



Episode 21 – “xBrian”

Running Time: 53 Minutes

Release Date: June 4, 2018

EMILY: Okay. [pause] Okay

SALLY: Okay!

EMILY: What’s up?

SALLY: So I have some options for book news. You can choose

EMILY: Is one of them Bill Clinton?

SALLY: [laughing] One of them is absolutely Bill Clinton

EMILY: I’m gonna fucking die

SALLY: Or we can do a segment of personal book news and I will talk about seeing Harry Potter

EMILY: Why do we do a little bit of both?

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Since, I don’t know. The Bill Clinton thing requires very little

SALLY: [laughs] Little comment except that it’s hilarious

EMILY: Oh my god. You say it

SALLY: Today, as always, I was at work...that happens five times a week, usually

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] And I was like, “Oh, we’re gonna record tonight. I should check out some book news.” So I get on the internet and I see Rick Riordan’s posting about the Book Expo that’s happening this week. And I was like, “Ah, what’s that?” Looking at the Book Expo. Then I was reading an article about the Book Expo, and then somebody says, “Bill Clinton and James Patterson will be there.” And I said to myself, “Self, why is Bill Clinton *and* James Patterson in a sentence together?” And then I discovered that former president Bill Clinton...and James Patterson of *Maximum Ride* fame – right? He wrote *Maximum Ride*?

EMILY: He wrote everything. He wrote so much

SALLY: Let me just say those names again so that you know that you’ve got them. Former president Bill Clinton [laughs]

EMILY: This is not a drill [laughs]

SALLY: And James Patterson are writing a book together. It’s called *The President is Missing* and it will be published sometime in 2018. It will be [laughs] – Wikipedia wants me to know – oh, it will published on June 4th, 2018

EMILY: Dear god that’s in five days

SALLY: That’s very soon. And Wikipedia wants to assure me that “this will be Clinton’s first novel.” So

EMILY: Okay, this will be Clinton’s ghost writer’s first novel

SALLY: [laughs] yeah

EMILY: And furthermore, it just means that he and James Patterson and using the same ghost writer because fuck me if James Patterson actually writes all the books he writes

SALLY: I don’t believe it. But I was reading an article about the book trailer, because for some god forsaken reason

EMILY: Why are book trailers a thing? Stop it

SALLY: People keep making book trailers?

EMILY: You don’t need a trailer for your book. Those are two very separate forms of media, and they should be separate

SALLY: It’s very confusing

EMILY: Books are not visual experiences. Except that you are reading the words, but

SALLY: But yeah. And then this article about the book trailer was describing their pithy back and forth about how Bill Clinton would talk about stuff that he wanted to happen in the book, and James would be like, “Well, that just seems inconceivable, Bill.” And Bill was like, “Ah, James, you’ve been president. You never know what could happen.” And so it’s like...what the fuck is this book?

EMILY: The book is called *The President is Missing*, so one presumes that the president goes missing

SALLY: One presumes, or is it like the president is missing his dog. It could be like the French idea where you say *tu me manque*, you are missing from me. Which is very tender

EMILY: I don’t believe it

SALLY: Well, I don’t know, I’ve got – I guess we’ll just have to read it and find it!

EMILY: I’m so uninterested in it, in everything about this

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: You could put a bullet in my brain and that would be the same effect as reading this book [laughing]

SALLY: It’s so funny. I don’t understand how this even came about. Like of all the things in the *entire* world that you, as a former president, could do, Bill Clinton, you decide to put your name on a book with *James Patterson*?

EMILY: [laughs] Okay, so what do you think happened? Was it that Bill Clinton was like, “I want to write a fiction book. I know the best man for the job. The guy whose books I see in every airport garbage can.”

SALLY: [laughs loudly] Literally they just

EMILY: “James Patterson”

SALLY: throw them out of airport garbage cans

EMILY: Or was it that James Patterson was watching the television back in the 1980s when Bill Clinton was president, and was like, “Wow, this man lying about receiving a blow job? Absolutely literary. I want him on my side.” And waited until he was retired and then sent him a quick email, “Hey Bill”

SALLY: Waited until he was retired, and then waited *two* presidencies later

EMILY: Yeah and he was sure his wife would get the job and wouldn’t be too busy. Was like, “Hey Bill, I hear you’re dealing with the crippling disappointment of your wife not winning the

presidency, and also the fact that a megalomaniac is in charge of our nation. You know what's great coping therapy?" [laughs]

SALLY: Writing crime thrillers

EMILY: About yourself. Semi-autobiographical

SALLY: I'm sure it is weirdly semi-autobiographical

EMILY: I hate it. Okay, now tell us about Harry Potter

SALLY: Well that's okay. We've already done a lot of book news

EMILY: I'm gonna cut a lot of that out

SALLY: You don't want to talk about the president missing?

EMILY: No I mean I'm gonna cut out the beginning part, which was like 2 minutes and I'm gonna put this thing with Elise on the blooper reel

SALLY: [laughs] Okay. Anyway in a bout of personal book news uh, um I – fuck. Can't speak. But my darling, darling sister-in-law, who I love to pieces, bought, for Christmas, tickets for me and her to go and see *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is just an incredible gift. I can't believe anyone spent any amount of money on me. 'Cause she had to fly out here, and like hang out with me. It was crazy. It was so nice

EMILY: [laughing] I took Sally to Washington D.C. on a weekend getaway for the record

SALLY: That's true. Why is everybody spending so much money on me? People are so good to me

EMILY: We like you

SALLY: That seems silly. I patted her knee

EMILY: Hated it

SALLY: In a show of affection. Anyway, so we went and saw *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and, as you may or may not have heard, the script is mostly trash. I don't really even think that it should exist, which is actually thematically interesting in the context of the script

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: So maybe that's on purpose. Doubt it. But then there are a lot of problems with it. Not the least of which is queer baiting

EMILY: Ugh

SALLY: Attempting to give a redemption arc to Severus Snape

EMILY: Ugh

SALLY: Attempting to give a redemption arc to Albus Dumbledore

EMILY: UGH

SALLY: Poor characterization of Ron

EMILY: EW

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: I'll die! I WILL DIE!

SALLY: So [laughs]

EMILY: You can pry Ron Weasley as a beloved character from my cold, dead hands. I love him

SALLY: I know. Ron Weasley is the best

EMILY: He was the first character that I really, truly loved. You know?

SALLY: Honestly? Probably same

EMILY: Because I related to him

SALLY: You're just like, "Ron is such a fucking lad."

