



Episode 23 – “Magic Space Hell”

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EMILY: Here we are, again

SALLY: Again

EMILY: I really like your blend of orange - neon orange shirt, and neon purple sweatshirt

SALLY: Look, I'm neon at heart, okay?

EMILY: It's a good look. I never said you weren't

[SALLY laughs]

EMILY: Neon at heart. That sounds like an anime

SALLY: It's my personal anime about me [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] TM. Trademark.

SALLY: [laughs] In particular. It's an anime about my life. I need more neon in my life

EMILY: You do work at a glass blowing studio

SALLY: I do

EMILY: Where they make neon

SALLY: They do make neon. Our neon neon technician is the coolest

EMILY: [whispers] Dang

SALLY: Yeah, she's really neat and really pretty and I like her a lot

EMILY: Awww

SALLY: She's very nice to me, too. Her name's also Emily

EMILY What the heck?

SALLY: Yeah, a lot of good Emily's in my life. None as good as you, though

EMILY: Well, Emily was the most popular baby's name of 1993, which is the year I was born [laughs]

SALLY: She might have been born around then, too

EMILY: So I'm used to there being a lot of Emilys, but I don't really think of myself as Emily, you know? You don't really think of yourself by your name, so it always feels sort of confusing when - I get confused even though it doesn't feel like I should be confused [laughs]

SALLY: It's confusing. I have always thought of myself as Sally, but that's because I've lived my life in direct proximity to another Sally - my mother

EMILY: Right

SALLY: So it's always been like a thing. Like, having my name constantly internal and external, which is very - kind of a very weird thing

EMILY: I think I think of myself as EmJ

SALLY: Makes sense

EMILY: That's what my whole family calls me. Not cuz I'm Spider-man's girlfriend or Michael Jordan or whatever

SALLY: She's not Spider-man's girlfriend. She is Spider-man

EMILY: [laughs] I am the Spider-man. [Sally laughs]. It's the plot twist. MJ becomes - okay but imagine Zendaya as Spider-man

SALLY: That'd be fucking awesome

EMILY: No offense to Tom Holland, who we're going to make a podcast about BUT

SALLY: Yeah, just you wait, Patreon supporters

EMILY: Yeah once we finish "Outlander", we're just going to go on a binge watch of all Tom Holland's weird indie British movies [laughs]. Because there's so many fucking weird ones

SALLY: And the six episodes of "Wolf Hall" that he was in [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah. God bless that cute little twink

SALLY: Little cutie. [mumbles] Maybe I do look like I have a frog in my mouth

EMILY: Maybe I do look like I have a frog in my mouth. This one's for you, Tom Holland, and the frog in your mouth

SALLY: A good frog. A good boy

EMILY: [laughing] Do we have book news?

SALLY: I do. Yes. This is the ever infamous book news about an upcoming release, because I ran into this - [laughing] I just ran into this today as I was perusing Book Riot, the book blog that I mentioned last week that I think has really interesting articles. And they do just like lovely compilations of books to have on your list and things that are being released and have been released, which is a good reference

EMILY: Ooh that's good. I need more of those. I'm running low

SALLY: Which is very good. And they have like, really nice division by genres if you like Sci-Fi, fantasy, romance, fiction, crime, thriller blah blah blah. All that good stuff. And remember, they're doing a giveaway right now where if you sign up for their sci-fi fantasy newsletter, you'll be entered to win \$500 to the bookstore of your choice, which is super cool. So check them out

EMILY: [whispers] So cool

SALLY: Anyway, the book coming out -

EMILY: Just a second. Can you imagine having \$500 to spend at a bookstore?

SALLY: Isn't that crazy?

SALLY: Because I just, like, totally took in the scope of that. That's like...incredible

SALLY: That's a lot of money

EMILY: That's a lot of books

SALLY: Even buying hardback books at regular price. That's a lot of fucking books

EMILY: Yeah. Duuuuude

SALLY: So cool, right?

EMILY: Duuuuuude, I could buy books I've wanted for a long time, but have always been like, "I don't have the money for this, you know?"

SALLY: Imagine taking it somewhere like Housing Works

EMILY: Ah, damn!

SALLY: You could get so many books

EMILY: Yeah, but they kind of have good books sometimes, and then sometimes they don't have good books

SALLY: No, this raises the question of, like, can you spend over an amount of time?

EMILY: Yeah, like, do you have to go into Barnes and Noble and do your \$500 sweep? Because, don't get me wrong I could do that [laughs]

SALLY: I could and would and I'm willing to do that right the fuck now

EMILY: Yeah it's like "What Not to Wear" but with books, because I could do that. What I would want would be like Stacy and Clinton going around being like, "Emily, you already have 9 books in this genre already that you need to read. You need to stop, think about it, and go get some of those like, you know, literary, like, academic books that you've been meaning to read"

SALLY: Okay, but imagine a spin off of "What Not to Wear" called "What Not to Read" hosted by like Roxane Gay and like

EMILY: Oh man!

SALLY: Who else would be fun?

EMILY: Lin-manuel Miranda

SALLY: OH MY GOD

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: No Lin-manuel Miranda has bad taste. We've already established this. He loves "The Name of the Wind."

EMILY: Yeah he likes "The Name of the Wind" Damn

SALLY: But it could be Roxane Gay and like...

EMILY: Rick Riordan

SALLY: Rick Riordan [yells]

EMILY: Damn

SALLY: I would die

EMILY: That would be the power team. And they're both very sassy on Twitter. So

SALLY: It'd be so fun. And then - that could be like, half of the episode. Just be Roxane Gay calling people out on Twitter

EMILY: Yeah and Rick Riordan cheering her on. Damn. Okay, well, we're already five minutes in but I don't even think we need to finish the episode because we already come up with the best idea

EMILY: "Wheel of Time" who?

SALLY: We've fixed the world. That will be so fun

EMILY: [whispers] damn

SALLY: And Roxane Gay is like, "Don't...read this." Throws it in the garbage [laughs]

EMILY: "Bye." I'd be like, "Okay."

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Copy. Okay, okay, copy. Okay, tell me what is coming out. Besides me, because it's Pride Month

SALLY: Happy Pride!

