn’t my fault! I didn’t want to leave you.” And it’s like, “Boring.”

SALLY: Shut up, Rand. Have more interesting fever dreams

EMILY: Blah, whatever. Then Moiraine’s there, and she’s like

SALLY: Looming

EMILY: Yeah. She says some cosmically interesting things. Thom is more interesting to me because he – Thom makes sense for me? Rand’s guilt complex stems a lot from Thom. That makes more sense to me than Egwene, because he finds out that Egwene’s fine

SALLY: Egwene's doing alright, kiddo. Better than you right now, fever fuck

EMILY: Yeah. There's Lan. Perrin gets barely a mention, so. Telling

SALLY: [laughs] That explains so much about Rand. He's like, "Mat is caring for me and then Perrin...[whispers] but Egwene."

EMILY: "And then Perrin's there." Anyway, oh my god. This is the cutest thing ever. Rand's like, "Who am I?" And Mat's like, "Can you chill?"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: "Rest easy. You're Rand al'Thor, that's who you are. With the ugliest face and the thickest head in the Two Rivers. Hey, you're sweating. The fever's broken."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And Rand's like, "Rand al'Thor?" And Mat's like, "Yes."

SALLY: "Unfortunately."

EMILY: And Rand like starts crying. He's like, "That's the most comforting thing that anyone's ever done. Is Mat, nodding at me, that that's who I am."

SALLY: "That's you!"

EMILY: "That's you, dingus. Tragically."

SALLY: "You big dummy. You're so big."

EMILY: I just want this to be Rand's epitaph. "The ugliest face and the thickest head in the Two Rivers."

SALLY: Mat is right. Thickest head for sure. Ugliest face? Yeah

EMILY: I repeat: the animosity between them is breathtaking

SALLY: It's breathtaking

EMILY: [laughing] It's so incredible

SALLY: Where Mat's just like, "Fuck you."

EMILY: "But I love you."

SALLY: "But I love you I think. [Groans.]"

EMILY: "So tall." Is he hot or is he just tall?

SALLY: [at the same time] Again: do I like him or is he just tall? Yep.

EMILY: Dunno

SALLY: The world may never know

EMILY: Anyway, Rand's next woken – and he's lucid because the fever's broken – by a woman entering the stable. She's in a fancy dress. Mat doesn't wake up because he's been caring for Rand for God knows how long, so he's out. Rand tries to wake him up. “Snorted and almost fell over us, he came awake.” That's a beautiful image.

SALLY: [mimics snorting]

EMILY: [mimics snorting, laughs] Uh, she says, “I came to look at my horse.” Of course, she doesn't look at any of the horses. Comes over, and basically tries to stab Mat, and Mat, because he's just like a bundle of pure reflex, dodges it and brings out the Shadar Logoth dagger and almost kills her with it. And, in fact, there's sort of an ethical conundrum where it seems like Mat would prefer to kill her because like

SALLY: Obviously

EMILY: She's a Darkfriend. “She tried to kill me, Rand. She would have killed you too. She's a Darkfriend.” But Rand says, “But we're not.” So, we're going to – again, this goes back to the whole we're the good guys so we never hurt anyone, which is a fallacy

SALLY: Booooooring. Yeah.

EMILY: Yeah, and super boring, and that's not the real world works

SALLY: That's not how the real world works, and also she's going to come after you, hoe

EMILY: But also I think that – now I'm thinking about this – I think we intentionally see Rand, specifically Rand, operating in this idealism where if you're a hero and you're a good guy then you never hurt anyone, and then the second he comes up against the impossible reality of good guys – everyone hurts other people when you're in situations like these – that's basically where his insanity comes from. He's just not able to handle it. As opposed to Mat and Perrin – Mat better than Perrin, sort of adapts to the reality of having to hurt people to protect yourself

SALLY: Here's Mat, again, survivalist

EMILY: Yeah Mat's, ugh, he's just like a little crazy survivalist

SALLY: Mat would have a bunker

EMILY: Mat would have a bunker [laughs]. Mat would have a really well stocked bunker because he's rich

SALLY: Mat would have an excellent bunker. Really rich. There'd be like a pool

EMILY: The fact that Tarmon Gai'don rolls around and Mat isn't in a bunker is just, like, proof that all the other characters dragged him out

SALLY: Of his bunker

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Tuon was like, “No.”