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Ugh. Anyway. So there are problems, but watching it staged was so goddamn delightful that I just don't even care anymore

EMILY: That's great

SALLY: I mean I do care about the queer baiting and the attempt to give a redemption arc to Severus Snape because he abused children, but whatever. But it was just really interesting, and I had really interesting conversations with my sister-in-law about JK Rowling as a fallen hero and a moneygrubber and a piece of trash, basically. Because the play is two nights long. It's like 6 hours

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: You go for two nights, which is total moneygrubbing, obviously, but of course we spent the money and I bought two alcohols and a play and we bought lots of candy, obviously. And Melissa bought a tee-shirt and I bought a program, obviously. We spent a lot of money and it was fabulous. The jellybeans were really good [laughs]. Okay, I'm sorry. I'm digressing. But, and we've talked about on this podcast before, like that you can hate something and take a lot of joy out of it – not hate anything, but criticize it and take a lot of joy out of it, and be delighted in it, but have problems with it. And Harry Potter is really interesting because people tend to think that you can criticize it, and continue to take joy from it. But this play was just a total example of that. Where it was seriously, watching it was pure – it was, dear reader, magical

EMILY: Awwww

SALLY: It really was. It was everything you loved about being, in my case, like 12 or 13 and watching the movies and being awkward in your body and Harry Potter knew how to save the day so you could save the day, too. And it had all of that good Harry Potter joy and there was so much – there was some dancing, which was weird

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That turned me off, but

SALLY: But anyway! The point being that my line in the sand was that it was delightful. It sucks, but it's delightful

EMILY: Well I'm so glad

SALLY: But anyway, that was personal book news. Which is maybe, *maybe*, more exciting than Bill Clinton writing a book with James Patterson. I really don't think so

EMILY: [clapping with her words] Nothing is more exciting than Bill Clinton [laughing] writing a book with James Patterson

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Catch me outside the Barnes and Noble on June 4th?

SALLY: 4th yeah. Isn't it a good –

EMILY: That doesn't even make since, that's like a Sunday

SALLY: I think it's a Monday. Why? Books always come out on Tuesdays. Is it like it's Bill Clinton it has to come out on a special day?

EMILY: I'll fucking kill myself

SALLY: It's such a fun sentence to say, though. Dear listener take a moment, stop this podcast and say to yourself, "Bill Clinton is writing a book with James Patterson"

EMILY: In fact it's gonna come out on the day we release this episode

SALLY: Oh my god!

EMILY: Happy Bill Clinton Writes a Book Day

SALLY: YEAH

EMILY: Celebrate!

SALLY: Celebrate!

EMILY: Start off Pride by reading a very, I'm sure, heterosexual book

SALLY: Very heterosexual book. That's right is Pride month this coming month

EMILY: Yeah hey. Celebrate

SALLY: Celebrate Pride by

EMILY: [singing] Celebrate good times come on!

[both singing the tune]

EMILY: Okay we're ending [laughing]

SALLY: We don't even need the theme song right now. We did such a good job

[THEME SONG – "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba]

SALLY: Dab

EMILY: Hi, this is Everybody Hates Rand [laughs] your podcast where we roast *Wheel of Time* and also, sometimes, celebrate how good it is as a fantasy series. I'm Emily Juchau, we've recently been told that it's hard to distinguish between our voices. So, I'm Emily Juchau. Memorize my voice

SALLY: What if you like said a little thing?

EMILY: I don't have anything to say

SALLY: Like talk for a few minutes

EMILY: About what?

SALLY: A minute

EMILY: I'm about to talk for 45 minutes, so I feel like I'm good

SALLY: I know, but it's like maybe they just need a minute to be like, "Ah this is Emily's voice." Pause. "Oh, this is Sally's voice."

EMILY: Well that was Sally talking. This is Emily talking

SALLY: Um – yeah

EMILY: See! You can't think of anything either! [laughs]

SALLY: No oh my god. I got interviewed today by the intern at our work, who's writing her thesis on stuff. And she's like, "I'm doing it about stuff in the glass world, and I'm gonna interview you about glass art." I don't know jack *shit* about glass art, and I just pontificated for half an hour. Who let me do that? I was just like [sounding vaguely like a chicken] "Blah blah blah blah blah." Anyway. Don't ever interview me

EMILY: Sounds amazing

SALLY: I was just like "blah blah blah la la la." Shit coming out of my mouth for half an hour [laughs]

EMILY: That's Sally Goodger. [laughing] She hasn't

SALLY: Yeah, that's me. I haven't introduced myself. I'm Sally

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: Uh, this is my voice. I hope you can tell us apart at some point

EMILY: If not it sucks to suck because I'm not going to hold your hand. Sorry

SALLY: And also, like, it doesn't matter

EMILY: Yeah, we're basically the same person so

SALLY: That's correct

EMILY: Ummmm

SALLY: Look how little of this book we have left

EMILY: And yet, we have so much

SALLY: And yet, we're just getting to the actual story [laughs]

EMILY: I know. I'm actually shocked by all this. Okay so [laughs]

SALLY: It's literally the weirdest structure of all time

EMILY: I can't

SALLY: That's not true

EMILY: No we're about to talk about it. It's so weird. Okay so, where we left off Rand had just had a fun experience exploring [voice cracks] royalty?

SALLY: "Fun," she says

EMILY: Mostly anxiety filled. And also anxiety filled for us because we just met like a dozen new characters and I'm scrambling to remember all of them, you know?

SALLY: Yeah, and I won't see them for

EMILY: Yeah you next see Elayne and Gawyn in the next book, and Galad, but everyone else is kind of peripheral

SALLY: It's super weird

EMILY: Anyway, but Rand frantically runs back to the inn he's staying at. Like literally runs

SALLY: The entire way

EMILY: Because he's a fucking lunatic. He's like, "I don't care if people think I'm crazy." And I'm like, "Rand that's a bad mindset and it will not serve you in the books to come" [laughs]

SALLY: It will not serve you well, Rand al'Thor

EMILY: [laughing] You should care

SALLY: Please have some self-awareness

EMILY: God

SALLY: Also he's very tall, that's probably bad on his knees

EMILY: Yeah anyway – Oh. Yeah. Good point

SALLY: He's not looking out for his mental health or his physical health. When was the last time he had a vegetable?

EMILY: I want *Wheel of Time* Book 15 all about Rand's [laughing]

SALLY: [laughing] fucking obliterated knees

EMILY: [laughing] joint pain. Anyway, Rand gets back and has this iconic exchange with the bouncer Lamgwin, who apparently just got into a scuffle over some dudes trying to steal a cat. And it's so random. It's just, like, here's this iconic bouncer who loves a cat. And I'm like, "I love one single man, and that is the bouncer."