SALLY: Um, so this book is called "A Thousand Beginnings and Endings," and it comes out on June 26? June 26. So soon as well. So it's called "A thousand beginnings and Endings," and it is an anthology. And this is the summary a la Amazon.com, "Star-crossed lovers, meddling immortals, feigned identities, battles of wits, and dire warnings: these are the stuff of fairy tale, myth, and folklore that have drawn us in for centuries. 16 best selling and acclaimed authors reimagine the folklore and mythology of East and South Asia and short stories that are by turns enchanting, heartbreaking, romantic, and passionate." And so the anthology features authors of East and South Asian descent, such as a Roshani Chokshi, my one true love. Her writing is good and she's so pretty, it's kind of rude. Um, anyway. But it was compiled - it's an anthology compiled by Ellen Oh, and Elsie Chapman of We Need Diverse Books, which is a really cool grassroots nonprofit that's advocating for essential change in the publishing industry to, like, reflect more

diversity and really put that out there and, like, get more stories told. So a really cool nonprofit to check out. As a nonprofit professional myself I would - I think it is a good 'un. And yeah, it just looks really cool. I mean, I've only read one of these authors, and I definitely haven't read the short story that I believe she has in here. But really cool. Lots of stuff going on. Got all the faves myth, fantasy

EMILY: Is a title, you think like a plan on "A Thousand and One Arabian Nights," you know?

EMILY: Hell yeah

SALLY: Probably

EMILY: Cool. I just read a really good translation of that. So that's so neat

SALLY: So that's your book news. It's just like, really cool. Try and diversify your reading list. Speaking of what not to read. Read less white men.

EMILY: Yeah, I try and make every other book I read by a woman of color

SALLY: You're very good at that

EMILY: Well, I've been bad about it for the last few months. But it's led me to some really good books by some really amazing women. So

SALLY: Yeah. Super cool. And there's a lot of women of color beginning to write in the fantasy vein. Not beginning to write. They've always done that. But they're beginning to get published at the level and a frequency that they deserve to be published

EMILY: Yes

SALLY: Is what I'm trying to say. Things don't just begin to happen when the publishing industry deems it time. But this is a good way to get familiar with some authors, because I've looked into a few of these authors today at work when I wasn't working, and was doing book news. And this seems like some, like a fair amount of them have books and, like, fantasy/fairy tale retelling, kind of banging out like things that

EMILY: So good way to find my faves. Awesome. Well, great.

SALLY: That's your book neeeews!

EMILY: Hell yeah

SALLY: Kiddos. And a new television show. Roxane Gay, if you're listening.

EMILY: [laughing] Rick Riordan

SALLY: Rick Riordan, if you're listening

EMILY: We want you

[THEME SONG PLAYS - "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba]

EMILY Hey, we're baaaack

SALLY: [flatly] Allegedly.

EMILY: Ohhh-kay

[Both laugh]

EMILY: "Inception" never ended. We're still in it. You're still at the movie theater watching "Inception"

SALLY: God, I hope not. I was so tired when I saw "Inception." Against my will. As I saw most movies in high school, my brothers dragged me to it against my will

EMILY: Well, I'm sorry

SALLY: I really enjoyed it. It's really interesting movie. But I was like, I don't want to be here. It's like 11pm on Thursday probably

EMILY: My best friend Kate saw "Inception" the day that we [laughs] - the day after we'd had a sleep over in the night before with our other couple of friends: Cambria and Kaylynn. Hi Cambria. And for some reason we'd stayed up all night. Like we just never went to sleep. So then we were, like, whatever, and just went about our days having pulled an all nighter, and Kate ended up at a viewing of "Inception" completely sleep-deprived. which one about as well as you can imagine [laughs]

SALLY: Horrifying

EMILY: Anyway, I'm Emily Juchau

SALLY: I'm Sally Goodger!

EMILY: And this is Everybody Hates Rand, our Wheel of Time podcast where we are discussing right now "The Eye of the World" by Robert Jordan. We're at the very end of the book. So [sighs] I'm so tired

SALLY: The book that never ends

EMILY: [singing] It's book that never ends

[both, mumbling]: it goes on and on my friends

EMILY: Okay, we can't do this. Spoiler alert. We talk about spoilers. That's your spoiler alert [laughs]

SALLY: Yep! That was very good, Emily. Very efficient

EMILY: [laughing] Except for Book 14. So, like, if someone dies in Book 14 we're not going to mention it. Probably. Unless I forget

SALLY: [whispering] Maybe she's forgotten already

EMILY: That's - I don't really remember what happened in Book 14. So

SALLY: That's okay. I don't remember what happened in this damn book

EMILY: I don't - minor characters, if they died? Who the fuck knows? I might be like, "She dies, jokingly and then she does actually die. That could happen.

SALLY: R-I-P minor character.

EMILY: Yeah. Alright. Okay. We are still in The Ways. Dun dun dun

SALLY: And they've gone quite a ways

EMILY: I...am going to diiiiie now

SALLY: [laughing]

SALLY: So funny

EMILY: No

SALLY: I'm so hilarious

EMILY: For whatever reason, we, like, I re-read the chapters and I usually just send the summaries to Sally that are on "The Eye of the World" wiki

SALLY: Don't tell them that. [laughing] Don't tell them that I'm not re-reading the book

EMILY: [in a theatrical voice] Welcome behind the curtain. Here's where all the magic happens!

[Sally's laughing]

EMILY: Sally doesn't read the book!

EMILY: Sorry, kids

EMILY: That's not even true. You totally read, like, have re-read most of the chapters. You've just been busy with your actual job. And I've been home and willing to send you the - the point is the chapter summaries go from incredibly detailed like [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Like longer than the actual chapters

EMILY: Like longer than the actual chapter, which is what happened here. And then the next chapter, like, is two paragraphs.

SALLY: It's so funny

EMILY: It's wild. Who's doing this?

SALLY: [laughing] I don't know. The chapters are also like - the summaries are hilarious. There was, like, I was reading chapter - what is the first one we are discussing, 45?

EMILY: 45. Yeah

SALLY: And they were like the most hilarious or something - like the boys continue to like needle Rand about girls or something. Which is so funny

EMILY: Which is like two lines of dialogue in the actual book

SALLY: They're hilarious. Reading them is a joy and a treasure

EMILY: If you are responsible for creating those summaries, I want to - first of all I want to talk to you. I want to shake your hand. We'll send you a free "Wheel of Time" book just like our \$5 reward on Patreon

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Hell yeah.