EMILY: Tuon was like, “Babe.”

SALLY: “You gotta get out of the bunker.”

EMILY: [laughing] “You gotta leave the bunker.”

SALLY: “Gotta leave the bunker.” And he’s like, “But.”

EMILY: He’s like, “I love it here!”

SALLY: “It’s so nice here.”

EMILY: “I have HD.”

SALLY: “I have HD!”

EMILY: “I have HBO.”

SALLY: “HBO. New season of *Game of Thrones*.”

EMILY: [laughing] “Gotta catch up on *Game of Thrones*.”

[both laugh]

EMILY: Tuon’s like, “Babe, you have to go lead the army.”

SALLY: “Babe, you have to go save the world.” He’s like [groans], “It’s too much.”

EMILY: Hashtag relatable

SALLY: Yeah, again, Mat’s the most relatable character. But you’re right, and that’s another really – Rand’s insanity is

EMILY: Continues to be the most interesting thing about him

SALLY: And the way that he’s dealing with violence and being a hero. And Rand – not that it’s particularly interesting – but he does have a moment here where he – Rand has a lot of meta moments about thinking about what it means to be a hero inside a story when he is, in fact, a hero inside of a story. And here he talks about how heroes never had to sleep in haystacks

EMILY: Which is particularly fun to me because Rand’s point of reference, it seems like, of course all these stories he hears from gleemen, but we’re also constantly told that Rand is a big fanboy of these one novel *The Adventures of* – what’s his name?

SALLY: Jain Farstrider?

EMILY: Jain Farstrider, who, we meet Jain Farstrider later in the series

SALLY: I'm so excited

EMILY: And he ends up being one of Mat's companions. And he's just, like, clearly he has spent most of his life sleeping

BOTH: in a haystack

EMILY: Mat's just like, "I have no idea who this ugly motherfucker is."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Because he's like got his face broken in multiple places. He's got mad scarring, mad limps. Stuff like that. He's just a piece of work

SALLY: Amazing

EMILY: Yeah, and he is the actual product of a life of, quote unquote, heroism

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Makes you a little sad, actually, that Rand doesn't ever meet him

SALLY: OH that makes me so sad

EMILY: I know. Sorry

SALLY: Son of a bitch. There's no point in reading the rest of the series

EMILY: Spoilers for Book 13, BUT – yeah because that's when we find out

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: It's amazing that Mat puts together – Mat's never read a book in his entire life

SALLY: "I read sometimes, too." [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Mat's most iconic line from Book 4. "I do read sometimes."

SALLY: "I do read sometimes."

EMILY: Everyone's like, "Bullshit."

SALLY: Cough cough. I'm always really interested – I don't know. This is another trope that I don't get super tired of. I'm really interested in heroes who seem to be aware to some degree of the past stories of heroism. Frodo and Sam do it all the time

EMILY: And they think of how they'll be perceived in the future

SALLY: Yeah. It's just really interesting



EMILY: I like it, I think, because that's one of the most relatable things that can happen, I think. Because if something happened to me ever, I think that would be my frame of reference

SALLY: Oh yeah

EMILY: The things I've read and the things I've seen

SALLY: Of course

EMILY: You'd be like, "Ugh, Harry Potter never dealt with this shit."

SALLY: I think about that sometimes

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: I'm like, "God. Harry Potter never had to deal with this god damn train traffic."

EMILY: Ugh

SALLY: [laugh]

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: I mean, maybe. I don't know. London. It's pretty packed in there

EMILY: Oh, yeah. True. Okay

SALLY: Focusing. We're not talking about trains. Although, I love trains

EMILY: Fo-CUS. Whatever. They lock this Darkfriend bitch in a shed. They get rid of her creepy dagger, which, I don't know. Is acid? Or some shit

SALLY: Throw it in a bucket. 2d4 acid damage

EMILY: Yeah [laugh]

SALLY: In a bucket. That would be a pretty decent dagger

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: I don't actually know the stats of a dagger. I play and Dungeons and Dragons and I don't know how it works

EMILY: Does anyone in your party use a dagger? You aren't usually armed with daggers unless they're like

SALLY: I mean, I think people, like, have them. As secondary weapons

EMILY: Okay. Oh my god

SALLY: Perry probably does

EMILY: Anyway, they immediately get up after they've locked her up because she mentions something about the guy, a Fade

SALLY: A baddie!