SALLY: Literally Lamgwin is more interesting than most of our main characters. He is just super loyal to his inn, his queen, and his cat. In that order. No – his cat, his inn, and his queen

EMILY: When he gets a girl, he's like, "That's my girl. That's my cat."

SALLY: [whispers] Oh yeah

EMILY: Yeah he gets a girl

SALLY: I forgot about that

EMILY: She's like Cairhienin nobility, it's implied

SALLY: He's like, "I love four things."

EMILY: Basel Gill

SALLY: Basel Gill, Morgase, my girl

EMILY: This woman

SALLY: And my cat

EMILY: My cat. Yep all four thingss

SALLY: My cat Brian

[both laugh]

EMILY: You know that cat's named Brian, but spelled with like three extra vowels [laughing], because it's Robert Jordan

SALLY: Three n's

EMILY: I'm gonna kill myself

SALLY: There's a silent x at the beginning [laughing]

EMILY: Stop it! [laughs]

SALLY: xBrian

[both laugh]

EMILY: Okay so Rand gets past the bouncer, goes to the library to find Master Gill and Loial

SALLY: Like a nerd

EMILY: Who are playing stones, which is basically

SALLY: Fantasy chess

EMILY: Fantasy chess. It's more based on go, the Japanese game

SALLY: Oh, it's fantasy go

EMILY: Fantasy go, but more like fantasy chess in the way that it functions in this narrative

SALLY: [softly] Did the dishwasher just stop?

EMILY: Yeah it was drying, it was on the drying

SALLY: What the fuck? So they're playing – I'm sorry, could you say that again? It functions in the fantasy?

EMILY: It functions more as a chess thing. I mean, in terms of this is a very western fantasy, so it feels more like a chess thing, although, of course, the fact that this fantasy go game is in there is more of an eastern influence

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Whatever. They're both strategy games. [laughs] Anyway, Rand just blazes in there and is like, "I just met the fucking queen." And everyone's like, "LOL, you weirdo." And he's like, "Nope. I'm not lying. Here's what she looks like. I can describe the birthmark on her neck, you know?"

SALLY: Gross

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Disgusting

EMILY: Rand's like

SALLY: Rand's like, "Do you want know about the mole on her boob?" [laughs]

EMILY: What?

SALLY: [laughs] I don't know it's like

EMILY: That's called nipples

SALLY: [laughing stops] Oh my god

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Oh boy [sighs]

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: On that topic, it is incredible how many women today I saw just not wearing bras. Just titties full out in the heat. It was great

EMILY: Well yeah, good for them

SALLY: Yeah don't wear bras, very sweaty

EMILY: Anyway, that might have been confusing for you because usually it's Sally who makes bad jokes and I groan

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But that was Emily. I made the nipple joke. I'm gonna own it

SALLY: Do you want to? [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Anyway Rand's like, "Pull up a police sketch artist. I can describe exactly what happened." And Loial's like, "That's fine because you're *ta'veren*." And Master Gill is like, "This is not fine because Elaida, it sounds like, low-key threatened you and within two day's she's gonna, like... if she wants to arrest you she's going to arrest you. Morgase doesn't give a shit. Gareth Bryne isn't going to stop her because he doesn't give a shit. So

SALLY: [laughing] Cannot be bothered.

EMILY: Yeah just like *blegh*. So Rand's kind of like, "Okay. Mat and I will leave." And so he's about to go try and get Mat up. And he's sort of like, "If I can't get Mat up, then you better get the village wisdom up in here"

SALLY: Yikes.

EMILY: And he agrees to take Loial with them when they go

SALLY: How could you not?

EMILY: I know honestly. Like honestly, though, Rand's like, "There's all this shit chasing us." But I'd be like, "There's all this shit chasing us but if you want to go, like, you're welcome because you're a giant."

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: I'm like, "Low key I would love to have –"

SALLY: Low key I would love to have a person who is sane and nice to me

EMILY: Yeah and just so nice

SALLY: Just *SO*....nice

EMILY: Yeah, anyway. Then some Whitecloaks show up.

SALLY: Always

EMILY: Some Whitecloaks show up and Rand witnesses them coming in and demanding to see – uh, he's looking for darkfriends. "A boy from the Two Rivers" and presumably he might have on to say a girl from the Two Rivers, because he's really looking for Perrin and Egwene. But Gill cuts him off and yells at him. It's actually – Gill has a real cute little badass moment here when he's like, "I'm going to count to five and you're gonna get the fuck out of my inn." And the bouncer's there just holding his cat. He literally looks like that meme of the samurai with the sword in one hand and the cat in other, you know?

SALLY: Oh my god. That is Lamgwin. "You guys came from Brian? You came for xBrian?"

EMILY: "xBrian?"

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: "How dare you threaten xBrian. And also this beautiful fat innkeeper, who I love."

SALLY: [laughing] "You came for two of my loves."

EMILY: Okay but *honestly*. I'm getting into this. No offense, but I think the Cairhienin noble woman should be nixed, and the bouncer and Gill should have an epic gay romance

SALLY: Oh my god

EMILY: Can you imagine?

SALLY: [with feeling] Yes, absolutely

EMILY: With a cat and this inn

SALLY: Ugh, and xBrian, their adopted cat child [laughs]

EMILY: Okay, well that's the new headcanon

SALLY: Sorry Cairhienin, there's only room for one Cairhienin in my life and that's Moiraine

EMILY: Yeah, and Talmanes also.

SALLY: That's right, Talmanes is Cairhienin.

EMILY: Yeah, little cutie

SALLY: I forgot Mat just picks him up on the side of the road

EMILY: Mat literally just tucks Talmanes under his arm and is like, "You're mine now."

SALLY: "This is my Cairhienin."

EMILY: "You're my Cairhienin reader, because I'm illiterate."

SALLY: "I don't know how to read." I'm really into this alternate Wheel of Time that we are slowly crafting over these episodes.

BOTH: Rand is a coma

SALLY: Mat can't read, and like a significant plot is the story of Lamgwin, Basel Gill, and xBrian. It's much better.

EMILY: Galad's off discovering his gay self

SALLY: Yeah, Galad is a go go dancer

EMILY: Yeah honestly

SALLY: In wherever Berelain lives

EMILY: [laughs] Anyway, these Whitecloaks threaten to scrawl the Dragon's Fang on the inn door, and Gill's like, "I don't give a single fuck about you or anything that you do. Like, get out."

[pause]

SALLY: Emily out here dropping beats

EMILY: I think that's an actual song

SALLY: It is an actual song. They played it in *Orange is the New Black*.

