

Episode 20 – “That is NOT Dope”

Running Time: 48 minutes

Release Date: May 28, 2018

EMILY: Mouth full, alcohol in your tea cup, we good

SALLY: [mouth full] I’ve never

EMILY: Don’t talk with your mouth full

SALLY: Recorded – You’re not my mother [laughs]

[pause]

SALLY: [more laughing] Welcome

EMILY: This is where we’re at right now

SALLY: For the record, I’ve never recorded this podcast in any degree of intoxication

EMILY: However much it may seem [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] yeah, that’s literally just how I am as person thanks to my incredible sleep deprivation and toxic brain chemistry

EMILY: That’s true

SALLY: [laughs] I’m doing great

[both laugh]

EMILY: How many Excedrin have you taken today?

SALLY: Son of a bitch! I just spilled all over myself. This is the second week in a row that I’ve spilled on myself in the middle of the recording [groans]

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: I haven’t taken any Excedrin today

EMILY: Well

SALLY: I guess I’ll just be covered in alcohol now. Guys I’m so messy today [laughs]. Like physically and on, like, an internet understanding of it

EMILY: At least you have a little mini vacation coming up

SALLY: Okay, this is not a podcast about how ridiculous I am. This is a podcast about *The Wheel of Time* [laughs]

EMILY: This is a podcast about how ridiculous Rand is

SALLY: Yeah. Okay, we don't have much book news this week. Just a little sliver. Just a little taste It's a follow up from last week

EMILY: Oooh, feed me that nibble

SALLY: [pauses]

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: From last week's to let you know neither Emily or I's very well researched predictions for the Nebula played out

EMILY: Damn! *Spoolnfuckers* didn't

SALLY: [laughs] *Spoolnfuckers*

EMILY: I was gonna say spool, but then I was like, "No, no spoon. Like *The Matrix*, but then I say fuckers."

SALLY: That's okay

EMILY: So there's a lot going on. You're not the only one who's a little *whoo*

SALLY: *WHOO*. Haven't even drank yet. It's coming. Neither *Spoonbenders* or *Jade City* won. Tragic, because

EMILY: That's such a shame

SALLY: We did really good math there to figure that out

EMILY: Yeah, based totally on the one I saw first

SALLY: But N.K. Jemisin did win. She ended her reign

EMILY: [gasps] She got her Leonardo DiCaprio year!

SALLY: She did. She ended her reign as always the nominee, never the award winner

EMILY: Wow

SALLY: So yeah

EMILY: What are you feelings about Leonardo DiCaprio?

SALLY: What are my feelings about Leonardo DiCaprio? I don't really get it

EMILY: I don't either

SALLY: Those are my feelings

EMILY: I get it in *Romeo + Juliet*, which you have not yet seen. One day I'll show it to you. Because he's like peak...he looks like a soft butch lesbian in that movie, which, as you know, is a turn on [laughing] for me

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: He's just what all lesbians aspire to be. Is Leonardo DiCaprio in *Romeo + Juliet*. But then he appears in *Titanic*, and I don't get it then even though that was, I don't know, ten months apart practically

SALLY: I don't get it

EMILY: I certainly don't get it know that he's middle aged

SALLY: I don't get it on a physical level. I also don't get it on an acting level. Everyone's like, [reverent whisper], "Leonardo DiCaprio," and I'm like, "*whomst?*"

EMILY: I don't think he's charming at all. The one time I've seen him be charming is that video where he's on *Ellen* talking about that time he was on a flight where the engine exploded or something. And that's a legitimately funny story and he does voices, and it's very cute. But I've never – his speeches, his presence at award shows, it's all the most bland thing possible

SALLY: It's all very bland. His looks are very bland

EMILY: I don't get it

SALLY: I don't get it

EMILY: Okay well

SALLY: That's my opinion on Leonardo DiCaprio

EMILY: It's the exact same opinion with NK Jemisin

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: We don't get it

SALLY: I don't get it. I really don't. Admittedly, I've only read one of her books. Admittedly, I've only seen like two Leonardo DiCaprio movies

EMILY: Which two?

SALLY: *Titanic*, tragically – that I also don't get. *Titanic* is stupid. There we are. Drawing lines in the sand. *Titanic* fucking sucks [laughs]

EMILY: I saw *Titanic*, it was on TV, and I was sick, and that was the appropriate headspace, I think, for watching *Titanic*. Because by the time it was over, it's like a five hour fucking long movie, I was like, "I'm ready to be dead."

SALLY: Yeah it's so long

EMILY: Fucking let him freeze in the ocean, Rose, because I am ready to freeze in the ocean. Just kill us

SALLY: Let me die!

EMILY: Just kill me!

SALLY: [laughs] That is my feeling at the end of *Titanic*

EMILY: Shia Labeouf – JUST DO IT!

SALLY: Exactly. Just kill me dead. The only good thing to come out of *Titanic* is the reference in that Britney Spears' song. I think it's "Oops! I Did it Again" where she's like, [feminine voice], "I thought the old lady threw it in the ocean," and he's like [masculine voice], "Well I swam down and got it for you, baby." Like a fucking dumbass. And it's really funny. Okay, anyway

EMILY: There's a voice segment?

SALLY: Yeah there's a voice segment

EMILY: Sally knows everything about Britney Spears and I know two things about Britney Spears. Specifically, I know one of her songs and it's not one of the songs you'd think

SALLY: It's "Circus"

EMILY: Yeah, it's "Circus"

SALLY: Okay so that was our slice of book news

EMILY: Onward

SALLY: So onward...that's...yeah

EMILY: That's yeah

SALLY: That's yeah!

EMILY: Theme song

SALLY: Bop!