EMILY: That's terrible. And Mat says, "Can you walk?" And Rand says, "I can't dance, but I can walk. I'll run."

SALLY: Loser

EMILY: And they leave the village, find someone to hitchhike with, that happens to be the guy they started the chapter with, or something. It's ridiculous

SALLY: It's soooo, like, it doesn't even – trying to unweave it would be a mess. What is even happening here? If someone told me map these, I'd be like, "Nooo."

EMILY: It took me, I'm sure, like four read throughs to understand this. What's going on, and even now I can't put it into words, which just goes to show you

SALLY: It's bizarre-o

EMILY: Whatever, they finally get to the last village, as it is proclaimed in the chapter title

SALLY: It's got the bad guy heading

EMILY: Yeah it's got the skull chapter heading

SALLY: The title....the tile. What's it got? Pitchfork, skull, and a fist because it's a fist of Trollocs

EMILY: But they don't see a first of Trollocs, do they?

SALLY: No, but that's what they say in the background that the Trollocs are called, is a fist. It's their unit [muttering, both laugh]

EMILY: I'm pretty sure the only thing of interest that happens in this chapter is they're in this little village and they see a Fade

SALLY: Yeah, and then they catch a ride with a nice old man who's basically like, "I'm gonna go to Caemlyn or die trying, Motherfuckers." Then he sets out in the middle of the night, like a legend

EMILY: Yeah, there's sort of this constant karmic balance thing going on throughout these books. For every terrible thing that happens, something good is going to happen. For every bad guy you meet, there's going to be really nice people, too. And that's sort of represented here by – they see a dude talking to a Fade, another sort of

SALLY: Another Darkfriend

EMILY: Another Darkfriend

SALLY: Who's gross

EMILY: Raymond Holdwin

SALLY: Raymond Holt?

EMILY: Raymond *Holdwin*

SALLY: [muttering] I know, it was a joke

EMILY: [laughing] Okay, sorry!

SALLY: It's okay, but here's a Darkfriend who's moderately decent at his job, unlike Paitr. He's like – yeah. And there's also some Darkfriends who made up a story about how they stole this Heron marked blade, so people need to turn them in because they are thieves

EMILY: Yeah, he's just like, "I've been hearing about these guys' blades," but of course it doesn't work because this guy immediately runs into Rand and Mat and is like, "Nice sword you got" basically

SALLY: He's like, "Stupid dingus."

EMILY: "I don't care."

SALLY: And then they set out. And then they basically – this part is always really interesting to me because it is a little bit of an exposition dump, a little bit. Where they're telling you how Andor works and the history of that a little bit, but it also is, um, this guy basically – in an earlier episode I talked about the thinning that starts to happen around a catastrophic event in fantasy, where the world is being stripped away in layers, and here we have this guy kind of talking about the beginnings of that. Where he's just like, "A lot of shitty things are happening." The current social, political, economic – there was a guy a bit back who had to buy hay for the first time in his life because he's crop wasn't growing, and small things like that, but here this guy begins to add them all up. So we get a further sort of iteration that we are on the trajectory towards calamity. All these little things are adding up and we're headed towards it. We cannot stop the fact that fate is putting us on this path and things are getting bad. And there can be bad times politically without it having to end up in a calamity or an apocalyptic event, but because we know

EMILY: Because it's a *book*

SALLY: We know that this an underpinning of that

EMILY: It especially feels like a culmination of their entire journey this guy, because throughout the entire journey they've been talking about how people are slamming doors in their faces as a product of the time. And it sort of struck me this read through that we haven't really seen what the times are like because we've been so stuck in the Two Rivers. Once we got out of the Two Rivers, we were so stuck in our own heads

SALLY: No, I was thinking about that too. They keep talking about what the times are like, and I'm like, "What are the times like? Are they at war? What's going on?"

EMILY: Yeah, we've heard about a couple of False Dragons, but at this point, Robert Jordan hadn't really fleshed out the rest of the world, so it's like

SALLY: So it's like, "What times, Robert?"

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: “What’s going on?” And so here we kind of get the first inkling, which is again why the structure of these chapters is so confusing, is because we’re going back and forth. We never get an introduction to what the world is like. So it’s interesting in a way to feel it coming out before you totally understand what’s going on, but you get here and you’re like, “Oh. Some shit is shit out here.”

