



Episode 24 – “Perrin ... Took a Different Class”

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[Theme Song – “Tubthumping” by Chumbawamba]

SALLY: Let’s actually talk about *Wheel of Time*. Okay. The theme song just played, and now you are officially – you’ve gone through a portal. Our theme song is a portal – now you’re officially at your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast

EMILY: Can you imagine – the portal guardian is Chumbawamba? Hold on a second, I have to look up a picture of Chumbawamba

SALLY: I can’t believe. Chumbawamba if you’re listening

EMILY: [laughs] Please don’t sue us. First and foremost

SALLY: First and foremost, you’re welcome for getting “Tubthumping” back on the public radar

EMILY: Oh yeah. That was all credited to us

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Oh, wow. Chumbawamba. It’s just such a big band

SALLY: Oh my god. How many people are there?

EMILY: There’s like....

SALLY: Forty?

EMILY: Not eight? That I’m seeing in this picture

SALLY: [laughs] ‘Kay, guys. There’s not eight people in Chumbawamba. Who knows how many people there are?

EMILY: Chumbawamba, and then there’s eight pictures

SALLY: Oh you said...

EMILY: I’m gonna Wikipedia

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: What? What do you think?

SALLY: I don’t know what’s happening

EMILY: “Chumbawamba were a British band that formed in 1982, and ended in 2012.”¹ God, and what a fucking stellar 30 years it was while they were around

SALLY: I only, yeah, know one song of theirs

EMILY: “The band constantly shifted in musical style, drawing on genres such as punk rock, pop, folk, and experimental. Their anarchist or libertarian socialist political stance exhibited an irreverent attitude toward authority, and the band have been forthright in their stances on issues including: animal rights, pacifism, and a leader regarding class struggles, feminism, gay liberation, pop culture, and anti-fascism.”

SALLY: Hell yeah

EMILY: Yeah, so I –

SALLY: Chumbawamba’s actually lit as hell

EMILY: Yeah, we stan a legend

SALLY: We stan a legend, and that legend is Chumbawamba

EMILY: Okay, their initial line up had four people. And then there was five. It just seems like a lot happened, but the point is: four to eight people [laughs]

SALLY: Chumbawamba contains for *to* eight people. Contained, my apologies

EMILY: Past members. It lists [counting to herself] one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine... it lists 11 past members

SALLY: So there was 11 people in any given constellation of four to eight people

EMILY: Notably several women

¹ If you’re interested: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chumbawamba>

SALLY: Hell yeah

EMILY: Were in the band Chumbawamba

SALLY: Oh my god. Could you imagine if a woman wrote “Tubthumping?”

EMILY: God I guess I have to find out the entire history of “Tubthumping” by Chumbawamba. Just a second

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: We’re doing this

SALLY: Wikipedia is a gift

EMILY: It was released in 1997. Chart topper

SALLY: Obviously

EMILY: Yeah, obviously. How could it not be?

SALLY: It’s an incredible song. Fucking slaps

EMILY: “The song is about us, as a class and as a band. The beauty of it was that we had no idea how big it would be.” Okay, “a Leeds pub called Fforde Grene served as the group’s inspiration in writing the song. Guitarist Boff Whaley told the *Guardian* that [the song] was written about ‘the resilience of ordinary people.’”² Which is great for our theme song, which is about our resilience in the face of unending struggle aka Gawyn

SALLY: OHH

EMILY: [laughs] and also about ordinary people, like Mat and Egwene’s resilience in the face of, you know

SALLY: Tarmon Gai’don

EMILY: Yeah, the devil

SALLY: Literally. Quite literally

EMILY: It doesn’t say if anyone specifically wrote it. Just that it was a huge hit

SALLY: I mean it was a huge hit. In my heart

EMILY: Yeah, obviously

SALLY: And to the public. Well, thank you, Wikipedia. That was really very educational

² More reading material: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tubthumping>

EMILY: Yeah, we learned a lot about that. Anyway, this is Everybody Hates Rand [laughs]

SALLY: Welcome

EMILY: I'm Emily Juchau

SALLY: I'm Sally Goodger

EMILY: And, ummmm...