[THEME SONG – “Tubthumping” by Chumbawamba]

SALLY: So we've regrouped after listening to “Tubthumping” by Chumbawamba

EMILY: We've regrouped as in we've stayed in the exact same position. Hi. This is Everybody Hates Rand

SALLY: [giggles]

[a pause]

EMILY: Our neighbors are just flat out screaming

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Which is sort of the mood

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: I'm Emily Juchau. She's laughing too hard to introduce herself, but that's Sally Goodger

SALLY: It's no noise either. It's just like voiceless yelling [laughing]

EMILY: I don't want to even talk about what's been happening with our neighbors. Some apartment in our building is on the market so the realtor's been taking people up and down. And because we have no soundproofing, I hear every agonizing syllable of his attempts to sell the place. Here's one of the exact phrases that I heard today. As he's walking up the stairs he's like, “Now, we have roof access, which is dope. And there's like a laundry unit downstairs in the basement, so you can do your laundry there, which is sick. And there's just six apartments in this building, which is dope.” He literally said “which is dope” twice

SALLY: It's dope that there's six apartments in this building

EMILY: Are you trying so desperately to relate to the teens? No one's said "that's dope" or "that's sick" since 2011

SALLY: Yeah, sorry bruh

EMILY: It's so funny

SALLY: Is he the realtor? I always thought it was one of the people who lived there. Maybe I just hear him so often

EMILY: When I went out to pick up the takeout – because of course we just had Indian food – I went to pick up the takeout and he was hanging out waiting for the next appointment or whatever. I don't know if I recognized him, but

SALLY: Well, that's dope

EMILY: Yep. It's dope

SALLY: We'll keep you updated. See whether or not they sell the apartment

EMILY: Will they? Probably not. Why would they? It smells constantly of weed

SALLY: Yeah. That's dope too

EMILY: People are screaming

SALLY: Just nonsensically

EMILY: Just, yeah, for funsies

SALLY: Okay, but that's your update from Everybody Hates Rand offices

EMILY: Headquarters

SALLY: Headquarters. HQ. This is, as it were, Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. Here's your requisite spoiler alert: we play very fast and loose with the events of all books up until Book 14. So, if that's not your jam, gotta go jam somewhere else

EMILY: Farewell

SALLY: Fare thee well

EMILY: That is NOT dope

SALLY: That is not dope

EMILY: The title of this episode is gonna be

SALLY: That is not dope

EMILY: That is NOT dope

SALLY: Um, everything about *The Burning Maze* by Rick Riordan is perfect. It's a perfect book

EMILY: 'Kay, you're gonna need to tell me how this ties in [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] But the best part is that the arrow speaks in Shakespearean English, so I was thinking 'fare thee well' and it's just an arrow that's yellow

EMILY: Stop this podcast. Go read everything by Rick Riordan, but particularly his new *Trials of Apollo* series. He's three books in. It's gonna be five books, so I guess wait if you want to read them all at once

SALLY: But why would you delay?

EMILY: It's delightful. I love having a Greek god narrating and being a bisexual idiot teen

SALLY: He's both an immortal Greek god and also an idiot bisexual teen all in one. It's perfect

EMILY: Mostly the experience you get when you're reading these books is that Rick Riordan, who's, I don't know, fifty something. He has a kid who's an adult, I think. Rick Riordan, middle aged white dude, is just unleashing his inner gay teen that he's been

SALLY: Repressing for decades

EMILY: He's like, "Finally."

SALLY: "Finally my moment."

EMILY: "Finally my chance to shine."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Okay, speaking of inner gay teens

SALLY: Oh my god, we get to meet my best gay boy

EMILY: Yeah. Okay, so. Where we left off. Rand had just fallen into the fucking garden

SALLY: Help I've fallen

BOTH: And I can't get up

SALLY: What if he didn't get up?

EMILY: What if this entire book changed?

SALLY: What if Rand died? What if Elayne found Rand's dead body?

EMILY: A short-lived romance

SALLY: Yeah. She's like, "Ah man. I would have loved him." It's like *While You Were Sleeping* but instead he's in a coma [laughing]

EMILY: Can you imagine if Rand spent the next 14 books in a coma?

SALLY: I would fucking die

EMILY: Because it would be so great. Because the Dragon would technically still be alive, so the world wouldn't end

SALLY: Everything could still happen. Oh my god. You just fixed *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: I just fixed *Wheel of Time*!

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Rand's in a coma an entire time

SALLY: And Egwene saves the world

EMILY: No, I'm trying to think who would do all the political work in the – I guess Moiraine. She wouldn't die if she didn't have to protect

SALLY: Keep Rand's dumbass alive

EMILY: Yeah. She'd just do all the work of uniting the eastern front or whatever. Umm yeah

SALLY: Pretty lit

EMILY: Wish that had happened. Sadly, it doesn't

SALLY: Sadly, he wakes up. And is like [mutters]

EMILY: He's like, "Ber ber ber?" He has a little dream sequence where he sees Moiraine and Logain and then it's Ba'alzamon and then he's like [yells]

SALLY: [yells] "I'm awake." And then there's like 87 of pages of what Elayne is wearing and what she looks like and it sucks

EMILY: [groaning] oh my goooood

SALLY: At one point he's like, "She was just as pretty as Egwene, but in like a different way." And I'm like, "You mean she's white?"

EMILY: "She was completely different from Egwene in height and face and body, but every bit as beautiful."

[a pause]

SALLY: Gross

EMILY: I [laugh] continue to believe that no man should ever describe a woman, because you can't apparently. Your license is revoked. I'm speaking to you, men. Just stop it

SALLY: Just don't

EMILY: Just stop describing things, because apparently you can't even describe other men. Because when Rand gets Galad in a few pages, he literally can't fucking handle how – just – it's a twink. Say, "There's a twink, dude."

SALLY: He's just beautiful

EMILY: "A slender, beautiful man approached."

SALLY: He's literally like

EMILY: You don't have to go all My Immortal Ebony Dementia Ravenwing whatever the hell. JUST STOP

SALLY: Rand is literally like, "A handsome man approached, but he was almost *too* handsome to be masculine." And I was like, "What?" So it's only comfortable to you if he's a feminized handsome? You're stupid

EMILY: Yeah, or just men can't be pretty

SALLY: Yeah and he also uses the word handsome instead of just being like, "That's a gorgeous ass man."