EMILY: Yeah, and we don’t just have this guy – what’s his name?

SALLY: [muttering] What’s his name? Weirdo

EMILY: Bunt

SALLY: Bunt? Like the cake?

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Bunt cake told them

EMILY: Yeah, Bunt Cake is the one who’s listing all these terrible things that happened, but he’s talking to the Darkfriend when he’s talking about that, I think?

SALLY: I thought he was talking to Rand and Mat? Because Mat [laughing] and the end of the chapter is like, “I couldn’t sleep because this guy wouldn’t shut the fuck up.”

EMILY: Oh well. He talks to the Darkfriend about kind of like how the roads are unsafe and shit like that, but then, yeah, he does talk to them about sort of the lead up of...yeah, you’re right

SALLY: The dra-mama

EMILY: You right, man. “The weather, the crops failing, cows drying up, calves and lambs born dead or with two heads. Bloody ravens don’t even wait for things to die.” God. But yeah, then he goes kind of into a history lesson and I think that [laughing] is what keeps Mat up

SALLY: And Mat is like

EMILY: Mat is like, “I’ll literally die.”

SALLY: “I’ll die!”

EMILY: “I don’t give a single shit about the royal family of Andor.”

SALLY: Yeah! Because then he basically tells us the history of Elayne and Gawyn’s [laughs] illustrious father

EMILY: [blows out lips] that’s what I think of that

SALLY: And their relationship with the White Tower, etc, etc

EMILY: Yeah, and all that is necessary information that I think we’ll get into next time

SALLY: Yeah, absolutely. We can talk about the royal family and Andor, and go back, once again – seems to be a running theme this month – we are with our favorite fitness twink

EMILY: Yup

SALLY: For a little bit

EMILY: Ga-lad

SALLY: And our least favorite frat boy

EMILY: But yeah this whole history lesson of Caemlyn and Andor will be important, just not for the purposes of this episode

SALLY: Yeah, all history [mumbling] is important history I guess, but for now the boys are safely, more or less, to Caemlyn

EMILY: They have finally

SALLY: They have finally arrived

EMILY: After one more creepy dream

SALLY: Where again stupid stuff is happening with Egwene and I'm like, "Who cares?" Rand is having bad dreams, Mat is going full Gollum

EMILY: But they finally got to Caemlyn [bangs table]

SALLY: But they finally got to Caemlyn. Good job, boys [also bangs table]

EMILY: Boys, you did it!

SALLY: You done did it

EMILY: Now Mat can go waste away in his hotel room, like a nerd

SALLY: And they can meet Loial

EMILY: [high pitched] Oh my god, Loial!

SALLY: I love Loial

EMILY: [still high pitched] We get to meet Loial next episode

SALLY: I'm so excited

EMILY: And the innkeeper. Basel Gill

SALLY: UGH Basel Gill

EMILY: His name's *Basel*. I love him

SALLY: I know. Basel is a lad

EMILY: And then after that we get to meet like nine people who are important

SALLY: Yeah, and then people just keep coming

EMILY: I know

SALLY: That's the theme of *Wheel of Time*, really. People just keep coming

EMILY: Yeah, it's like a like a like a – what's the word?

SALLY: Rolodex?

EMILY: No, sorry I made that motion. Never mind

SALLY: Do you know I had an actual Rolodox on my desk –

EMILY: It's an exponential growth of people that we meet!

SALLY: Oh! It is an exponential growth of people. It's just like *bing*

EMILY: Yeah, we go from Basel Gill and Loial to the next chapter it's like we see Logain, we meet Elayne, we meet Gawyn, we meet Galad, we meet Morgase, we meet Elaida, we meet Tallanvor

SALLY: Who's the Gareth Bryne

EMILY: Oh yeah! We meet Gareth Bryne

SALLY: And that literally is eight people

EMILY: Eight people, what the fuck? Whatever man. All those people are important-ish. I wish they weren't

SALLY: Do we really meet Tallanvor?