EMILY: We haven't watched – we've been trying to watch *Orange is the New Black* for literally three years.

SALLY: [laughing] That isn't an exaggeration.

EMILY: Where are we? Are we in the middle of season four?

SALLY: I don't even know if we're in season four. No, we're in season four

EMILY: Yeah we're in season four, because the villain in season three was the mean lady

SALLY: Oh yeah, and she died.

EMILY: Yeah, she got hit by a car

SALLY: [laughing] Spoiler.

EMILY: [laughing] Yeah, spoiler alert if you haven't watched season three of *Orange is the New Black*. I'm gonna die

SALLY: Okay. Basel Gill's basically like, "Get the fuck out of my inn."

EMILY: And they do get out. Anyway

SALLY: Hell yeah

EMILY: And Gill's like, "What the fuck is this? Now you've got Whitecloaks *and* Elaida after you?" And Rand's like, "I don't even know any fucking Whitecloaks." I mean he did prank them back in...a little while ago. But it's also reasonable. He didn't tell them he was from the Two Rivers, so

SALLY: "Shit, Mat just lit your cart on fire."

EMILY: Anyway, right then the maid runs in and is like, “There’s a lady asking for Rand and Mat.” And Gill’s like, “If this is fucking princess Elayne herself I’m going to take Lamgwin and xBrian and get the hell out of here, because this is too much.”

SALLY: Get the hell out of dodge

EMILY: “For my gay self.”

SALLY: [cackles]

EMILY: And Rand’s like, “It is not Elayne. I did not tell her where I was.” But then he’s like, “Oh, shit. It’s my friends,” and he runs into the kitchen. And lucky for him it is his friends. Not like a darkfriend as it could be [sighs]

SALLY: But then! It’s those cuties!

EMILY: It’s those cuties! And this is a very cute little reunion scene. They’re all just like touching each other and hugging each other, and it’s very sweet

SALLY: God, imagine getting hugged by Perrin and Egwene

EMILY: And Nynaeve’s like, “Let me check you for fever and shit.”

SALLY: Nynaeve has a stethoscope or some shit

EMILY: Rand’s lanky self is trying to hug Elayne – ugh – Egwene and Nynaeve at the same time and also shake Perrin’s hand, which is hilarious. Like, the affection between men in these books tends to be very, like, I don’t know, heteronormative in the way that men of Robert Jordan’s age would view affection between men. Like just shake each other’s hands or whatever. The one really moment we get is Rand trying to hug Mat

SALLY: And Mat just –

EMILY: At the end of book five. And Mat just like sucker punches him in the kidney

SALLY: It’s...the most beautiful moment in literature

EMILY: I know it’s a really transcendent moment.

SALLY: It literally changed my life

EMILY: Anyway, if Rand and Mat don’t have a very physical relationship – or, like, they do. Kind of. It’s weird.

SALLY: They do and they don’t

EMILY: But he and Perrin are very distant from each other physically

SALLY: They shake hands

EMILY: Which is a little weird

SALLY: Very strange for boys who grew up – it's so weird. Rand and Mat read like boys who grew up together. Rand and Perrin really don't

EMILY: Rand and Perrin – it always feels like Rand and Mat have a connection. And Mat and Perrin have a connection. And Rand and Perrin there's like a little bit of a – there's like dotted lines instead of a straight line between them I guess

SALLY: But maybe Mat is – maybe they met through Mat.

EMILY: I mean

SALLY: I always imagined that they just met because they're lads in the same, but maybe Mat is like, "This is my ginger friend. And this is my blacksmith friend. And now you guys have to be friends because you guys are my subjects."

EMILY: I mean it's hard to imagine

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I imagine Mat growing up and everyone just like steered clear of him. And he found two people that could stand to be with him, and he was like, "Okay well you have to be friends because I can't handle it otherwise."

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: Yeah, I don't know. Rand and Perrin don't have very many *moments*

SALLY: It's very weird

EMILY: I can count on one hand the moments they have speaking to each other alone

SALLY: Yeah, they have more like a weird obligation to each other. Like, I don't know. Their relationship feels very based on like

EMILY: They feel like people who would naturally grow apart even if there weren't these traumatic events going on. Which maybe is the point. Like I guess it's fine to have your group of people not just be all naturally Best Buddies for life. Like –

SALLY: It's understandable.

EMILY: Yeah, I don't know. But whereas Rand and Mat feel like they were, you know, kind of wrenched apart by circumstances, it seems like Perrin and Rand would have done their own shit either way. Anyway, so there's little reunion. Moiraine says, "We're going to stay at the inn." Much to Gill's alarm, but also, like, he's honored. He's a good – he's a good lad

SALLY: He's a good boy

EMILY: So everyone's like, "Where's Mat?" and Rand's like, "Upstairs. He's sick or something. I don't know." And Nynaeve's like, "Okay well. Take me to him immediately." And so he does, while Moiraine is, I think... I think she's probably taking care of the rats.

SALLY: Oh yeah

EMILY: Like Caemlyn has a rat problem, which is partly because it's a city, but also sort of supposed to be a sign that the Dark One is becoming more active and, like, sending out his spies. So Moiraine, one of the first things she does upon getting here is like, "I have to shield us from spies," so she's basically like, "I'm going to ward us against vermin." So I think she's doing that? Anyway, they all troop up to Rand and Mat's room and something's off about Perrin this entire time, Rand notices. Like he's really quiet and he keeps his head down. And he sort of only starts talking to them once Moiraine is out of earshot. They find out Thom's "dead" – in quotation marks – and then they get to Mat.

SALLY: Yikes

EMILY: Everyone comes into Mat's room and he immediately starts, like...

SALLY: Verbally abusing them

EMILY: Yeah, verbally harassing them. All he says to Perrin is, "Is that you? You've changed haven't you? Oh, yes you've changed." And that affects Perrin a lot, because of course he has changed visibly as well as emotionally. And then he talks to Nynaeve about how she's now having a budding romance and how that surprised her because she didn't used to think of herself as a romantic person, you know? And now she is. And he says something to Egwene that sort of implies that...he said something about, "You share other things now don't you? Other dreams. What do you dream about now?" So although we don't have an Egwene points of view in this chapter it sort of makes me feel like maybe Egwene is starting her journey as a Dreamwalker here. Like maybe she started having, like, pre-cognition dreams, but I don't know. I don't know if it comes up later in *The Great Hunt*, whether she tells us or not

SALLY: That's so interesting. Because I always read that as in dreams as in the more, like, metaphorical sense

EMILY: Like her ambition

SALLY: Like her dreams of being an Aes Sedai. But yeah the double reading there is super....yeah, like what?