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: "He's beautiful."

EMILY: Everyone's like, "He's fucking gorgeous." God

SALLY: Everyone just like, "Damn, that's a beautiful man."

EMILY: We get it Rand no homo, also that's your half brother. So like fine

SALLY: It's weird. Just be like, "And he was very handsome. Period."

EMILY: UGGH

SALLY: What does he say about Gawyn? Isn't he just like, "Gawyn looked like Elayne?"

EMILY: Yeah he's like, "Oh, he's a little older but he looks like Elayne "close kin" and he's wearing fancy clothes." He's just a fancy boy, up in a tree

SALLY: Ah! A fancy lad

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: A dandy if you will

EMILY: Hmmm. Yeah that's Gawyn. If ever there was a dandy, it's Gawyn

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Never mind that's title of this podcast

SALLY: If ever there was a dandy

EMILY: He spends so long describing Elayne, and I can't emphasize enough how much I hate this chapter just because it fits into every stereotype of fantasy that there fucking is from Disney to, I don't know, *Lord of the Rings*. You just can't fucking meet someone and them be a normal person. No they have to be royalty

SALLY: They have to be royalty, but they also have to be quirky, plucky royalty. In this chapter they talk about how she, like, saves strays. Never again in this story do we see Elayne giving a single fuck about anything

EMILY: Elayne whips out her stuff to heal Rand, you know? And I'm like, "Where the fuck does this come from?" Elayne never

SALLY: Elayne is an asshole

EMILY: Has zero capacity, for the record, as a channeler. And generally doesn't seem to give a shit

SALLY: Also where is she keeping it?

EMILY: [whispers] I don't know

SALLY: I guess I mean those dresses have a lot of folds

EMILY: Does she have pockets?

SALLY: She just whip it out of her bosom?

EMILY: She's got a velvet cloak lined with pale fur on her shoulders

SALLY: Also, the color scheme doesn't make sense

EMILY: "A cluster of silver bells at the peak." Why would you climb a tree in a cloak that has bells?

SALLY: Why would you? Why? Why would you climb a tree in a dress at all?

EMILY: Everything about this

SALLY: Girl, put some goddamn pants on

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: I don't even know if she could climb a tree in that dress. It's basically –

EMILY: Apparently she can because she's so

SALLY: She's so, like, cool

EMILY: Determined and quirky

SALLY: She's so quirky. So stupid

EMILY: She's literally immediately sort of synched as love interest

SALLY: Oh yeah

EMILY: Just in this context

SALLY: She's absolutely coded as a love interest

EMILY: Just oh she's super beautiful and, I don't know. He's immediately attracted to her, but he won't let himself acknowledge that he's attracted to her because he already has someone he's attracted to?

SALLY: Bruh I walk down the streets and I'm like, "Attracted. Attracted. Attracted." Shut up

EMILY: Yeah, it's, like, okay you and Egwene haven't made any fucking promises. You're not actually engaged. It's all in your head. You fucko

SALLY: He's such a fucko

EMILY: [groans] It's just like painful to read

SALLY: This chapter is incredibly painful to read

EMILY: It's painful also because Rand's stupid. It takes him so long to pick up on what's going on

SALLY: It takes him so long to be like, "God they were talking Logain to the palace and I was near the center of the city and I climbed up a big wall and now a fancy lady in a very pretty garden is looking at me being like, 'My mother won't hear about this.'" And he literally has to ask who your mother is. He doesn't piece it together at all, that he is in the palace garden

EMILY: And he hears their names, Elayne and Gawyn, like two pages before he

SALLY: And I guess we could argue that he did get a concussion or some shit

EMILY: I don't want to argue that on his behalf. It's just that a smart narrator would piece this together

SALLY: But Rand is not smart

EMILY: Rand's bookish, not smart. Never get those two confused

SALLY: LMAO

EMILY: Yeah. Mat is smart

SALLY: Not bookish. "I do read sometimes."

EMILY: [laughs] As he tells us, "I do read sometimes," and then never proves that

SALLY: Never opens a book. Can Mat read?

EMILY: Good question. Is Mat literate?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: The ultimate

SALLY: The ultimate question

EMILY: You know what would have been a hilarious twist? If one of the holes in his memory was just that he couldn't fucking read. And he just got away with it

SALLY: And he's just like [mutters]

EMILY: "Yeah sure. I don't need to read."

SALLY: "I don't need to read."

EMILY: "I have people to do that." He vaults straight into generalhood. He doesn't need to be a secretary first, you know?

SALLY: Talmanes can read for him [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah Talmanes [laughs]

SALLY: "I don't read. I have Talmanes."

EMILY: I'm picturing a scene in Book 9. Tuon's like, "You can't fucking read?" Mat's like, "Why would I? I have Talmanes for that." She's like, "Who's Talmanes?"

SALLY: [laughs] "He's my reader."

EMILY: "He's my reader. Tragically he is not here, which is why I am asking you to read this for me now."

SALLY: "You have to be Talmanes."

EMILY: "I need your help."

SALLY: "In this situation. Tuon. Tuon. Don't ask questions."

EMILY: She's like, "I thought you were intelligent. You're so good at chess." And he's like, "Can't read, though."

SALLY: Can't read though. [laughing] Hi I'm Jared. I'm 19 years old

EMILY: And I never fucking learned how to read. He's like, "A bitch don't need to read to play chess, you know?"