SALLY: Spoilers

EMILY: Spoilers. That's all we're going to say about that. Spoilers

SALLY: Speaking of spoilers. Update from camp still reading *Lord of Chaos* nine thousand weeks later, but I'm getting near to the end, and shit has gotten *real*

EMILY: Yeah, I think you got over the wall

SALLY: The wall was quite large. It was 700 pages

EMILY: Yeah, there's a wall in every *Wheel of Time* book, and it's just of varying heights. For *The Dragon Reborn* it's, like, you can step over it. For *Lord of Chaos* it's like the Great Wall of China. You've gotta...

SALLY: You've gotta do a little bit of...

EMILY: Yeah, you've gotta do like the Mongols – the Huns, excuse me

SALLY: In *Mulan*?

EMILY: The Mongols was what it actually was historically. The Huns –

SALLY: Oh

EMILY: I believe? I could be wrong about that, but I do believe the Mongols invaded China

SALLY: Are you gonna Google that too?

EMILY: I gotta know. It's gonna bother me

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Keep talking

SALLY: Well, yes, the wall in this book – I mean, I haven't had huge problems with this book. We can talk about it when we get there in who knows how many years. But it has been supremely boring. Um EXCEPT – dun dun dun – just got to the end where, spoiler alert, major spoiler alert, Egwene is raised to the Amyrlin Seat, and that shit was whack. I knew it was coming, but I didn't know when

EMILY: But isn't it wild when it happens? When they're just like, "Hey, bitch. We need you." And she's like, "Great," and has to do this pseudo-traveling through the World of Dreams in the dead of night

SALLY: With Bela! AH!

EMILY: After she's had all the Aiel Wise Ones just beat her

SALLY: It's honestly super legendary. I stan – okay. I stan two legends. Chumbawamba and Egwene

[both laugh]

EMILY: There's probably some parallels there

SALLY: [coughs] I get knocked down

EMILY: Egwene, too, gets knocked down, but she gets up again

SALLY: And also immediately she's like, "I know why they picked me, because they thought they could control me." She's like, "Think again, bitches," and immediately sets up her own spy network -

EMILY: RIGHT?!

SALLY: - including Nynaeve, Elayne, and Suan, the former Amyrlin, who's like, "I guess. I guess I'm gonna make Egwene the Amyrlin that thrones tremble before," or whatever Suan said. It was so legendary. I was like [breathes heavily]

EMILY: Suan was like, "I'm gonna make this young Pope into a masterpiece of leadership and political savviness

SALLY: It's so incredible, because it could have just been like Suan's gonna be nasty and jealous the entire time, which there's a little bit of that reasonably, but mostly she's resigned to the fact that "I will make her in my image."

EMILY: Yeah, mostly Robert Jordan has a lot of issues with gender dynamics, but he does very well in exploring how women are usually expected of being catty but are actually just really supportive of each other. And that's played for comedic relief in a lot of book six. Like when Mat thinks he's taking Aviendha to -

SALLY: Murder Elayne

EMILY: - to Elayne and thinks that they're going to murder each other, but really they're just gonna cry on each other.

SALLY: I know. Mat's like -

EMILY: And become sisters. Literally

SALLY: "I have to keep an eye on Avienzdha or she's going to cut Elayne's throat," and Aviendha's like, "Get out of my way."

EMILY: Have you gotten to Mat getting there yet?

SALLY: Oh my god, yeah. I just got to where comes in and rips the shawl of Egwene and is like berating them

EMILY: [Emily laughs]

SALLY: And Egwene just calmly picks it up and is like [laughs, coughs] and someone comes in and is like, "Mother do you need anything?" And Mat is like [claps] Face [claps] cracked, bitch. Oh, it's so good! It's so good! AHHH

EMILY: [laughing] I love the scene immediately preceding that when they're right outside the inn and Mat's like, "I've gotta go talk to Egwene," and there's a bunch of Aes Sedai swarming Aviendha and she's like, "Mat? Mat Cauthon? Mat?"

SALLY: You can just imagine that they call come up to below boob and they're like, "Do you know that you can channel?"