SALLY: They're coming, kids

EMILY: Yeah, it's taking us a while cuz I can only exert so much energy doodling at a time. Okay

SALLY: But anyway, yeah. The chapter summary for chapter 45 went on for

EMILY: It seriously

SALLY: Forever

EMILY: I read it and then I was like, "Surely something happened in the chapter that wasn't covered in the summary." No

SALLY: They covered every fleeting detail

EMILY: And they used the same word count. It's, like, you know, when you're writing an essay and have to meet a word count so you just, like, extend every sentence in the most ridiculous and awful way possible. Whatever. Our kids are in The Ways. They have just come across a broken bridge?

SALLY: Mmhmm. To Terabithia

EMILY: [softly] What the fuck?

[Sally giggles]

EMILY: Okay, first of all "The Bridge to Terabithia" - doesn't she die crossing the bridge?

SALLY: I don't know. I've never seen it, though I did have a friend tell me the plot of the movie-

EMILY: Isn't it a book?

SALLY: It is also a movie with Josh Hutcherson and Annasophia Robb

EMILY: [babbling nonsensically]

SALLY: Don't fucking at me

EMILY: I didn't know!

[Sally laughs]

EMILY: [high pitched] It's a MOVIE? They made a MOVIE? Holy shit

SALLY: Oh, and this story gets even better -

EMILY: Okay but imagine that pitch

SALLY: [cackles]. Kill a kid

EMILY: [in an old Hollywood movie type accent] Listen, Bob. I've got a pitch for you. This great book. A kid dies at the end. Whaddya think?

SALLY: I think it's Annasophia Robb

[the apartment buzzer is going off in the background]

EMILY: Who's Annasophia Robb?

SALLY: Soul Surfer? [laughs very loudly]

EMILY: Okay, here's a question. Are we going to talk about "Wheel of Time" at all today? Probably not.

SALLY: Probably not

EMILY: I worked at Blockbuster for one summer and during Shark Week we just played "Soul Surfer" on repeat [laughs].

SALLY: I'm gonna fucking lose it

EMILY: And one time I missed the shark attack, which is the best part of the movie

[both laugh]

EMILY: It's just like comes lunging out of the water. It's so cool

SALLY: "It's so cool," she says as a shark attacks a teenager

EMILY: Yeah, cuz it's not, like, too Grizzly you know? Like they could have made it all - I mean, obviously it's, like, a PG movie. But I don't want watch a shark attack where it's, like, actual gore and stuff. It's just, like, the shark rises out of the water, chomp, it's gone. And dang she's in the hospital and overcomes great trials to become really cool surfer again. And it's great. But anyway, I kept missing the shark attack [laughing] so I kept rewinding, mostly as a joke to my coworkers. But there were, like, kids in the Blockbuster. So that's the worst thing I've ever done. How about you guys?

SALLY: The worst thing I've ever done?

EMILY: Ummm

SALLY: In a Blockbuster?

[both laugh]

EMILY: Yeah. What's the worst thing you've ever done in a Blockbuster?

SALLY: I'm trying to remember even going to a Blockbuster? We're talking about "Wheel of Time"

EMILY: No you have to tell me what's the worst thing you've ever done [laughing]

SALLY: I'm trying to remember. I honestly don't have any recollection of being in a Blockbuster - except for the Blockbuster we would go to, there was a Sims game. And I always wanted to play it but it was rated T for Teen

EMILY: Ohh my god

SALLY: And my mom was like, "I don't know. I don't know if you if can play a game that's rated T for Teen

EMILY: Yeah those Sims. They just Woohoo all over the place

SALLY: They do. This was like a weird one. It was on the Game Cube, and it was, like, there was, like, a narrative to it. They're like a few Sims games that have tried to apply narrative for unknown reasons

EMILY: I don't like that

SALLY: Yeah, it's very weird.

EMILY: I've played the Sims exactly once and it was -

SALLY: Hilarious

EMILY: - two months ago. Sally watched over my shoulder

SALLY: It was super funny

EMILY: While I, like, sent out my boy to just seduce everyone

SALLY: Yeah, it was pretty good

EMILY: That was the goal

SALLY: But this one was weird. Because I was, like, I never - [laughs] I wasn't very good at it. The bad thing I did in Blockbuster I think was get my dad to rent it since my mom said no

[both laugh]

EMILY: Classic parent manipulation

SALLY: Exactly. But there was like a - you had to, like, clean up your house after a house party. And there was like puke and trash everywhere. And it was really weird. It was such a weird game

EMILY: Gross

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: We are talking about "Wheel of Time"

SALLY: Can I tell my "Bridge to " - Can I finish my "Bridge to Terabithia" story?

EMILY: Yeah, sorry. I'm so sorry [laughing]

SALLY: [laughing] No. It's okay. The, the only memory I have of "Bridge to Terabithia" is that my friend, my best friend from childhood, explained to the plot of the movie in vivid detail to me while she watched me play Kirby Air Ride [laughing]

EMILY: Speaking of iconic video games

SALLY: I know. It's the best video game

EMILY: This one also goes out to you, Cambria. Played Kirby Air Ride with you on many of rainy and also sunny day because we were nerds who wanted to stay inside and play video games

SALLY: Like who goes outside?

EMILY: Yeah, when you have the rich world of the Kirby Air Ride city

SALLY: Literally. It's an infinite canvas. You know how many -

EMILY: Not literally. I've been to the borders of that canvas

SALLY: I've also been to the borders of that canvas

EMILY: And thrown my tiny round body against the force fields that encompass

SALLY: Because there's the volcano in the distance

EMLY: Yeah

SALLY: Or the mountain and you're like, "I want to go to that other island"

EMILY: Have you ever been in the volcano? And it shoots you up?

SALLY: Yeah I used to build my house there. Yeah and you go up in the top, and then you can even climb to the top of the top

EMILY: Yep. Copy. I think we all [both laugh]. Okay, we need to talk about this stupid book

SALLY: This a good transition because I have a video game parallel to discuss with The Ways. Um

EMILY: Carry on, my dude

SALLY: Because as they're walking there's always, like, white lines on the floor. Which I think is really interesting in The Ways

EMILY: Yeah, like, to lead you to the exit

SALLY: Yeah. And did you ever play The Stanley Parable? Or did I ever talk to you about this game?