EMILY: I just can't – like any time dreams and Egwene are mentioned in the same paragraph I'm like, "Yeah there's gotta be something there."

SALLY: No and I think you're totally like...that is the right way to read that probably. Is that it's supposed to be that dreams and Egwene are very, very loaded

EMILY: Yeah. Anyway, the whole insinuation here is that Mat is just getting under their skin in really, like, perceptive ways, which normally he wouldn't

SALLY: Because he's an idiot

EMILY: [laughs] He's a dumbass who doesn't really care what anyone does, so it's just supposed to be basically Mashadar speaking through him. Is it Mashadar? What do I keep? Yeah, Mashadar.

SALLY: There's a lot of 'M' names in *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: I know. What's the black wind, because I always get it mixed up with that one

SALLY: [mumbling] it's like...

EMILY: [nonsense noises]

SALLY: Yeah Mashadar. Manetheren. *Ta'veren*. Like it all just sounds the damn same

EMILY: Machin Shin

SALLY: Sounds exactly like Mashadar

BOTH: [saying Machin Shin in a variety of more nonsensical ways]

EMILY: I can't

SALLY: Macho man

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: [singing] I wanna be a macho man. Village People

EMILY: [laughs] Anyway, Moiraine comes in and immediately spots that something's up with Mat from a mile away. And there's a loaded moment here where Mat almost fucking stabs her with the dagger and Land catches him.

SALLY: Of course

EMILY: And Moiraine sort of reveals what the dagger is, what's wrong with it. That it, you know, it's infected with Mashadar and it will spread, but that it's basically possessing Mat and also that it's sort of a beacon to all the Darkfriends around, which explains how everyone's been finding them this entire time

SALLY: Yeah. Which is a nice little twist. Kind of.

EMILY: Yeah it's like – anyway, this is a bit of a weird revelation because Rand doesn't really perceive it in retrospect the way I would. Like he doesn't immediately go through and rethink everything that's happened to them. He's just, like, "Oh," like thinking of the future, kind of, and like what this means for Mat. Which is good, I guess. Like concern for your friend, but I'd also be, like, kicking myself.

SALLY: Yeah. I'd be like, "Son of a bitch."

EMILY: "Son of a bitch. Why didn't I recognize this?"

SALLY: I think that's also just Rand as a character. Like, for better or for worse he is predominately forethought. Like...I feel like there's –

EMILY: And when he does get hung up on regret it's so toxic

SALLY: Yeah, and it's weird stuff. It's usually about Egwene, which is super annoying

EMILY: Or, like, women in general

SALLY: Yeah, but he never even just, like, thinks about stuff that happens in the past. He doesn't ever come back to this really traumatic sequence and he doesn't just, like, think about that

EMILY: Yeah a lot of them tend to not think about the past, I guess. I don't know. It's a weird, weird series

SALLY: I will have more to say about that when we get to the next chapter so

EMILY: Anyway. But this is all bad for Mat and bad for them, but also bad because Moiraine seems to think this is drawing Trollocs and fades to Caemlyn, like alerting them to their position. So basically, unless they can figure out a way to get out of Caemlyn there's going to be, like, a fucking war. Which is horrifying because it means that all these Trollocs have been gathering in, like, secret around the city

SALLY: Yeah. Terrifying

EMILY: And to me I'm like, for some reason I visualized Caemlyn just, like, up on a hill. Like surrounded by nothing. So to me that's, like, weird

SALLY: Yeah. It's like, are there suburbs in Caemlyn? Are the Trollocs like hanging out in the suburbs?

EMILY: Are there trees? I'm just, like, picturing flatlands, you know? Like, and I guess it's just because Robert Jordan hasn't really described what the terrain is like. But, like, I don't know. It's weird.

SALLY: It's like, where are they hiding? Yeah, I imagine like all cities in fantasy are literally just in the middle of nowhere, and there's like a giant wall around them. Because that seems how they're always described. It's never like, oh, and then the city arises out of, like, I don't know

EMILY: Hills

SALLY: Hills, or it's like tucked away in the mountains

EMILY: Or woods

SALLY: Or is in the woods, or there are literally like the medieval equivalent of suburbs. Like farms around. It literally just feels like this city springs up out of nowhere. So it's like, literally, where are the Trollocs hiding?

EMILY: Dunno

SALLY: In the sewers?

EMILY: Ew. Well. Uh. No. I mean, considering they're going through the waygates, you know?

SALLY: That's fair?

EMILY: That's how they're forestalling the Borderlanders, it seems. But the closest waygate, as we're about to find out, is the one that's directly in Caemlyn, and clearly they don't know about that one. Or can't use it. So it's just like this weird thing of, like, how are they getting there? I want to know the logistics of this

SALLY: I know, but are we ever allowed to know the logistics?

EMILY: I mean, we are later when Mat literally commands armies, but whatever. Not yet. Anyway, Moiraine sends them off and is like, "I'm going to do my best to fix Mat."

SALLY: Gonna fix that Mat

EMILY: I literally was going to say, "It is a subdued group that goes downstairs," and literally that's how this chapter starts.

SALLY: Oh my god you remembered

EMILY: I don't know if I remembered or if that's just the most obvious way [laughing] to start the chapter

SALLY: Maybe you've just had so much Robert Jordan in your life that you now speak like he does

EMILY: Ewww I hate that

SALLY: Noooo. Robert Jordan has lovely prose most of the time

EMILY: Yeah, he does. I guess. Anyway, they go back down to the library. Rand introduces everyone to Loial, who kind of blows them all away, but Perrin immediately is like, "Loial tell me all about the *stedding*." And Loial is like, "I would love to tell you all about the *stedding*. Let me was poetic for five years."

SALLY: Loial is like, "Perrin, my good friend. My best friend, Perrin."

EMILY: And Rand like settles in to listen to this, but pretty quickly Moiraine and Lan come back downstairs with Mat. Who, this seems to be, is still having problems with his eyes, because he's still got the scarf wrapped around his head. That never really registered to me before, but I'm interested in that. Does anyone know what happens if you are looking directly at lightning? Like, hit me up if you know, because I don't really want to do a Google search [laughs]

SALLY: Well, it's like, at what point will Google even give you the correct answer to that question? It's very science

EMILY: Yeah, I just want to know. I want to know where Robert Jordan even got this. Anyway

SALLY: I mean, it is magic lightning, so, like, could be that

EMILY: Anyway, Mat kind of awkwardly is like, "Hey guys," but sort of rebounds pretty quickly into everyone's good graces

SALLY: Yeah, he makes some pithy comment or something and they're like, "Oh, that Mat."