EMILY: It's like a flock of geese surrounding her. And she's like, "Mat? Mat Cauthon?" And he's like "Help." And he's like, "Okay, well they'll keep her occupied."

SALLY: "They'll keep her from killing Elayne."

EMILY: "This is fine."

SALLY: "This is fine." Then Mat just swaggers in

EMILY: Swaggers in

SALLY: Sweaty, shirt unlaced

EMILY: Literally

SALLY: But his coat is on just in case. He's like, "I've gotta make an appearance of looking respectful, but fuck me if I'll sweat to death for some Aes Sedai!"

EMILY: Literally yells at people

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Nynaeve kicks him in the ass. Literally

SALLY: So good

EMILY: He's limping

SALLY: I She's like [shriller voice], "Matrim Cauthon!" I love whenever she yells at him

EMILY: I know. As the Wisdom says

SALLY: [valley girl voice] “Watch your tongue.” And that brings us back to book one, because we are not in book six

EMILY: [sighs] Some days I wish we were though

SALLY: A lot of hilarious things happen in book six

EMILY: It’s okay. There are funny things happening here. Which is our group just exited the Ways. Just ahead of the Black Wind. Thank God. They were not torn apart, ya know? Or driven to madness, or whatever the fuck would have happened to them. It’s not really clear, ya know?

SALLY: Yeah, it’s very unclear. It’s like, “Did Jett die?”

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: It’s very unclear

EMILY: But they’re now in the Borderlands, so they’re sort of near the Blight and not just the geography, but the culture has shifted a lot. To where they’re now in this culture of people who are used to constantly at warfare, which is totally different from Andor where, I don’t know, they have their game of houses and whatever, but it’s all just sort of boring

SALLY: [whispers] It’s incredibly boring

EMILY: Machinations that don’t seem to mean anything, ya know?

SALLY: Speaking of the Borderlands, and how they are – a lot if it is pulled from East Asian cultures, various ones

EMILY: Mmhmm

SALLY: Did you figure out if it was the Huns or the Mongolians that attacked China?

EMILY: I don’t know if they Huns attacked China, but the Mongols definitely did. Yeah. For sure. I’m sure the Huns attacked China at some point

SALLY: Huns attacked everything

EMILY: But I think it’s the Mongol invasion that’s really being referenced in *Mulan*

SALLY: Okay, even though they call them the Huns. Weird

EMILY: Yeah, for whatever reason. I don’t know

SALLY: [singing softly] Let’s get down to business

EMILY: Have you heard how much they’re going to change the plot for the *Mulan* live action movie?

SALLY: No, I've stayed away from it

EMILY: Yeah stay away

SALLY: *Mulan* is so precious to me at my core that I just can't. I can't

EMILY: Yeah, they're going to ruin it because it's a bunch of white people writing it

SALLY: *Mulan* was a perfect film

EMILY: I know

SALLY: Why would you come for *Mulan* like this?

EMILY: [wheezing] WHY

SALLY: But then again we're not talking about *Mulan*!

EMILY: I just have a really hard time focusing

SALLY: It's just this chapter, it's, like, pre-final battle. It's like the cut scene before your final boss battle

EMILY: Yeah, the last breath before everything goes to shit. And it's also – literally just one of these chapters is dispensing backstories, because now's the best time for us to hear them

SALLY: It's very weird

EMILY: But whatever. We'll get to that

SALLY: Okay [coughs]

EMILY: They're in the Borderlands [pauses for Sally to cough again]. They're out of the Waygate, and they have to get to Fal Dara, which is not really a city so much as it is a fort town. Like, the defining feature is that it's got a big fortress. This is not the country's capital. That's Fal Moran, I think, which is pretty nearby. But we've got this big fort and this big walled town, very traditionally medieval gotta keep out the baddies. And kind as they're traveling to it, they're noticing that, although people do clearly live in the countryside – they are homestead and farms and everything – they've all been sort of abandoned. There's kind of a funny thing where they're passing a place and everyone's like, "Oh, that's been – people haven't been there in ages." And Perrin's like, "Yeah, I can tell because of the rust on the farm tool." And the girls are like, "Well, we can tell because of the curtains." And Rand's like, "I don't know anything about curtains and also, Perrin, how did you fucking see that? laughs] What the fuck is happening?"