EMILY Now? Here's the thing. I've played three video games in my entire life. They are Kirby Air Ride, Super Smash Brothers, and I guess - oh no. Wind Waker. I've played Wind Waker

SALLY: [whispers] what the hell is Wind Waker?

EMILY: Zelda

SALLY: Oh!

EMILY: That's the one - I have a Gamecube [laughs] and that's the one game I have on my Gamecube

SALLY: Oh, that's right. We do have a Gamecube. Okay, anyway. There's this game called The Stanley Parable, which I played in my video games and storytelling class my freshman year of college. Really interesting game. It's kind of - I don't think it's like an indie game, but you can get on Steam, um, if you do video games. Um, if you DO video games

EMILY: If you do a video games

SALLY: Anyway, it's this really interesting thing where, like, the whole premise of it is that you're a character named Stanley who works in an office, and there's like a narrator and he tells you what to do, but you're able to, like, divert away from the narrator and whatever you do changes the game - like, will change with the narrator's saying

EMILY: Oh, that's interesting

SALLY: Yeah, super cool. And there's like 27 or 28 different endings. It starts to get [laughs] super weird and crazy. Like, you can go into this, like, basement thing and there's weird references to Portal and, like, all this crazy weird stuff. Then they can go into space kind of. It's such a weird game. But it's super cool and super interesting. But there's this path on the ground and you're supposed to follow this path and it takes you through the narrative, but you can, like, divert. And so it's like really interesting. So I just always think about it when I read this book because there's like - they're going to different exits but they're also like going different is just - The Stanley Parable is just really interesting in terms of like story, too. So

EMILY: Yeah that's interesting. And there's, like, a lot of - there are a few moments here in this chapter where they're in the ways where there's references to everyone wanting to, like, change the path that they're on because Moiraine has them very set on going to this one place. Which is Fal Dara, but Loial expresses some hesitance, you know, the first time they run into a broken bridge. He's like, maybe we should just go to, like, my house which is in Stedding Shangtai. Or maybe we should go to Tar Valon, or even back to Caemlyn. And stuff like that. And Moiraine kind of has to keep everyone literally on the path. Which is, you know what the mentor always does. It's one of the like - in the job description. If you go on Craigslist and find mentor it's gonna be right there

SALLY: Keep heroes on the heroes path

EMILY: Keep heroes on the path, do some magic stuff, but, like, ambiguously. Don't ever tell any body

SALLY: Don't ever tell anybody anything that's happening

EMILY: Say some mystic stuff

BOTH: Die

EMILY: halfway through. Yeah

SALLY: Absolutely

EMILY: Okay [laughs]. Copy that

SALLY: Um. It's really fatalistic. It's a job that you have to be willing to die for. No, and, but like, literally in the hero's journey there's always, like, a refusal of the call where the

hero is tempted to not do that. And the mentor is, has to be like, "But the universe" in Moiraine's case

EMILY: "But the Wheel"

SALLY: "But the wheel is weaving as it wills"

EMILY: The pattern. The pattern needs you

SALLY: The pattern needs you, specifically, Rand al'Thor. For unknown reasons

EMILY: Rand al'Thor if you don't follow the pattern is gonna be one motherfuckin hella ugly tapestry

SALLY: [laughing] a goddamn bitch of a situation

EMILY: Listen

SALLY: Yeah, Arachne who bitch? This is an ugly fucking tapestry

[both laugh]

EMILY: Arachne lost with this tapestry. How you think she turned out like that?

SALLY: She's got eight fucking legs now. She's a fucking spider [laughs]. She lost. Not she got turned into a spider because she won, basically. But

SALLY: But yeah this is an uuuugly tapestry

EMILY: But

SALLY: [laughing] Like you guys remember that story a few years ago where the person was supposed to refurbish that painting of Jesus, and it turned out like super weird? Do you know what I'm talking about?

EMILY: But if we're going with the -

EMILY: No. I have no idea what you're talking about

SALLY: OH MY GOD. Okay, keep talking. I'm going to see if I can find it

EMILY: We're definitely only getting through one chapter today [laughs]

SALLY: What happens if I type in "ugly Jesus refurbishing?" [laughs]

EMILY: I don't know. But I can't wait to find out, my guy. Ugly Jesus refurbishing. Is it like white Jesus?

SALLY: Yeah it's like - I don't even know if it's Jesus but

EMILY: No one gets more angry about white Jesus than my very white dad

EMILY: He's like, "Are you kidding?" Oh no. Oh no

SALLY: Botched Jesus restoration [cackling]

[Sally continues to cackle]

EMILY: That's like a huge mood

SALLY: Anyways this is the tapestry -

EMILY: We'll throw the link up on our -

SALLY: [laughing] - without Rand. It's so funny! I can't even handle it. His mouth isn't even, like, straight

EMILY: If you guys want to do, like, an ugly restoration of "The Eye of the World" cover by, like, recreating it in bad watercolors? I would love that

SALLY: I would lose it

EMILY: I couldn't give you anything, but I would love that

SALLY: Yeah personally we would give our adoration

EMILY: I mean yeah. I withhold my affection, but I might, like, express some genuine love for you if you did that

SALLY: Which is incredible

EMILY: Yeah never happens

SALLY: She never does it

EMILY: Okay, they're in The Ways. They're in the goddamn fucking Ways, and they get to this bridge that's broken. Which is where we fucking left off last week. And they all panic obviously because what does this mean? Are The Ways crumbling around them as they travel? Until Moiraine points out no, this has been broken for quite some time. It's been, like, 10 years. Like things, definitely are crumbling but they're not going to like fall out from beneath your feet, you know? So that calms everyone down a little bit and

although Loial kind of wants to go home, they retrace their steps a bit until they find a point where they can find a new path to Fal Dara. And continue for some time in that vein, just, like, doing this travel through The Ways in the dimness. No sense of sun or wind or light. Pretty dreary. They camp for the night? Is that up next thing that happens?