EMILY: Yeah, he's the one

SALLY: God I hate him so much

EMILY: Yeah, I think he escorts Rand. Maybe we don't meet him here

SALLY: I mean I feel like – I know Mat sure does

EMILY: Mat meets him for sure

SALLY: Whatever he's annoying either way

EMILY: I know blegh

SALLY: Gag

EMILY: Kill me. Okay. Anything else? I think that was a weird episode, but whatever

SALLY: That was a weird episode. I'm sorry it was mostly me. I'm a little bit of an energy suck right now. I'm sorry, listeners. I wish I could have been in better spirits for you this episode, because you deserve the best, because you are the best

EMILY: We'll be back next week, with all our family out of town again, so hopefully with more energy to spare

SALLY: Hopefully I'll still be alive. It's fine. We'll be back, family out of town. By the time we – we're not recording next week

EMILY: Which isn't relevant to you

SALLY: You guys don't care about that, but we're not recording next week. By the time we record next hopefully the huge event at my work will be over, so hopefully I won't want to kill myself. I mean I might still want to be dead

EMILY: Maybe you'll have a sweet blissful week where just nobody gives a shit at the office

SALLY: [whispers] I hope so. My god. [normal volume] But anyway, we'll be back to talk about Caemlyn [hums the victory song from *Final Fantasy*]

EMILY: One of the main-est settings

SALLY: One of our main-est settings

EMILY: Yeah. The city that's gonna be under siege by multiple people. It's gonna be taken. Rand's gonna attack it

SALLY: Rand's gonna attack it. Mat's gonna punch Rand there when Rand tries to hug him

EMILY: Yeah. Oh my god I love that scene

SALLY: It's so good [laughing]

EMILY: Speaking of their physical relationship. Rand: tries to hug Mat. Mat: like suckerpunches him in the kidneys

[both laugh]

EMILY: Mat was the first character I met that like [claps] him I can get behind. In all of literature. I was like, "I understand him in a way I can't express." Look us up on Twitter EHR\_Podcast. Gmail: [everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com). Wordpress, uh

SALLY: [ehrpodcast.wordpress.com](http://ehrpodcast.wordpress.com)

EMILY: Yep that's our website. You can find our transcripts there if you need them for any reason. Our Patreon, look that up

SALLY: [patreon.com/everybodyhatesrand](https://patreon.com/everybodyhatesrand)

EMILY: Yeah, it's a fun website, even if you don't donate to us

SALLY: Yeah! You can look at other –

EMILY: I labored over it, so

SALLY: What?

EMILY: I said I labored over it, so

SALLY: Yeah – ours is really good and Emily does so much work on our Patreon, because Emily is a fucking rockstar

EMILY: [whispers] I want money

SALLY: Because she's a rockstar

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: It's super awesome, and even if you don't support us you can look at all the other really great content creators out there who are putting really great work into the world. Lot of them, like us, in their spare time, so if you like what any of us do considering donating yaaaaaaaaaay!

EMILY: I think that's it, do you want to sign us off?

SALLY: Yeah [laughs] um so on the theme of it being a family oriented week. Moms at the beginning, family all over. My two brothers and one of my sisters-in-law have started listening to this podcast

EMILY: Oh no!

SALLY: So thank you, if you guys make it to episode 17, I have no idea if you will, but if you made it here, thank you first of all for the love and support. None of them, none of them have read *Wheel of Time*. I need to let you guys know that, none of them have read *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: God bless

SALLY: Ian tried. He didn't like it. Fair

EMILY: Yeah, yeah. No judgment

SALLY: No judgment [laughs], but I was talking to my brother Ian about it, because he works at a job where he gets to listen to a lot of stuff, and he was like, "I just finished my newest book, what should I read?" so I was giving him recommendations and then I was like, "Or you could listen to *Wheel of Time*!" and he was like, "Nah...I'll just listen to your podcast" which was super sweet and I was like, "Aw thank you so much. You don't have to." And he was like, "Well, it's better than nothing."



[both CACKLE]

SALLY: [laughing] So that's our new sub...subtitle. Or new slogan

EMILY: Everbody Hates Rand, colon, it's better than nothing

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: It's better than the dead silence you could having [laughing] in the privacy of your own terrible, existential thoughts

SALLY: [laughing] It's better than that!

EMILY: God Ian I love you

SALLY: [laughing] It's better than the void inside your head I guess. So thanks for tuning in this week to Everybody Hates Rand. It's better than nothing!

[both laughing]