SALLY: Yeah. Rand's like, "Literally everyone is being ridiculous."

EMILY: Everyone's fucking ridiculous, except for Mat, who I don't know what he's fucking doing. Juggling, probably

SALLY: Probably. This is one scene where I'm like okay ladies calm down

EMILY: Yeah it's just – whatever

SALLY: Perrin and his elf eyes are like [dramatic voice], “There are rust on the tools that predates them four days and six hours.”

EMILY: Honestly And yeah, this is the beginning of a long arc where Perrin has better eyesight than anyone else and struggles not to reveal that until mid-way through the series when he just gives up and is like, “Everyone around me fucking knows that I have better eyes and ears and senses than everyone so I'm just gonna dispense with all the tomfoolery and let my elf eyes see what they will see.”

SALLY: Yeah. Chase your bliss, Perrin. Live your truth

EMILY: [laughs] Do you

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: They get to the fortress. They're sort of going to meet Lord Agelmar, not because he's expecting them or anything, but because Moiraine's an Aes Sedai and sort of the vibe we get in these chapters is that the Borderlands treat Aes Sedai much more respectfully than they would be treated in other places. Such as Hickville – the Two Rivers – where everyone is mildly suspicious. Or majorly suspicious depending on the person

SALLY: If you're Mat

EMILY: If you're Mat, afraid of witchcraft

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] So they're received really well. A dude named Ingtar greets them. Ingtar, of course, is going to have a huge part in the next book where he's going to sort of head up the quest to reclaim the Horn, and his character will have lots of twists and turns. Yada yada yada, we'll get into it later. But for now he's like [high pitched voice], “Lan! Lan! I'm you're biggest fan!”

SALLY: Awww

EMILY: And is like, “Oh my god, “and calls him by a bunch of titles that are unfamiliar to us. And is like, “Are you going to fucking lead us? Into battle?” And Lan's like, “No, do not see I'm here with my tiny lesbian wife and all our children.” And Moiraine's like [in the Moiraine voice], “Yes, Lan.”

SALLY: [In the Moiraine voice] “Yes, Lan. These are our children.”

EMILY: “These are our children. Adopted.”

SALLY: “Amongst your people. We must go into the Blight and the save the Pattern.”

EMILY: “And save the world. Lan.”

SALLY: “Save the cheerleader, save the world” [breaks out laughing]

EMILY: [laughing, back in regular voice] What?

SALLY: [laughing, back in regular voice] Do you ever watch *Heroes*?

EMILY: No!

SALLY: [laughing] Oh, okay [coughs]. That's literally the tagline from the show. Save the Cheerleader, Save the World, and Hayden Panettiere was the cheerleader and they had to save her

EMILY: What in the world?

SALLY: Elise could – I never really watched it, but Elise watched it religiously, and probably about eight times, so she could tell you the plot

EMILY: Jesus, okay

SALLY: I'm sorry I reference our roommate Elise so much

EMILY: She's a vibrant – uh – portion of our lives

SALLY: Presence? Yeah. She's a – she's a kicker

EMILY: She's hilarious

SALLY: Yeah, but save the cheerleader, save the world

EMILY: [laughs] Okay, well. After that strange rabbit hole

SALLY: [whispers] Who would be the cheerleader, though?

EMILY: Huh? The cheerleader that they have to save in order to save the world?

SALLY: I guess technically it's Rand

EMILY: Yeah, Rand the cheerleader. You have to save Rand to save the world

SALLY: Yeah, Rand's the cheerleader. That's less fun

EMILY: Is the idea that Hayden Panettiere is gonna save the world?

SALLY: Yeah, well she's got regenerative powers

EMILY: Ah

SALLY: She can, like, heal her body and stuff

EMILY: She's Logan

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Long story short, they get into the fort. Lan's getting kind of a weird reception that Rand doesn't quite understand, because of course we haven't been given Lan's tragic backstory yet. Although plenty has been hinted to us without context. So, even if we were able to pick up on the hints – which we have. We know something weird is off with Lan's backstory. We have no idea what the fuck Malkier is, we don't know what any of his titles mean because Robert Jordan has not deigned to give us those clues

SALLY: Yeah, but also speaking of the horizon of expectations, and especially this book's parallels to *Lord of the Rings*, Lan is kind of our Aragorn figure

EMILY: Yeah, I kept thinking about Aragorn's reception in Riverdell, ya know?