SALLY: Ye - um. I think so. I don't know I read such an extensive chapter summary. I should know every single thing that happens in this chapter

EMILY: Sorry, give me a second

SALLY: No, it's okay. An interesting thing - this is just totally random, as if I've said anything not random today. But one of our board members - we'll someone was quoting one of our board members at work -was talking about radar? This in context of a lot of stuff, but he said, like, when you have a radar that reaches 50 miles, like, you're not worried about those 50 miles you're worried about the 51st mile, because that's like what you can't see. And I was - like heard that before I read The Ways chapter last week and then I was just, like, God, it would be so spooky to walk around in a circle of light and you literally can't see what is beyond it. UGH!

EMILY: Yeah that is incredibly creepy

SALLY: Anyway. Did you find what you were looking for?

EMILY: Yeah, I mean, I was just trying to find what happens next. But there's kind of an interesting conversation here where Loial's visibly upset, and Rand, in a sweet way, tries to comfort him and say, "Hey when, like, this is over we'll - I'll go to Stedding Shangtai with you and I'll take you to Emmond's Field. And we won't take The Ways that's for sure! We'll just walk or whatever." And Loial, like a pessimistic motherfucker, is like "You believe it will ever be over, Rand?" And Rand's like, "Yeah, we're going to be there two days you said." And Loial's like, [dramatic voice] "Not The Ways, Rand all the rest. What makes you believe it will ever be over?"

SALLY: And you're like, "Okay, teenage angst"

EMILY: And you're like, "Yeah, edgelord, over here."

SALLY: [laughs] Seriously!

EMILY: It's, like, what is happening?

SALLY: Literally, what has happened to you?

EMILY: It's a bit of a, like, not characteristic Loial thing. Yeah. You wouldn't expect that type of grim talk from Loial, but also, like, yeah of course it is foreshadowing because this isn't ever going to be over. Like, they're not going to have a break. Ever. Which is horrifying. Especially Rand. Rand just like ...

SALLY: Yeah. Soz, boo

EMILY: Just like yes goes. Goes for 14 books. [in a gravelly voice] Rough. Rough. No wonder he goes crazy. But anyway they keep going for some time. They camp for the night. We learn a few important things. That Moiraine is going to try not to use the Power, because the Ways are so tainted that anything she did would also be tainted. She also tells them she doesn't think Thom's dead because he's part of a pattern blah blah blah

SALLY: [laughing] I believe he's dead when I see his corpse

EMILY: Literally. She's like, "When I see that dude's corpse, I'll believe it. But until then

SALLY: Until then...that wily bitch is alive

EMILY: [laughs] Crazy like a fox. [Both laugh]. Causing political mayhem somewhere. Of course then everyone teases Rand about girls

SALLY: [snorts]

EMILY: They reference Min and Egwene's like, "Oh Min." [laughs] And Perrin's like, "Min was just somebody who worked at the inn at Baerlon, not like Aram." [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah Perrin's like -

EMILY: And Egwene literally chokes

SALLY: [laughs] Perrin up here causing fucking DRAMA

EMILY: I know fucking Perrin came in like [laughs]. He was ready with that one

SALLY: Perrin was like [snaps with each word], "Bitch. You. Thought."

EMILY: "I've been waiting. This has been in the, like, chamber of my gun since it happened, so I could whip it out at this moment to defend my boy

SALLY: Yeah Perrin, who it probably would take him about three weeks to craft any joke [both laugh]. His sense of humor is horrible and nonexistent

EMILY: Can we, like, contrast that with the fact that they get to - they get to camp and they're like, "We're gonna make camp here for the night," and Mat looks around at all the darkness and it just like [Emily cackles, Sally laughs]. Just like cackles

SALLY: He's like, "Okay [cackles]"

EMILY: "Okay. You crazy loons"

SALLY: "You crazy loony toons" And they're like, "Mat, please."

EMILY: Calm down, you nut job

SALLY: "Not like Aram" [laughs]

EMILY: "Not like Aram". Anyway

SALLY: Fucking Perrin

EMILY: Rand's like, "Who's Aram?" and they like -

SALLY: And Egwene's like, "I'm going to going to bed"

EMILY: "I'm going to bed. Fuck you guys."

SALLY: "Fuck you, this isn't fun anymore. It's only fun when I'm making fun."

EMILY: And then Mat like a true hero is like, "Or maybe we could talk about that farmer girl that was really into you, Rand." And Egwene is like, "Excuse me?" And Rand is like, "I'm also going to bed"

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: You dummies

SALLY: What's hilarious about this scene is that Perrin's on Rand's side and Mat's on Egwene's side [laughing], which is so good!

EMILY: But yeah that adds up [laughs]. That adds up a lot

SALLY: Yeah. So true to character. Mat's like, "You wanna slut shame Egwene? Let's slut shame the real ho over here" [laughs]

EMILY: "You have three love interests, Rand!"

SALLY: And everyone else in the world wants to hop on that dick for unknown reasons.

EMILY: HO-NEST-LY. What the fuck's happening?

SALLY: So, let's talk about the real issue

EMILY: This just, like, I would be annoyed, but for whatever reason I just, like, read this so much like adolescent

SALLY: Oh yeah!

EMILY: Like, they actually sound like teens

SALLY: This is a dumb conversation any old group of friends would have

EMILY: Yeah, you would totally - if you had your two friends who are like into each other, but like, won't do anything about it? Yeah, you'd the fuck out of each other

SALLY: One time Elise and I went to pick - Elise is our roommate and I've known her for, like, 12 years. We went to pick up one of our friends from a school dance who was like doing the, like, would you won't you thing. And so we made like the sluttiest playlist of all time and played it in the car while we were driving them home

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: [clapping] Because that's what teens do! They do stupid shit like that

EMILY: [wheezing] So good

SALLY: Yeah, just the fact that they're like, bicker, bicker, bicker. And Lan's over there, like, blending into the darkness or something [laughs]

EMILY: I know I want to know what Lan's doing during this entire scene. Is he just like cackling under his breath?