SALLY: You know how it is

EMILY: Okay anyway

SALLY: Mat doesn't know how to read

EMILY: [laughs] That's canon now

SALLY: That's canon. Mat doesn't read. Also canon: Rand is so fucking stupid

EMILY: Okay yeah. Rand's so fucking stupid. He's just sort of like, "La la la la" while Elayne's piecing him back together, tending his head wound or whatever

SALLY: Which is just so gross. It's always like she has to heal him in some way. It's very tropey and gross

EMILY: That's another tropey thing. The woman has to immediately care for them in some way

SALLY: I'd be like, "Die, bitch."

[both laugh]

EMILY: Trespasser? Off to prison with you

SALLY: Bye girl

EMILY: What the fuck are you doing? She's like a – have to think about this – it's like a thing that often happens with male protagonists in fantasy literature where they will experience some sort of head trauma or other wise some sort of trauma and end up unconscious. And the first thing they see upon waking is the face of the beloved

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Which I think is probably related to the hero's journey and related to the fact that there's sort of a liminal space and there's sort of a, I don't know, a portal aspect to dreaming and going in and out of dreams. But here it's just so obvious that it becomes painful then when Rand's like, "But Egwene's still there" because you're like Egwene's gonna be doing her own thing. It's coded so clearly

SALLY: [whispers] Egwene doesn't care anymore

EMILY: Egwene. Doesn't. Care.

SALLY: It's very [sighs]. The face of the beloved. That's very interesting

EMILY: And she's always like leaning over him, drizzling cool water on his lips or some shit

SALLY: What would be the best way to turn that trope?

EMILY: Okay well, let's see. How would I do it?

SALLY: Emily's great at turning tropes. I'm very excited to see how this plays out

EMILY: Well first of all they'd be gay

SALLY: Lesbians, obviously

EMILY: I don't know. Which part of the trop do we have to keep? Like I could have her wake up, and the other girl's like, "Hey? Hey, are you awake? You're bleeding on the couch."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: "Sidebar: do you want a hot pocket?"

SALLY: Okay, anyhoo. It sucks. Period. Drawing more lines in the sand. This chapter blows

EMILY: Anyway so then Elayne and Gawyn are talking to each other over Rand's head. Blah blah blah. Kind of talking about gossip

SALLY: Yeah they're talking about why their mother doesn't marry Gareth Bryne

EMILY: Well Rand puts his foot in his mouth when he asks Gawyn, "Does she always expect everybody to do what she tells them?"

SALLY: Which is, like, why the fuck would you say that at all?

EMILY: It's actually a super rude thing to say about someone you just met and someone who's healing you? Giving you first aid?

SALLY: It's also just gross. And this happens. This has happened to me

EMILY: That he can't address her? Yeah. He has to talk to the other man

SALLY: This has literally happened to me where I'll be saying something and someone will say to one of my brothers or to somebody and it'll be something about the way that you are behaving because it is not feminine enough, or not demure enough

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: So it's disgusting and it's also this – just the fact that Rand automatically expects there to be some type of male camaraderie that pushes back against wild femininity

EMILY: Yeah and this element of ownership to it. Like “Hey, reign in your sister, you know?”

SALLY: It’s gross

EMILY: “Tell her to be less bossy.”

SALLY: If you ever have any doubts about Rand’s relationships to women, if you think that we’re over exaggerating or whatever, look at this fucking scene. This is just a beautiful sparking moment

EMILY: And you could argue that Elayne’s being obnoxious, and, like, she’s bossing him around. But you have to remember that Rand’s just been injured. She’s doing nothing but being kind to him in this moment. Given she’s being a little bossy, but you just fell into what all clues indicate is her property. It’s just so weird and it’s not enough to be like, “Oh don’t use that,” when she bandages his head with, I don’t know, some scrap of cloth from her dress because women are always carrying scraps of cloth

SALLY: Don’t you just have scraps of bandages?

EMILY: Yeah I just pull them out of my pockets like a wizard. Like a magician with handkerchiefs. These are for the first aid for all the bleeding men I encounter

SALLY: It’s a crazy world out there for male protagonists

EMILY: Exactly. They’re just stumbling into things. Can’t keep track of their own damn skulls

SALLY: [laughs] Emily would be an incredible hero

EMILY: Oh you mean a hero’s love interest? Because let me tell you if a man was bleeding on my property, police would be called. Ah, no. I could handle it

SALLY: [laughs] I wish you could have seen the face she made when she said that. It was like – there was so much determination. No she could. She’s very competent

EMILY: I mean he’s wounded. Given that Rand’s a giant, but I’d be like, “Mmm, no.”

SALLY: Okay, so Rand is – again, I just keep coming back to the fact that he’s super shitty in this scene

EMILY: But let’s try to talk less about Rand and focus more on

SALLY: I’m sorry

EMILY: No I’m doing it to I just

SALLY: Okay we're not talking about it. We've drawn our line in the sand. Rand sucks. They're talking about stuff that's happening in the palace, which is very interesting

EMILY: We get a lot of names here. Obviously Elayne and Gawyn are the first two people that we encounter, and they are two of our center point characters. Elayne is legitimately, arguably, one of the six main characters in the series, so her introduction here is important. Although, as we've pointed out, aspects of her character here are introduced that are never followed up on

SALLY: Very weird introduction for Elayne

EMILY: Gawyn reads pretty much as he is in the entire series, which is he's kind of throwaway, like looks like a hero type, but he doesn't actually do much

SALLY: Yeah. This chapter does have my favorite line of all time which is, "Be quiet, Gawyn." [laughs]

EMILY: Yes. "Gawyn, shut up."