EMILY: "Yeah, you can't hold a man to blame for what he does when he's crazy, can you?" Which is hilarious and ironic because Mat is so phobic about Rand going crazy

SALLY: [whispers] Exactly

EMILY: I know

SALLY: This series is very interesting – this is what I wanted to talk about though – this series is very interesting in the way that people respond to things that they do when they're so called "crazy." And, like, there's this really – and we can obviously talk more about this when we get to book three – but there's a scene in book three where it's a very liminal fantasy kind of moment where you have no idea what's going on, but it's basically Rand's just in a clearing and he, like, decapitates a bunch of people, or whatever

EMILY: Yeah, yeah

SALLY: And, like, it's written where you're like, "Is this real? Or is Rand, like, totally going crazy?" But at what point – does Rand remember this? Or is he just totally not registering, or is the narrative just not registering that he might have just, like, killed a bunch of people? Whether or not they're Darkfriends is also very up in the air

EMILY: he seems to remember it a little bit later in the text

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: I can't remember when, but he, at least once, remembers the woman, of course, because he always remembers women he kills

SALLY: [very softly] Kill me

EMILY: Which is stupid. And I wish he didn't, if only because, yeah, I think that moment is more interesting if it's, like, totally in question whether or not he remembers it

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Or like, yeah, whether it was something totally non-threatening that he just happened to register as threatening, you know? But especially because Rand, in his own point of views, except in book three I think, is so invested in telling us over and over again that he's not crazy yet. And sort of insisting that he will be able to tell when he's crossed the line, as though there is a line and not just, like, I don't know, a fucking No Man's Land between total sanity and total insanity. There's shades of grey

SALLY: Yeah, what is total sanity? Yeah, nobody is totally sane. I don't believe that

EMILY: [sighs] But yea. This is a series that's really into talking about mental illness, and it's really good for that reason, I think

SALLY: Yeah it is really good for that reason. And I'm just really interested in these moments of abnormal consciousness or, like, presence that obviously impact our narrators in massive and huge ways, but they're not, like – and it's just so interesting, and I don't want to pass judgment on it because I don't think it's good or bad, but it is really interesting because so often something like this would happen and people would harp and harp and harp on "Oh, I can't remember this

blah blah blah.” But these characters, it’s like they don’t even have time to just meditate on what has happened, which is what war does. It does not allow to process

EMILY: Yeah, I think it’s super interesting that Perrin has a lot of retrospective thoughts about the wolves and stuff like that, and that’s sort of his edging into insanity territory because, um, I don’t know. Although it’s a very clear and logical thing that he does, it’s something so out of the bounds of normal human experience that, like, I don’t know. It could be weird. Or it could be weirded in that way in the text. Like made weird. But Mat also has this sort of weird thing where he has these holes in his memories, and then he has them filled later on. And Mat never references that to anyone else. Like he doesn’t talk about it. It’s, like, he knows about it, and he thinks about it, but it’s not something he ever really faces, I guess. And it’s just interesting to me, because that’s a moment of, like, bleeding sanity. It seems. And sort of when magic is infecting his consciousness in a really weird way. And he just doesn’t want anyone to know about it

SALLY: I can’t believe how many incredible things you just said. One, the concept of weirded. Like it could be *weirded* in the narrative. That’s the best verb. That’s EHR trademark. We’ve trademarked it

EMILY: Okay [laughing]

SALLY: Copyright [laughing]. So good! Also: bleeding sanity? That is such a fabulous concept.

[crosstalk for a moment]

SALLY: Magic infecting his consciousness? What did you say?

EMILY: I don’t know. I forgot

SALLY: That was also good!

EMILY: Well, thanks. I’m going to rename this entire series *Bleeding Sanity* because

SALLY: It’s better than *Wheel of Time*

[both laugh]

SALLY: *The Wheel of Time* is so

EMILY: Hey Robert Jordan’s estate, I hate to bring this to you

SALLY: I hate to bring this to your attention, but *Wheel of Time* is a fine title, but how you considered?

EMILY: We fixed it. Rand’s in a coma the entire time. It’s called *Bleeding Sanity*. I just said blinging sanity

SALLY: Oh my god. Hotling blinging sanity

EMILY: I'm gonna kill myself

SALLY: Anyway, you were saying –

EMILY: [laughing] Sally just looked at the computer

SALLY: Whenever I look at the computer I need you to know that I'm directly addressing the listeners in the future [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] I know

SALLY: [laughing] and so for some reason –

EMILY: But that was such a look of like, “Heh, heh? Get it?”

SALLY: [cackles]

EMILY: [laughing] They can't see you

SALLY: I *know* they can't, but they are here in my heart. So I have to look at your computer, which stands in for my heart. It's red, fittingly

EMILY: Yeah, Rosencrantz

SALLY: [sighs] Such a good computer

EMILY: Rosencrantz the Third [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah, Emily's had bad luck with computers

EMILY: I just have PCs so. They break every four years

SALLY: Like clockwork

EMILY: Yep

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Okay, moving the fuck on. We're not going to be able to get through this chapter

SALLY: Well, I mean, what is there to say? Except that this is when the plot finally happens

EMILY: But that is, like, there's so much to say. Because the plot finally happens and it's in such a weird fucking way. They're all sitting here sort of like regrouping over what's happening while all of them are evading the worst parts of their narratives that they don't want to talk about. Which is so annoying to me because if I was reunited with my friends I'd be like, "Here's every traumatic thing that happened to me. Can we go over it in excruciating detail?"

SALLY: That's what I do every day

EMILY: Yeah. I need to relieve this with everyone

SALLY: Obviously

EMILY: But whatever. Moiraine happens to ask Loial about something – no she doesn't even. Loial just is there and happens to be like, "I'm sorry to interrupt, but I have something that I suddenly feel like I need to say." And he, like, tells this story about some dude who came to the *stedding*, seemed to be near the point of death, though he had no wound or mark on him, but as soon as he got well he left. He just sneaked away. Sort of the insinuation I read there is that maybe he's a dude who can channel, and he was going crazy and that's why he was near death, you know? So he came in to get away from it. Anyway, before he left – this is in quotes – "He told a curious tale, which he said he meant to carry to Tar Valon." Apparently he didn't, or if he did, didn't get it to the right Aes Sedai. "He said the Dark One intended to blind The Eye of the World, and slay the great serpent. Kill time itself." And then Loial asks, "Is that even possible?" just like an academic question, and Perrin immediately is like, "Oh, it's like that story that the tinkers told us about the Aiel women who were found by some Tinkers and said the Dark One's going to blind the Eye of the World." And there's a difference of years here. Like Loial's story happened 20 years ago, and the Tinkers happened three years ago. And then that sort of triggers the boys remembering that, oh, Ba'alzamon said something about that in our dreams. Blah de blah de blah. And all of this is very convenient, that there are these two random stories that are never contextualized for us. Like, how did this random man who came to the *stedding* know this? And how did these Aiel women ever find this out? Like, it becomes ludicrous to me that this is something we're supposed to be like, "Oh, this is going to drive our plot forward." When it's information that they're getting third hand

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: It's like, what the hell?