SALLY: "Look at Mat HAH"

EMILY: Rand says "Blood and ashes" and Mat says, "As the Wisdom would say, watch your tongue"

SALLY: [laughs loudly] So funny. Where's this Mat all the time? He's such a fucking savage

EMILY: [laughing] I love Mat

SALLY: As the Wisdom would say

EMILY: Watch your tongue. [Laughing] Mat, the sweariest character. [Sally laughs]. Literally. They have like a - they have a bit of - spot of trouble up here later and all Mat does is swear while that's going on

SALLY: For like three minutes

EMILY: Which is, like, super relatable. Um, anyway, so they have kind of like a restless - they - seems like they're going to have a restless night. But then Moiraine makes the rounds, basically just giving them some like the - it reminds me of when I used to do a - I took a yoga class and our beautiful instructor would at the end, when we were in Corpse Pose, she'd be like, "And now I'll come around and if you'd like I'll give you like a head massage and put some oil on your brow or whatever." And you were like, "I don't want to do this," and she'd be like, "You can signal to not do this." And you'd like place your hands a certain way and she'd skip over you. But if you wanted it - and eventually I was like, I want to see what this shit is about." And she came over and just like put some cool, nice smelling oil on my head and then like rubbed my scalp a little bit and I was like, "That was the most goddamn blissful ever"

[Sally laughs]

EMILY: I've been missing out on this experience

SALLY: I've been missing out on this for weeks!

EMILY: I can't believe this! Makes me almost not want to skip yoga but I did

SALLY: I put on essential oils this morning

EMILY: That's so nice

SALLY: Yeah, I found them as I was frantically searching for deodorant, which I found. Don't worry, guys

EMILY: Okay good. Thanks

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Anyway [Sally laughs] Moiraine like rubs some essential oils on Rand is like, "Even here your destiny protects you. Not even the dark one can change the pattern completely. You are safe from him so long as I am close. Your dreams are safe. For a time yet, they are safe." Which is like, "Hey...you're good for the next 10 minutes"

SALLY: But after that, fucker

EMILY: But after that who the fuck knows? Your destiny only extends so far if you know what I mean. So I don't know, but [laughing] he seems to be comforted

SALLY: It could go south at anytime but Rand's like, "Oh thanks, Mom"

EMILY: Um, yeah, that's super great mentor - that also goes on the mentor Craigslist ad

SALLY: Yeah, it's like Dumbledore does the same thing in book three

EMILY: Yeah they do "comforting" in air quotes things that aren't actually comforting

SALLY: Yeah, Moiraine is really bad at it too. She'll be like comfort semi colon really shitty thing that's going to happen and a bunch of uncertainty. Which is nice in a way because then you have on the other side Dumbledore who's like, "I'm gonna lie to teens for seven years and think that's fine." And then Gandalf who just doesn't remember anything and disappears for [laughs] a book and a half or whatever the fuck

EMILY: Gandalf's supportive at least

SALLY: Gandalf is very supportive and I love Gandalf

EMILY: Gandalf has the purest and most comforting, like, speeches

SALLY: [whispers] I know

EMILY: Which is so nice. He's really the OG

SALLY: I know. Whenever he talks to Frodo and he's just like UGH

EMILY: Remember when he talks to Pippin in "Return of the King?" You're like, "Wow I guess I'll die now"

SALLY: I guess I'll fucking die. But Moiraine is just super upfront about the fact that she's like, "This shit could go south any second"

EMILY: Which, like, cool

SALLY: Which is kind of nice, though also, like, not always super comforting [laughing] when you're asleep in the dark places and everything's scary

EMILY: Especially because - this is so funny - like the next day Lan's like, "Just by the way someone or something is following us," and it's totally like that moment when Frodo looks back in the Mines of Moria and realizes Gollum is behind them. And you know Gandalf's, like "Oh don't worry about it." Here Moiraine's like, "Should probably worry about that"

SALLY: [making mumbling mouth noises for some unknown reason]

EMILY: Mat of course immediately just, like, shoots at nothing

SALLY: Because man is...stupid

EMILY: He can't see anything. And Lan's like [stuttering]

EMILY: He says, "Stop that, you village idiot"

SALLY: Lan's like, "What the fuck are you doing?"

EMILY: Lan literally calls him a village idiot

SALLY: Does he really?

[Both laugh, Sally very loudly]

SALLY: I'm gonna die

EMILY: Lan has said one savage thing in his life and it is this

SALLY: Stop that, you village idiot. Lan, like, listened to the teens and like Perrin all night was like, "What joke am I getting ready? What joke am I getting ready?"

EMILY: Lan's like, "Let me just whip this one out"

SALLY: He's had this one prepared since leaving the Two Rivers

EMILY: Literally since he saw Mat

SALLY: He was like, "Sometime I gotta call him a village idiot"

EMILY: I mean honestly? We've talked about he has nicknames for Perrin and Rand, but with Mat there's nothing. I think village idiot is the nickname

SALLY: It's what? Sheepherder?

EMILY: Sheepherder and blacksmith

SALLY: And then village idiot

EMILY: Yeah I just wish he called Mat village idiot for the rest of the series

SALLY: Yeah. "Hey, village idiot"

EMILY: With the like same exact tone of voice that he calls Rand "Sheepherder"

SALLY: [flatly] "Hello, village idiot"

EMILY: Can you imagine?

SALLY: [flatly] "Hellow, Sheepherder"

EMILY: "Listen, village idiot." Mat's like, "Could you please not?"

SALLY: This is my entire army

EMILY: Like I literally have an army. I'm married to an empress

SALLY: Lan's like, "village idiot"

EMILY: Lan's like, "You're still the village idiot in my heart." And Mat's like, "okay, I respect that. I guess"

SALLY: I guess. Guys are you a shepherd, a blacksmith, or a village idiot?

EMILY: [laughing] I think we all know

SALLY: I'm the village idiot [laughing]

EMILY: We'll make a quiz later

SALLY: [gasps] Oh, that'd be fun!

EMILY: Aw, if only

SALLY: [snorts] Okay, really, really pessimistic there. She had a little Loial moment

EMILY: [laughing] I was saying, if only - if only I knew how to make a quiz. I don't

SALLY: I feel like Elise probably knows

EMILY: Yeah she probably does

SALLY: Elise knows everything about the internet. It's kind of frightening

EMILY: Damn. [sighs] Okay anyway, there's some more creepy stuff where this guy, who we're later going to find out is Padan Fain - is following them. The series Gollum, of course

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah

EMILY: He's following but they don't know it, and Lan is hesitant to try and, like, kill them? Because - [laughs] there's this hilarious - this chunk of conversation right here is hilarious because you have Loial monologuing in the background about how he should never have left home. Meanwhile there's this back and forth between Lan and everyone else about what's going on, where, like, Matt's like, "What else would be in a place like this besides something evil?" And Lan's like, "We're in - we are"

SALLY: Us

EMILY: Us, you dumb asshole [laughs]

SALLY: village idiot, we're here

EMILY: We're here. What do you think?