SALLY: Yeah, Gawyn does read very hero. He's a prince and he's gonna lead armies and blah blah blah

EMILY: And he's likeable enough in this chapter. He doesn't do anything weird

SALLY: He's just like a dude

EMILY: He's just like a bro. He backs Elayne up when she asks him to, and defends Galad also. He kind of reads, although his older – no he is the middle sibling I guess. Elayne's youngest and Galad's oldest, so Gawyn reads very much like a middle sibling here, holding the peace between the two extremes. But while they're chatting they mention Mother, meaning Morgase. They mention Elaida. They also mention Lini, who is the nurse that's going to come back in Morgase's plotline, when she goes off on her own. And, of course, Gareth Bryne. So, the gossip is that Elayne thinks Gareth and Morgase should get married. No indication of whether they actually have feelings for each other, except that Elayne says she, meaning Morgase, wants to, and it would solve so many problems. And Gawyn's like well they're both so stubborn, Morgase can't propose it, basically, and Gareth won't. And it's all just a little disconcerting because pretty immediately Morgase and Gareth, later in the series, are directed to other love interests. Which I hate by the way. It's a really bad quality of Robert Jordan's that he feels the need to pair everyone off in ways that aren't necessarily suited to them, or necessary. Like Morgase ending up with Tallanvor is real gross. And I don't even like Gareth and Suan to be honest

SALLY: Because its – ugh. Both of those relationships come from inequalities in power and this gross – like I'm in, [whispers] if I ever get this fucking book started, in the middle of Book 6 – in Book 6, I'm not in the middle of Book 6, I'm 25 pages into Book 6 – they're in the middle of Suan having to pay back her fucking vow and she's washing his clothes and shit. It sucks

EMILY: Yeah and it becomes this thing where she's like, "Well I have to do it." And it's just this weird aspect of her relationship where he would let her off basically now that he knows who she is, once he knows who she is and what she's doing. He'd be like, "That's fine." But she's like, "No I'm going to do it. Fuck you." And it's just this really weird thing. And also she's a huge lesbian

SALLY: She and Moiraine are in love. Stop trying to force them with these gross old men

EMILY: Yeah, Gareth and Morgase would be a fine pair. They would actually make sense to me. They've actually spent significant amounts of time together. They are way more age appropriate than these other pairings. Ugh. Anyway, Rand finally figures out that these are the prince and princess and he's like, "Oh god. Oh god. I'm gonna have to go." And they're like, "Oh, you really didn't know. We thought you were, like, being coy, but no you're just stupid."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Can't really admire Elayne and Gawyn's sense of self-preservation here, because this random dude falls into their garden and they're just like, "Sure."

SALLY: "That's fine."

EMILY: "Gotta bandage him up." They immediately trust Rand, which is so bizarre to me

SALLY: It's very weird

EMILY: I guess it's supposed to be more indicative of the fact that they're sheltered. But later in this chapter Gawyn also mentions how Galad has saved his life twice. So I'm like they've been in danger before. At least Gawyn has. But he's just like, "blah blah blah"

SALLY: It also annoys me too, because we're supposed to be on Rand's side it sets them up like of course they're trusting, they're trusting these people. So the way that it's set up it's meant to paint Galad and Elaida and Morgase in a really bad lights. Where Galad is like, "This giant guy with a giant fucking sword is talking to my little sister and brother and that is so freaky."

EMILY: No this is so funny, my god. They're talking. They find out Rand's from Emmond's Field. He tells them his name and whatever, and Galad walks up. And queue the most stupid introduction for a character that's ever been given. But, Galad's like, "Oh you guys, get away from him." And they immediately try to protect him and Galad [laughs] – literally Rand, like, the adverb he uses is "said reasonably." Galad's not being weird about this

SALLY: [high-pitched] No!

EMILY: He's like, "That dude's armed and 'he hardly looks reputable'" is his exact phrase. "In these days we cannot be too careful." None of these things are wrong. Like what the fuck?

SALLY: But then literally after –

EMILY: Elayne bites his head off and is like, “Get away.” And Galad’s like, “Okay. Well then bye.”

SALLY: And then she says – what does she say?

EMILY: Elayne says, “I hate him. He is vile and full of envy.” Nowhere is that...?

SALLY: What the fuck?

EMILY: That says so much about Elayne that that’s what she’s saying. Elayne’s hatred of Galad literally makes no sense. It’s just this immature spiteful thing. She’s the one who’s vile and full of envy, which I don’t know. I don’t trust Robert Jordan enough to be like that’s what he was trying to convey, but just because Galad’s perfect doesn’t mean that he’s not actually perfect. He’s a good boy

SALLY: He’s a good boy. He stumbles into some shit

EMILY: I understand the reflex to dislike people who are better at things than you, of course, but Galad has never hurt anyone in his precious life

SALLY: Yeah, right? Like my favorite thing that’s ever been said, and it’s just really interesting discourse, is in Book 5 when Elayne is like, “Galad will go hunting but he doesn’t believe in caging animals.” And I’m like

EMILY: He’s not wrong

SALLY: Seems like a pretty reasonable belief to have in this medieval society [laughs]. Anyway

EMILY: And they say, they give kind of his character overview here. Gawyn says, “Galad always does the right thing even when he should not.” And that’s supposed to be kind of like the guiding sentence for Galad’s entire narrative, which is that he ends up joining the Children of the Light because that sort of extremism makes sense to him. It’s sort of how he shapes his life, but it’s also – like he goes after Perrin later in the series because he thinks Perrin has wronged him and the Children of the Light in ways. Which Perrin has

SALLY: Perrin did two murders

EMILY: Yeah, Perrin did two murders

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But again, that is the right thing to do, even though it’s not the most convenient timing. And that’s sort of like – Galad’s going to be the fixed point of morality in the series around which these other characters are sort of, I don’t know, swirling. And their relations to Galad are indicative of where they are in their whole moral compass situation. The whole ethical ambiguity

thing. I don't know. I wish Galad got to interact with more characters, if that makes sense. Because he kind of goes off on his own for a little while, and it's boring

SALLY: Yeah, I don't know. That's such an interesting – I haven't thought too much about Galad. Really until we started doing this podcast I never thought about Galad

EMILY: Yeah he's very bland, a little bit

SALLY: Except that he's a pretty bland boy, but the more I think about him the more I find him very interesting

EMILY: He most has entertainment value because every time he's on the page, whoever's describing him is struggling to describe him, because they're like, "He's beautiful."