SALLY: Rivendell

EMILY: Rivendell. Jesus, what just happened?!

SALLY: It's okay. *Riverdale*. Rivendell

EMILY: I think I saw the Netflix screen of *Riverdale*, which I don't watch and I was like, "Huh, why did I just see Viggo Mortensen as Cole Sprouse?" Horrifying

SALLY: Oh man

EMILY: But yeah. It's sort of like that. Where our lowly farmer kids are realizing, "Oh, he's so much more than we realized. We thought he was just Strider, and his purpose in life was to protect us."

SALLY: Yeah, but it's actually that he's – the crownless again shall be king kind of... I mean, I don't know what happens

EMILY: No, very much like that

SALLY: But he's our king without a kingdom kind of

EMILY: Yeah it's just

SALLY: UM

EMILY: What?

SALLY: No, there was just this really good name for it that we – my professor gave us in our *Lord of the Rings* class

EMILY: Ah dang. Alf

SALLY: It was just a good – I know. He's such a GOOD

EMILY: Well, hit me if you think of it

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: It's just this very – it's a very parental thing... Or not parental, but to be the child of someone is to slowly realize as you're growing up that they were a person before you, and they will be a person after you, and have their own life. And that's sort of this weird – it's sort of why books like this read as coming of age, because even though parent – actual parents are so often deleted so that the author can focus on other things, you do get these moments of growing up transposed onto other characters. Which is what's happening here with Lan. They're just realizing, "Oh yeah, Lan isn't just whatever we have been seeing him as."

SALLY: Yeah, he's not just our fantasy woodland dad

EMILY: Yeah, he's not just our fantasy ranger slash fighter level 48 or whatever the fuck

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Anyway, they get into this fort. They go see Lord Agelmar. They are greeted very politely by him. He is one of the five – what is it called? – I think the five great captains is how they refer to him?

SALLY: Oh, I don't remember

EMILY: I don't even know if they refer to him as that way – refer to him that way at all, but that's omnipresent in my mind because I'm very interested in military and military leadership shit, but Agelmar is one of five major tacticians that are in this series that existed before the major events. So they were the tacticians involved in the Aiel War

SALLY: Mmm

EMILY: Which is of course a war that we lost

SALLY: LOL

EMILY: We, being you know

SALLY: Fuck you, Randland

EMILY: And of course, they're all – they have their own countries to deal with so, or [mumbles] I don't know what you would call the Whitecloaks because Pedron Niall is one of them

SALLY: Ew? Really?

EMILY: Mmhmm

SALLY: So okay we've got Pedron Niall

EMILY: We've got Niall who was -

SALLY: [coughs loudly, sorry]

EMILY: I guess at least had the Whitecloak force to offer, you know? He fancies himself a tactician although I think most of his tactics *suck*. But he does put a lot of stuff into motion in these books. Then there's Bashere, who of course we love. We stan

SALLY: My dad

EMILY: Yeah, actual dad Davram Bashere

SALLY: Tiny little Mongolian dad

EMILY: Yeah, tiny mustachioed, just fucking loves his wife

SALLY: And his daughter and his horses

EMILY: Sitting on horses weird

SALLY: Yeah sitting on horses –

EMILY: And on chairs? He's always sitting with his leg over the arm of the chair

SALLY: Which is again, we stan a legend

EMILY: I know. I was like, "That's me. I do that."