SALLY: Meanwhile, Loial's like, "I should have listened to the elders. I'm too young. I was so hasty"

EMILY: And Moiraine's like, "What do you feel, Lan?" [laughs]

SALLY: "Lan, what do your elf eyes see?" [laughs]. This chapter is low key the funniest in the entire series

EMILY: I KNOW. [Sally laughs]. I can't believe Robert Jordan descended into hell and then, like, grasped the peak of comedy

SALLY: Yeah, he wrote a sitcom there [laughs]

EMILY: "Listen I've come up with the best thing. In the cold dark of magical space"

SALLY: Magical space hell

EMILY: Yeah, magical space hell. [Sally laughs]. The void

SALLY: The void, colon, magic space hell. Semicolon?

EMILY: You know that's the title of this episode. [Sally laughs]. Okay, they keep going - this is taking so goddamn long

SALLY: Lind of like this chapter

EMILY: Oh. Ooh that's a

SALLY: Form mimics content

EMILY: That's a big kind of from Sally. She doesn't - usually you're so solid on, "I hate this chapter" [both laugh]. This is exciting. She might like this chapter

SALLY: Well, I mean, it is kind of funny

EMILY: Okay anyway, they reach the next guiding, which is literally the signpost that's in another language -

SALLY: The yield posts

EMILY: - so it's super helpful to no one, except Loial

SALLY: Yeah good thing loyal reads the magic sign language

EMILY: Yeah good thing Loial is a walking Rosetta Stone. What the fuck?

SALLY: Oh my god he is Rosetta Stone

EMILY: Um anyway. But they get there and they find that it's basically been graffitied, like, a bunch of the signs have been, like, scratched out?

EMILY: And Moiraine's like, "This explains everything in an instant. This is how the Trollocs got to Manetheren. And this is how they got to Caemlyn. But they must not know everything yet because otherwise they would have gone straight into Caemlyn, which I think is a question that we had last chapter of whatever. Anyway

SALLY: Hooligans

SALLY: There's also some, like, stuck in the stones right?

EMILY: Yeah they go on a little farther - like Lan goes scouting and he's like they don't use - like the big revelation here is a "Oh dunk there are Trollocs and Myrddraal in the Ways," which like we the re-readers are like it takes us this long to find this out I guess? Kind of hard to believe. But anyway Lan goes scouting is like, "They don't use the ways easily," quote unquote, and kind of shows them that, yeah, these Trollocs were, like, caught in something basically? The stone, like, bubbled around them. And they sunk into it and like it froze them. We're not really sure. It's basically just like a bunch of frozen corpses

SALLY: Yucky

EMILY: "Frozen in the moment of their death," and Rand notes that "even for Trollocs it had been a horrible way to die." And you know it's gross because Mat throws up

EMILY: Mat throws up whenever anything disgusting is happening

SALLY: Aw Mat

SALLY: Relatable

EMILY: Have I talked about how I think Mat has, like, the most involuntary physical reactions to things? Yeah, yeah. I love Matt and his reactions to trauma. I was thinking about that a lot today because of the blog I'm going to be writing, but irrelevant

SALLY: Not irrelevant

EMILY: Read my blog. All the boys react to trauma in very different ways. And it's very interesting in the world of the text. But Mat throws up whenever anything gross happens, which I love about him. It's very relatable [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Mat just puking in the background

SALLY: Told you. It was our village idiot

EMILY: Yeah. Rand's like, "I hear someone puking," and I'm like, "It's Mat," and then the next paragraph is Mat recovering from puking and I'm like, "Told you"

EMILY: I know my boy

SALLY: Her son

EMILY: But anyway, but uh - that's on the way to Tar Valon, so nothing to worry about because they're not going that way. And furthermore, Nynaeve's like, "That could happen to us, "and Moiraine's like, "No I think that whoever made the ways probably warded them in some way against the creatures of the night," as it were

SALLY: [singing] Creature of the night

EMILY: But they do have something to worry about because not much later is when Machin Shin ,the black wind, catches up to them. And it is very creepy because Rand just feels, like, a breeze and it takes a minute to remember, oh, there are no breezes here. And then he's like, "Hey, Loial." [laughs]

SALLY: "Hey, Loial?"

EMILY: [coughing] "Hey."

SALLY: His voice cracks eight times in two syllables

EMILY: [high pitched] "Loial?"

[both laugh]

EMILY: Matt dies in the background

SALLY: [laughs] Falls off his horse. Into the black

EMILY: And there's this sort of intense - intense chase sequence, that also reads very much like the Mines of Moria to the point where, like, Moiraine's the one who's left behind. But of course she doesn't die yet here

SALLY: Yet

EMILY: She retreats safely. But yeah they have to dash across a few more bridges and then when they finally get to the gate, the avendesora leaf is gone for whatever fucking reason. So Mat starts swearing, Loial's just literally screaming in the background

SALLY: [laughing] Primal scream therapy

EMILY: Egwene and Rand are looking at each other meaningfully like the goddamn teens they are

SALLY: The horny teens they are

EMILY: Yeah they're so horny right now

SALLY: Makes you horny, I guess

EMILY: Anyway, but they finally - Moiraine just like fucking brute force - with her magic and Lan's horse they break through the gate

SALLY: Yeah they run Lan's horse through the -

EMILY: Yeah Moiraine, like, cracks it and then Lan is just like, "Here I'm going to charge my steed at it," which I guess works as well as anything

SALLY: But it's like...your horse. You just run him headlong into the wall?

EMILY: He seems okay

SALLY: Or did he, like, kick it with his back legs?