SALLY: My favorite one so far is Nynaeve who's, like, *pissed* about it [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] "He's so pretty"

SALLY: She's furious

EMILY: She's like, "How fucking dare he be this gorgeous?"

SALLY: It's so funny

EMILY: Let's not forget that Galad started a fucking war to help his sister get out of dodge, in Book 5 or whatever. I'm a little confused about – isn't it that they're in that city and they need to get out

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And both the prophet and Galad arrange for them to have the same boat, and it just sort of like

SALLY: It goes from there

EMILY: Yeah, sort of riots start happening and basically this whole city goes up in flames. I don't know

SALLY: And Elayne's like, "Fucking Galad! He just had to get us out of there!" And I'm like, "What the shit?"

EMILY: What? He was helping you. He had no – you didn't tell him that you had a side deal with the prophet going on

SALLY: You didn't tell him about your sidepiece

EMILY: Yeah Jesus

SALLY: First of all, I just – I know Galad is questionable at that point, with the Whitecloaks, but why would you trust this crazy prophet over your brother?

EMILY: Literally

SALLY: Who's very competent

EMILY: Honestly. He rises through the ranks so quickly because he's a competent soldier dude

SALLY: So weird

EMILY: I mean he didn't even come close to beating Mat really, but he held his own in a fight

SALLY: Yeah he did alright, and afterwards he's not weird about it

EMILY: Actually that's because he's unconscious and

SALLY: Okay but I mean like after after

EMILY: Being swarmed by Aes Sedai

SALLY: That's also the best scene. Where all the Aes Sedai are like, "Oh no, Galad." [laughs]
And Gawyn's just like in a pile

EMILY: Gawyn's like, "Okay."

SALLY: Gawyn's like, "Excuse me," and they're like, "Be quiet, Gawyn" [laughs]

EMILY: And Mat's like, "O-kay."

SALLY: It's so funny. Anyway

EMILY: But yeah, I maintain that's one of the most interesting parts of the book for me is when that happens, because it's such a strange meeting of moments where it's that Elayne and Nynaeve's best intentions just go awry. And I like that Galad's at the center of it. And I like that he's at the center of the Whitecloaks drama a little bit later on, but I wish he was at the center of more drama

SALLY: Give him some drama

EMILY: I want his pure lawful good to meet Mat's chaotic neutral like fireworks [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] The unstoppable force meets the immovable wall

EMILY: Yeah [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] What would happen?!

EMILY: The unstoppable force of Mat's pure chaotic energy

SALLY: I would just love to see how that played out

EMILY: It would go so terribly but so beautifully

SALLY: I would love it

EMILY: [whispers] I know

SALLY: Mat would blow things up. Literally

EMILY: Crossovers that we don't get

SALLY: Crossovers that we all want. Okay, we haven't even talked about the time with the queen

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: So

EMILY: Galad goes and gets the guards, and of course the first guard is Tallanvor, who I fucking hate

SALLY: Yeah he's such an asshole here, too

EMILY: He's literally an asshole. He's like, "Oh, well, you guys have to give me that guy 'cause he's not supposed to be here." And Elayne's like [sorority voice] "Well *fuck you*." [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] Elayne's also an asshole

EMILY: Elayne's also a guest. She's like [in that voice], "He's my guest from the Two fucking Rivers." And Rand's like, "Okay."

SALLY: "I don't...I don't know this person."

EMILY: And Tallanvor's like, "Um, well I have to bring him to prison. Like..." And Elayne's like, "Take me to my mother." And is like, "I've won." And Tallanvor's like, "No, your mom asked me to take you to her so fuck you."

SALLY: Yeah it's supposed to be this mini-political machinations and Elayne sucks at it, which is also very telling

EMILY: Anyway, yeah they go to meet Morgase, basically in silence. That's another thing I hate that the soldiers form a box around Elayne and Gawyn and Rand, like he's at the center of it. Wouldn't you try and restrain him a little bit until...? He's got a big ass fucking sword. Ugh

SALLY: Also, maybe just let Gawyn and Elayne march somewhere else

EMILY: I'm just saying, it's no wonder that Caemlyn gets taken like three times. Their security sucks until Birgitte gets there

SALLY: Mat literally just walks into the palace

EMILY: Mat *literally*

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Just like rolls under some bushes and is like, "Here I am."

SALLY: "Here I am. In front of the Queen." It's ridiculous.

EMILY: It's so funny

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: "Here you are, Your Majesty."

SALLY: I mean, Mat is a superstar. We all know that. He's a genius and a scholar, but

EMILY: Mat's rogue stats are through the roof, but still

SALLY: Still. Come on, Caemlyn. Gareth Bryne, I thought you ran a tight ship

EMILY: Yeah well he's been kicked out by then

SALLY: Well I know, but at this point, too

EMILY: Anyway we get some hints about Elaida's nature on our way there. That she doesn't like rats, so she keeps rats out of the palace

SALLY: Rand's like, "Look at this fat cat, just doing nothing."

EMILY: Fucking. And that the gardens are all green just because Elaida's like, "La de dah de da, we've got to keep it pretty here." Which also speaks to Elaida's character, her interest in her immediate surroundings having a pleasing aesthetic is far more important to her than her overall worldview. Elayne has a problem with this, as she should, because out in the real world it's winter, crops aren't growing like they should be, and everything's kind of fucked up. And

Elaida's like, "Choose one farm and I'll do the same there," and Elayne's like, "No? That's terrible?" What the fuck?

SALLY: Like we should be helping

EMILY: Anyway it's just that Elaida kind of gives off weird vibes

SALLY: [whispers] Elaida sucks

EMILY: From the beginning. Especially because she's also knitting when see her, which always makes me think of the woman in *A Tale of Two Cities*

SALLY: Oh yeah

EMILY: Which is a historical thing, women have historically knitted while

SALLY: Men do men stuff

EMILY: I was thinking of political machinations, while they're doing their political machinations. I don't know

SALLY: No, I don't know. I was just being stupid. We had a demonstration at the studio the other day, and literally – I work at a glassblowing studio – a woman was knitting during the demonstration. She just pulled yarn and needles out of her bag

EMILY: What the hell?