SALLY: It's such a weird conceit. Like, so much of fantasy and things that are fantastic run, more or less on coincidence

EMILY: It's making me think of that – did you ever watch *Galavant*?

SALLY: Oh my god I live for *Galavant*

EMILY: And do you remember that sequence where a bunch of characters are fucking wandering around trying to get from Point A to Point B? It's like season two. And suddenly

they're in this forest, and they're, like, "Oh, look, the forest of coincidence." And suddenly everything they need. Someone will say, "I need a horse," and some dude will come up saying, "I'm selling a horse."

SALLY: [laughing] literally

EMILY: And he's like, "I don't have any money." And he's like, "I don't need money. I need a used pair of size seven shoes." "Oh, I'm a size seven."

SALLY: Yeah, seriously!

EMILY: And it's hilarious and in your face. And, like, it works because it's calling itself out.

SALLY: And it's good

EMILY: Yeah, there's some musical numbers and stuff

SALLY: Stop this podcast and watch *Galavant*

EMILY: I know I'm livid that *Galavant* was renewed for more seasons. It's so good

SALLY: [whispers] It's so good

EMILY: Anyway, it's like, I don't know, Robert Jordan is sort of trying to do that here as well by being like, "Oh, it's *ta'veren*. Oh, it's *ta'veren*. Like, look I've written into the plot that this has to make sense and you have to buy it because that's the world I've created." But I'm like, "It doesn't make –"

SALLY: It doesn't make any sense. If two people on the road were like, "Hey this lady told me this story." I'd be like, "Okay, cool."

EMILY: Literally, you just have similar vernacular about this one thing that may or may not happen?

SALLY: I would be like, "What is this? Like a fairy tale that you're telling me?"

EMILY: I know!

SALLY: "Is this like a fable?"

EMILY: And Moiraine is like, "Okay, well of course. This is fate, because we've all happened to hear the same story."

SALLY: *Ta'veren*

EMILY: “So no we have to go and, like, stop that. We have to go to the blight, and Loial’s gonna take us there via the ways.” And that’s sort of where the chapter cuts off, but like, I don’t know.

SALLY: It’s literally so – ‘kay. What page does she say that on? We’re going into the ways? What page does this chapter end on?

EMILY: 645

SALLY: ‘kay. We are 645 pages into a book that’s what? 780 something pages? 740 something pages?

EMILY: [sighs heavily]

SALLY: And we are just getting the main fucking point

EMILY: It’s, like, everything up to this point has been reaction, and this is finally action. If that makes sense

SALLY: No, it totally makes sense. And, like –

EMILY: Like, we’ve just been being chased down. We’re just running away, and we’re just trying to find some safety or new threats are coming up, and we have to evade them. And now we’re finally going to do something to fight back. Except the thing that we’re doing to fight back isn’t something that we chose. It’s something that fate has thrust upon us, you know? Like, none of us are logically prepared to do this

SALLY: Yes, and this is like a very typical structure for a *Wheel of Time* book, where I’s like so much happens for, like, 600, 700, 800 pages, and in the last hundred pages Robert Jordan is like, “Here, have a climax.”

EMILY: [laughs] But it’s like, so infuriating because you know he can do it right. Like in book three, the end of book three, which, as we all know, is a literary masterpiece. But, like, that climax of all these different characters being like moving parts and ending up in the same place in the same conflict and driving that forward, makes so much more sense. And you could also totally buy that off as fate. Like all these people have to be there at the same night? Like that’s a hell of a coincidence. But it works so well narratively. Because they all have different motivations, they’re all doing stuff that actually makes sense for their characters. Like of course Nynaeve and Egwene got fucking kidnapped. And of course Rand’s doing his own thing climbing the ways like an idiot

SALLY: Rand loves climbing palace walls

EMILY: Yeah honestly. And of course Mat’s there on a rescue mission that he doesn’t want to be on, and he has dynamite [laughs]

SALLY: Everything’s right. And Perrin’s off falling in love needlessly

EMILY: Like a nerd

SALLY: Like a huge loser

EMILY: It's just incredible and makes sense. So this is Robert Jordan like testing the waters of, like, putting his characters in these situations that could only be contrived, but he hasn't figured it out yet

SALLY: So he has to put it in your face. And like this – I only buy this 700, 800 pages of nonsense and a really good final stretch, is because Robert Jordan has really good final stretches. He really knows how to wrap it all up in a nice really explosive bow that makes you, like, I want to know how this is all gonna come together in the end. But, like, God it's, on the surface it's so annoying and needless, because there is so much of these book that could be cut out

EMILY: Yeah. I only buy this at this point because I'm too tired not to

SALLY: Right? Like it's just malaise. I'm like, "Sure. If fate gets me there faster."

EMILY: "Whatever."

SALLY: "If fate will stop me having to physically travel from Caemlyn to the Blight? Okay."

EMILY: Jesus Christ just take me there

SALLY: Just let me DIE

EMILY: I don't even know why we're going. I don't even now what the Eye of the World is

SALLY: I don't know why we're going! I don't know what the Eye of the World is. She mentions the Green Man. I don't know what that is!

EMILY: I don't know what the Ways are!

SALLY: I don't know what the Ways are. At this point I don't even know what the Aiel are, really. I don't even know what Loial is, honestly. Like, I'm just like, "Take me along because I'm so done!"

EMILY: [laughing] Fal Dara? Where the hell is that?

SALLY: [laughing] Where's Fal Dara? Who's Morgase? Like I'm so lost at this point, but I just want it to be over. It's all that I want. Is just LET IT END

EMILY: Fittingly my battery is running low

SALLY: [cackles] Rosencrantz also wants it to end

EMILY: Oh god

SALLY: Just let me die. Then they get to the Eye of the World. That's more confusing shit

EMILY: Yeah, that's why this is going to take us another couple of months even though there's only so many chapters left, because we're going to have to go over that climax [claps] in detail because who the fuck knows what's going on?

SALLY: I didn't even remember that there were forsaken there

EMILY: Yeah exactly

SALLY: Who?

EMILY: Because there's so much more going on

SALLY: What is happening?