SALLY: What the hell? I don't know you could train horses to catch other horses

EMILY: No, he's, like, trained to do it. It says he hits it with his shoulder "just has he had been taught to catch other horses in battle." He's like a battle horse. They're used to that type of stuff

EMILY: Not like literally catch, but like run and tackle

SALLY: Yeah, literally catch. So they're gonna whip out their horse hands and catch another, a smaller horse bridal style

EMILY: [laughing] Torsey the torso horse

SALLY: And kiss it right on its beautiful horsey mouth

EMILY: Touch him and your wishes come true (this is a reference from MBMBAM)

SALLY: And then they both just run off into the distance, abandoning battle, living true romantic-pacifist lives in the countryside [laughs]

EMILY: [exhausted]

SALLY: Obviously not. It's fucking hands, which it does not have [laughing]

EMILY: Give me some slack. I didn't know "Bridge to Terabithia" was a movie

SALLY: [laughs] I didn't even know "Bridge to Terabithia" was a bridge!

EMILY: [laughing] WHHHHAT?

SALLY: It's about a bridge?

EMILY: The what now? Okay

SALLY: To Terabithia

EMILY: They get the fuck out. And Moiraine gets out, and they hear the gross wind saying some gross ass shit that I'm not going to repeat in this podcast, because it's pretty graphic

SALLY: Do they say it in here? I don't even remember

EMILY: It's gross

SALLY: Is it like blood guts?

EMILY: Yeah. Literally

SALLY: Republican Party?

EMILY: [in a weird voice] Yeah, yeah, it's like, "Blood, blood. Donald Trump."

SALLY: You sound like Cartman from South Park

[both laugh]

SALLY: The way you said Donald Trump. Soo just imagine that the wind is an episode of South Park because South Park is also fucking disgusting

EMILY: Oh man, yeah. I feel that. Ugh, I'd flee from that too. Okay. Um. Yeah, but it's gross.

SALLY: Yuck

EMILY: And so now they've got to - but they've escaped with their lives, and they are now in the countryside surrounding Fal Dora and that is where we're going to end

SALLY: Es-ca-pay

EMILY: Escapay. They've got to go alert Lord Agelmar. Agelmar? [testing 2 different pronunciations]

SALLY: [stuttering]

EMILY: Hey, I've got an idea: let's consult the glossary. We've never done that before

SALLY: [blows out her lips]

EMILY: This will be fun

SALLY: I don't know what a glossary is

EMILY: Glossary. Ogel-mar. Og-el-mar

SALLY: Og-el-mar? Robert, how would you even scansion that?

EMILY: Ag-el-mar

SALLY: AG

EMILY: Agelmar. I think it's Agelmar

EMILY: JA-GAD is his last name

SALLY: Agelmar

SALLY: Ja-Gad?

EMILY: Jagon.

SALY: Joggin? He be joggin?

EMILY: I'm having a hard time with this glossary. No wonder we've never looked at it

SALLY: Like he'd be joggin - I stand by this. 'kay. Here's a line drawn in the sand. You cannot control how your readers pronounce things. You can do your best in the text, but if there is a literal glossary, I will ignore it

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Because that is a ridiculous amount of control to put over your own work. How people read the words. Like if you say it in an interview, that's the 21st century that we live in. But to put an actual glossary in the back to control how people say things is ridiculous

EMILY: The glossary I think is helpful in the later books when you're literally like, "Who's this character?" But yeah, the Pronunciation Guide is a little bit much. I mean, just like, if you want to care if you want people to not mispronounce a character's name, make it an easy name to pronounce

SALLY: Or do it phonetically in the text

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: If - yeah - or

EMILY: Robert, you don't need all these vowels, Robert

SALLY: Or just don't name somebody Egg-wayne and spell it like edge-ween

EMILY: So dumb

SALLY: First of all, don't name anybody with any syllable that contains egg

EMILY: [laughs] Hey, egg!

SALLY: Hey, EGG. The fact that EGG - [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Yeah, the fact that you expect me to believe that her name is pronounced Egg-wayne, and you don't expect me to believe that Mat's been calling her Egg since like day one?

SALLY: He'd be like, "HEY, EGG"

EMILY: [laughs] Egghead

SALLY: [in a weird quasi New York accent] Hey, Egghead. You fucking suck, Egghead. Look at your...hair. It's not even braided yet. You're such a little girl

EMILY: [laughing] What is happening?

SALLY: [laughing] Egghead. Fuck you, Egghead [both laugh]. Who's Aram, Egghead?

EMILY: [laughing] Canonically Mat is not this mean, but he would 100% call her Egg

SALLY: You ain't shit, Egghead

[both laugh]

EMILY: [in the same bad accent] You're just like your father

SALLY: You ain't shit, duck! You're just like

BOTH: Like your father.

[both laugh]

EMILY: Okay, we're done. We're done. I'm calling it

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Okay. I don't event want to say all our socials

SALLY: Well, we're on the internet, as you know. But instead of looking us up on the internet this week, you should do us a huge favor and recommend this podcast to one of your friends you think would like it. Who likes "Wheel of Time"

EMILY: Oooh that's a novel idea

SALLY: Or who would be interested in reading it. Just because we obviously don't pay to advertise it because we have no money. And so it'd be super great if you could spread the word for us. Post it on your socials. Or like - everyone who tweets about the show. So lovely. So kind. Thank you. Shout out to the person who told me that they listened to podcast for nine hours straight. I hope you're still alive [laughs]

EMILY: I got off work to a text that was like someone listened to our podcast for nine hours straight. And I was like, "I truly don't know how to feel about this." I'm flattered, but I'm also terrified. Are they alive? Okay. Um. Sign us off. I don't know how you're going to be the Bridge to Terabithia story

SALLY: I know I should have saved that for my sign off

EMILY: Too bad

SALLY: Too bad. You got my sign off in the middle of the podcast. Um, so this is weird and gross. But I work - as I think I've told you guys - at a glass blowing studio. So it's like

a functioning artists' studio were like things are happening and they can get kind of like, dusty and messy. But, like, not where I work. Like, I sit at a desk. But every time I wash my hands at work, the water just like runs black because there's like dirt on my hands

EMILY: Jesus

SALLY: And I don't know where it comes from. And today was wearing a bunch of rings, so I was like taking them all off - so I was just, like, very aware of it today - to wash my hands. It was just like black dust and dirt. And I don't know where it comes from because I'm not studio side at all

EMILY: It's just all in the air

SALLY: That was a weird and dumb sign off but

EMILY: It' the black wind

SALLY: It's...the black wind on my hands. Oh my god. I'm gonna go crazy. That already happened. Just kidding.

EMILY: [laughing] Okay. That's where the episode ended

SALLY: [making the "Psycho" knife noise]

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