SALLY: And knitted while she watched

EMILY: Like she was at the fucking guillotine. That's what [whisper] they did

SALLY: That's cool

EMILY: I mean, yeah. They would actually – women had a code that they'd write into the yarns. Like records

SALLY: [whispers] that's awesome

EMILY: So it's been used for spy work and also record keeping through the ages

SALLY: How come I don't know anything about history?

EMILY: You didn't study it in college. I did

SALLY: I don't know shit. That's so cool. Emily's so smart and cool, god

EMILY: I'm not

SALLY: Tell me more about knitting and spy work. That's so lit

EMILY: That's sort of it. Just one of the vibes you give off. Later, there's another woman in the series, Cadsuane, who's sort of Moiraine's replacement. But she also spends a lot of time knitting. I guess it's sort of like...hmm...I don't know. Just sort of indicates that she has a lot going on. From a literary standpoint it's symbolic of the fact that she's going to be a puppet master

SALLY: It's also very spidery. Spiders making webs

EMILY: Yeah and from a historical standpoint, it just gives off creepy vibes. Which Cadsuane does. Cadsuane's a good character, and she's meant to be on the side of good, but she's also a little creepy and has some weird issues with power, et cetera

SALLY: Yikes

EMILY: Super fun. Anyway, we also see Gareth Bryne. He's lovely. He does nothing in this scene except support Morgase

SALLY: A good boy

EMILY: Yeah a good boy. He's just like, "I'm here. It's fine. I can throw this guy in the..."

SALLY: "Prison. Or nah."

EMILY: "Prison. Or not. Whatever you say." And then there's Morgase who, like her daughter, Rand must describe in no less than a page and a half

SALLY: It's disgusting. He said that she looks like Elayne, but her beauty had "ripened"

EMILY: I hate that

SALLY: It's –

EMILY: "matured and ripened"

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: Robert Jordan how gross could you fucking be?

SALLY: Stop comparing women to fruit

EMILY: [suffering noises]

SALLY: Another line drawn in the sand, kids. So gross

EMILY: Anyway, this is our first and only introduction to Morgase before she gets taken over by one of the Forsaken. So it's supposed to be the cornerstone of her character and sort of indicate that something's off in the next few books, you know? And Morgase is like, I don't know, she's good. I don't have anything problems with her

SALLY: She's very – she's a good queen

EMILY: Yeah she's like, "Okay." She lectures her kids, climbing trees, going to see Logain

SALLY: Fucking idiots

EMILY: And then she's like, "Well, frankly you're both grounded, but I can't ground you because you're going to Tar Valon, so you're not going to be allowed to be near Logain. And Gawyn you're going to have to do a bunch of work."

SALLY: Fuck you

EMILY: Gawyn's like [crying noise]

SALLY: Gawyn's like [pouty voice], "Not me!"

EMILY: "Not me I'm a prince."

SALLY: "I'm so pretty."

EMILY: "I'm so – " Not really. Gawyn's plain

SALLY: Gawyn's plain. Gawyn is a plain sock boy. Like white dude socks [laughs]

EMILY: Oh and then there's Elaida. We already talked about Elaida. Never mind

SALLY: She's scary

EMILY: Yeah, she's Red Ajah and you can tell. Rand's sort of immediately afraid of her and glad that he didn't go to her for help. Because he's like, "Oh, she's scary." Anyway, Elayne argues on Rand's behalf, there's some – an underlying theme here of Rand saying he's from the Two Rivers and everyone in the room being startled because he looks like an Aielman, and no one's saying to him – at least until the end of the chapter when Gawyn says outright, "You look like you're an Aielman," and only because Rand asks – but it's just sort of weird thread where everyone's kind of like, "Are you sure?" And he's like, "Y-yes?"

SALLY: Like where are you from? The Two Rivers? No, but like...where are you *from*? [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, literally

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: “I *am* from the Two Rivers.” And Morgase is like, “The Two Rivers doesn’t even know it’s part of Andor.”

SALLY: Yeah Elayne is like [sorority voice], “He’s a loyal servant.”

EMILY: Morgase is like, “I don’t even think those people give a fuck.”

SALLY: My favorite part of this chapter is she says that and Rand just, like, shrugs. And she’s like, “See I told you.” [laughs] He’s like, “I didn’t even know we were part of Andor.”

EMILY: I know he’s like, “This is all new to me.”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But Morgase is pretty chill throughout all this, and I think her judgment’s pretty fair. She’s like, “I’m not gonna throw this guy in jail just because I’m a little worried about it, suspicious. He hasn’t actually done anything wrong, though. He didn’t attack my kids or anything.” The only other creepy part of this chapter is that Elaida gives a foretelling

SALLY: Yeah, I forgot about this

EMILY: Yeah. She says, “From this day, Andor marches toward pain and division. The shadow has yet to darken to its blackest, and I cannot see if the light will come after. Where the world has wept one tear, it will weep thousands. This too I foretell, pain and division come to the whole world and this man stands at the heart of it.”

SALLY: Cheery

EMILY: Yeah, and sort of another indication that Rand is *ta’veren*. He sort of sparks this foretelling in an Aes Sedai, but it’s also, like, there’s so much, so many narrative threads meeting in this one room with, like, nine characters that we’re going to be following that it’s like, yeah, I don’t have any trouble believing prophecies are getting spewed out, you know? I don’t know. That’s all I have to say about it. It’s sort of a standard prophecy. Stuff’s gonna suck

SALLY: This is one of those scenes where the horizon of expectations comes into play. This has been such a prototypical fantasy chapter and there’s so many meeting of the minds. And two of our new huge main characters get introduced, or three I guess if you count Galad. Or four if you count Morgase

EMILY: Just a lot

SALLY: And Gareth Bryne. And Elaida. It just keeps coming, and so of course something is gonna happen and of course it's gonna be, like, cataclysmic or significant. So obviously – I mean it would be very frightening to be there and all the sudden Elaida's is like, "And shit's gonna be shit and it's gonna be his fault." That would be frightening but

EMILY: And Rand's just like, "Whomst?"