EMILY: Okay, well. We've been talking long enough

SALLY: Oh gosh new software available from Apple

EMILY: Don't. Stop it, iTunes

SALLY: Oh, iTunes. iWho? Emilys wearing fun storm trooper socks

EMILY: My mom gave them to me for Christmas

SALLY: Oh my gosh your mom does love that Star War

EMILY: She does. She do

SALLY: She do

EMILY: Yeah, so next chapter, I guess, is they will talk about the Ways and then they'll actually go into the Ways and we'll probably spend a couple of weeks...

SALLY: In the Ways?

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Fitting

EMILY: One week going in, another week going out

SALLY: It's *been*

EMILY: Stop it

SALLY: One week since you looked at me

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Cocked your head to the side and said you're angry

EMILY: I know all the lyrics to that song don't make me use them

SALLY: Oh my god that's a power

EMILY: It is

SALLY: A power not to be wielded lightly

EMILY: Yeah, much like...balefire?

SALLY: And she tied it back

EMILY: A *Wheel of Time* joke. 'kay

SALLY: ba-ding

EMILY: ba-dum tsch

SALLY: ba-dum tsch

EMILY: But that's it for this week. Thanks for bearing with us while we yelled

SALLY: God I'm really so tired

EMILY: Yeah. It's a tiring chapter

SALLY: It's a tiring chapter

EMILY: Two chapters

SALLY: Glad Mat's back on his feet though

EMILY: Yeah, glad Mat's going to be back as the character we know and love, but we're going to have to say farewell to canonical gay lovers [laughs] Basel Gill and Lamgwin, and their cat xBrian

SALLY: 'Kay, but here's a question. Would xBrian be spelled with an 'x' or a 'z'?

EMILY: You said 'x' orignailly

SALLY: I did say 'x'

EMILY: So I feel like that's what it should be

SALLY: xBrian. Like Xena

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: But xBrian [laughs]. xBrian, space princess

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: Ummmm so outro. We're on the internet. Believe it or not

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: In the year 2018 we are still on the internet

EMILY: [laughing] You can find us on MySpace

SALLY: You can find us on MySpace and AOL Instant Messenger

[both laugh]

EMILY: Just kidding you can find us on Twitter and Tumblr and stuff. Just search us. You can find us

SALLY: If you ever get lost on how to contact us, because the internet is a big place, you can go to our website, which is ehrpodcast dot [long pause] wordpress dot com

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Took me a second. I always want to say ehr dot podcast dot wordpress dot com, but that's not – that's not right. That's too many dots

EMILY: Makes sense though, I guess

SALLY: Yes

EMILY: Or you can email us at everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com

SALLY: That's true you can email us

EMILY: Questions, concerns

SALLY: Yeah, we may do a Q&A episode

EMILY: Yeah, yeah. We'll figure it out. We have some slight life changes coming up that we're going to have to be dealing with, so we might need to do something other than heavy *Wheel of Time* analysis for one or two weeks but

SALLY: Slight life changes

EMILY: But we'll get there when we get there

SALLY: We'll get there when we get there!

EMILY: Yes

SALLY: *Incredibles 2* is coming out soon

EMILY: Oh man. So is *Ocean's 8*

SALLY: So is *Sense8*

EMILY: So is my nephew!

SALLY: Oh my GOD!

EMILY: A lot of exciting stuff happening

SALLY: Yeah Emily's going to be an aunt. By the time we record our next episode –

EMILY: And most exciting is President Bill Clinton's book with James Patterson!

SALLY: By the time this episode comes out, not only will Emily be an aunt, but Bill Clinton and James Patterson will have released their first book together

EMILY: Ask me if I'm gonna buy it

SALLY: Are you gonna buy it?

EMILY: Maybe [laughs]

SALLY: What if one of you sent me [laughing] a copy of Bill Clinton and James Patterson's book? Do you guys love me enough yet to send me a copy of this book?

EMILY: We literally said we don't accept mail

SALLY: I would make an exception

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: Possibly

EMILY: We'll find out

SALLY: If you wanted to send me

EMILY: Okay well [clapping with each word] sign. Us. Off.

SALLY: Oh, I did not prepare for this

EMILY: Oh boy

SALLY: BUT oh my god – this isn't funny, this is just depressing – but the other day

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: My sister-in-law and I were at Trinity Church because she wanted to go see Alexander Hamilton's grave

EMILY: Sure

SALLY: Which people throw pennies onto which is very confusing

EMILY: He's not even on the pennies

SALLY: [whispers] I know. I think, well, the best Melissa and I could piece together is that he was, like, invented, he, like, founded the Mint, or something. Like the US Mint. Like minting coins

EMILY: Okay, but still

SALLY: And I was like, 'cause he's the 10 dollar founding father, obviously, but who's gonna leave a \$10 bill on a gravestone? That seems wasteful

EMILY: Yeah, and I would take them all

SALLY: Obviously. It's what Alexander Hamilton would have wanted

EMILY: It's what Alexander would have wanted

SALLY: That's exactly what Alexander would have wanted. Self-starter

EMILY: First come, first serve

SALLY: First come, first serve, hos

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: But anyway we were in the parking – [laughs] the parking lot

EMILY: [laughing] The parking lot of Trinity Church

SALLY: We were in the –

EMILY: Trinity Church is where they go at the end of the first National Treasure movie, by the way. Then they go into the catacombs –

SALLY: In New York?

EMILY: Yeah. At the end

SALLY: Oh my god. I always thought that was in Boston

EMILY: I know that movie like the back of my fucking hand. I loved that movie

SALLY: It's a great movie. Let's watch National Treasure

EMILY: When we were in DC I made Sally go to – well I wanted to go to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, so I could say, "I'm going to steal the Declaration of Independence."

SALLY: But we got foiled by a Kite Festival

EMILY: Yeah, tragic

SALLY: That is the truth

EMILY: Okay, anyway. Finish your sign-off

SALLY: But anyway, the sign-off is that my sister-in-law and I were both cat-called in the graveyard of a church by someone who worked at the church I'm pretty sure

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: So. The world is broken

EMILY: I hate that

SALLY: It was awful, because he was eating his lunch and so Melissa and I just smiled and nodded, like, he was kind of in the way. And then he just, like, went off. And I was like, but plus ultra I guess

[both laugh]

EMILY: I'm going to end that with a reference *hopefully* no one understands

SALLY: Goodbye!

EMILY: Goodbye

SALLY: Sorry that sign-off was kind of lame

EMILY: No it wasn't

SALLY: I love you

EMILY: Plus ultra, I guess

SALLY: But plus ultra, I guess