SALLY: "Me?"

EMILY: "Me? A simple idiot?"

SALLY: Oh my god. He's so stupid

EMILY: I know. He's so simple

SALLY: And you see Galad and you're like, "That? A simple idiot? It's gonna be him?"

EMILY: "That?"

SALLY: Is Galad even in the throne room at this point, or is Galad?

EMILY: I think he just tattletales and goes on his merry way, which is like

SALLY: Icon

EMILY: I know

SALLY: [laughs] He's like, "I'm not gonna get involved in that shit"

EMILY: He doesn't come back around to gloat, he's just like, "Kay bye. Taken care of."

SALLY: He's probably on rounds or something

EMILY: I know

SALLY: Doing his chores

EMILY: Galad's the only character I care about at this point [laughs]

SALLY: I know! Galad in the first book is literally my best boy. Besides Mat

EMILY: He only has one page, but he's good on that page

SALLY: He's great on that page

EMILY: Anyway

SALLY: Galad said reasonably [laughs]

EMILY: Reasonably. Okay well

SALLY: He's vile and full of envy

EMILY: UGH

SALLY: He's perfect don't talk about my son like this

EMILY: He's perfect and full of beauty, thank you

SALLY: He's an angel and we're glad that he's here

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That's what that meme was written about

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: He's an angel and we're glad he's here

SALLY: Really. Comes out, glowing in his armor

EMILY: Yeah. I have one more thing to say, which is that Gawyn and Rand give off strong sexual tension vibes

SALLY: They really do

EMILY: And it's like hate fuck stuff. Like Gawyn hates him so much and Rand is barely aware that he exists throughout the rest of the series. And it's just like, "Oh my god."

SALLY: It's weird. It's weird to me that Gawyn is like [bro voice] "My sister. He's getting my sister into bad stuff. And Egwene."

EMILY: [bro voice] "Yeah and he killed my mom," or so he thinks. "All the women in my life der der der"

SALLY: And Rand is like, "Who? G-G-G?"

EMILY: "I don't even know who you are."

SALLY: “Gus?” [laughs] He has no idea who this is. He’s so confused. So it is very much like a hate fuck kind of thing

EMILY: Yeah, the more I think about it the more Gawyn has, not the satisfying storyline, but he does have kind of a lovely storyline it that it undermines everything we expect from him. He has so many ambitions and wants to be this hero and he wants to get his revenge and wants to have a cool revenge narrative, and he gets none of it. Because he’s just this dude, who’s not good at making decisions

SALLY: Well

EMILY: To read more, read my last blog post on Patreon where I complain at length about Gawyn

SALLY: Oh my god does he have Hamlet indecision type bullshit?

EMILY: Yeah I mean sort of. He’s just like, “God I make bad choices” and everyone’s like, “Yeah, took you eight books to figure out, but sure.”

SALLY: I mean, too, make bad choices Gawyn

EMILY: NO my battery’s running low. We have to end this

SALLY: Oh my gosh, but there’s still so little to say

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I thought that this alcohol would make me funnier, but it’s just making me sleepy at this point. Which is one of two things that happen when I drink: I get really hyper or I just fall asleep

EMILY: I think that’s just sort of what happens to you regardless of your alcohol intake

SALLY: That’s true. I’ve been very mean to Emily all weekend [laughs]

EMILY: That is also true

SALLY: [laughs] It’s not intentional, it just happens

EMILY: That’s why I forgive you

[a timer dings]

SALLY: Oh that’s my lan-dry

EMILY: Oh

SALLY: So now we really do have to stop so that I don't have to be a shitty – in this dope apartment building I'm not the one that's not dope

EMILY: [bro voice] Dope. That's so dope. This is so dope

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Next week, when we come back, we're just gonna have some good, good reunions, I think. Because when Rand gets back it will be just in time to see everyone. Mat will finally get fucking healed, one hopes

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Perrin still has yellow fever, so

SALLY: Everyone's like [slurring] "Jesus, Perrin's got yellow eyes." [laughs]

EMILY: You are really

SALLY: I have to pack two suitcases after this

EMILY: Okay, okay, okay. Look us up on social, look us up on our Patreon. We're going to be appearing on our good friend Sarah McClintock's podcast *Unpick* which is all about clothes and clothing designs and people who wear clothes. So, mostly we're going to be...um...actually I don't know what we're going to be doing

SALLY: As people who wear clothes, we're going to be talking about that activity

EMILY: Listen, don't mock me [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] No I mean I seriously think that's the point of the podcast. Just talk about clothes and the people who wear them and how they wear them

EMILY: Yeah why do you wear the clothes that you wear

SALLY: I've been thinking about it a lot

EMILY: Either way, we're recording that this week. I don't know when it's going to come up. Keep a look out for that. Follow Sarah on Twitter. She's sarahmccostumes, I believe

SALLY: She's a delight

EMILY: She's one of our followers. We retweet her sometimes. So, yeah

SALLY: A delight

EMILY: Anything else?

SALLY: No. Usual stuff. We're on the internet, and we love you guys

EMILY: Look us up. It's our regular recording schedule for a while

SALLY: Yeah for a while

EMILY: Okay, sign us off

SALLY: Um [laughs] today on the train I got bullied by two ten year old violinists [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] She texted me about this, by the way. This isn't the first time I'm hearing this

SALLY: Anyways, it was a real bummer [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] And that's it

SALLY: [laughing] Have a good week

EMILY: [laughing] Have a great week