SALLY: You are Davram Bashere –

EMILY: Oh, that's nice

SALLY: I mean, you do love horses and I think you are –

EMILY: I do love horses, but I think I'd be afraid of doing stunts on them

SALLY: Yeah but you're soul bonded to a horse because one took a chunk out of your stomach

EMILY: That's true [laughs]. That happened. That's canonical

SALLY: You and that horse are blood brothers

EMILY: [laughing] I should find out what happened to that horse

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: So there's Niall, Bashere, Agelmar, obviously. Ituralde, who's a Domani guy who doesn't get introduced really until very late in the series because he's on the west coast which doesn't get a lot of action, generally

SALLY: He's just chilling. All quiet on the western front AYO

EMILY: AYY except for the Seanchan invasion. Hell yeah

SALLY: Well

EMILY: Except we're not really a part of that, weirdly. Um, and then there's Gareth Bryne, obviously

SALLY: Oh! My other – actually I don't like Gareth Bryne that much. Fuck you, Gareth

EMILY: Yeah, he's not much of a dad. He's more like an uncle that you don't like

SALLY: He's more like a piece of shit. I hate him

EMILY: [cackles] That went very quickly from 'I don't like him' to 'I hate him'

SALLY: I do!

EMILY: [laughing] It's fine

SALLY: He's been so shitty in this book in particular. Book six. The one I'm reading in case you missed that

EMILY: No he doesn't really improve. He's kind of an overrated character

SALLY: Piece of shit

EMILY: If I was going to rate the generals it would Bashere, obviously, would be number one. Number two would be Ituralde. Close behind. I really like Ituralde.

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Three Agelmar, because he doesn't do anything particularly offensive

SALLY: He's just a lovely person, yeah

EMILY: Then Gareth Bryne because at least he's not Niall, who's in dead last

SALLY: True. Yeah

EMILY: Anyway, these are five guys who played a major part in the Aiel War, and in other wars that have been gripping this continent for the last twenty or thirty years. Whatever. And they're all about to be usurped by farm boy Mat Cauthon

SALLY: I'm a farmer and I'm here to take control –

BOTH: Of you're bloody army

EMILY: I know. God bless America

SALLY: [clears throat] I'm a gambler, farm boy, and I'm here to take control of your bloody arm

EMILY: God I get chills

SALLY: I know

EMILY: But anyway, Agelmar does not know that [laughs]

SALLY: Agelmar's just like, "hey!" Agelmar's honestly just so delightful

EMILY: He is. He's just really great. He's like, "Do you want some tea?"

SALLY: No worries, Aes Sedai

EMILY: What can I get for you?

SALLY: Everybody good, and then the next chapter when Egwene and Nynaeve are really nervous, he's just telling them funny stories

EMILY: Chatting with them, and casting disdainful looks at the three boys, who are all behaving really impolitely so – no wonder

SALLY: Honestly? I think Agelmar is our gay uncle

EMILY: [high pitch] right?

SALLY: I think that's – I think that's the role that he's occupying

EMILY: Okay, wait. In the family tree it's like Bashere's our dad

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Ituralde is like – god I just love Ituralde. You haven't even met him. He's kind of like our other gay dad

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Like Bashere and – like. Mm. I know Bashere and Ituralde both have wives, but I feel like they'd make a really good pairing, ya know?

SALLY: Feel like they're kind of in love a little bit?

EMILY: Yeah. They both speak of each other well

SALLY: Yeah, so they're like...it's like a professional love

EMILY: Yeah, they're like our gay dads and Ituralde is the dad who travels a lot so he's slightly more distant in his affection for you

SALLY: But Bashere's there for you every day

EMILY: Bashere's there for you. And then there's Agelmar, our gay uncle. And Gareth Bryne our straight uncle. We don't like him

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And then there's Niall, who I guess is like our creepy grandad

SALLY: Ugh

EMILY: I hate that

SALLY: UGH

EMILY: Or maybe like our stepdad Ron, who we hate

SALLY: Oh my god. He's totally the stepdad

EMILY: Oh I hate him

SALLY: No he's more like -

EMILY: He dies first don't worry

SALLY: That's good. Yeah he's like creepy stepdad I guess

EMILY: He doesn't last too long

SALLY: Die, bitch

EMILY: I think he might die in the next book

SALLY: Then perish

EMILY: Then perish

[Both laugh]

EMILY: Okay, but enough of these dues

SALLY: [coughs again]

EMILY: This isn't even relevant to the story

SALLY: This is not an analysis of the five captains. I'm sure

BOTH: We'll get there

EMILY: It's me so we'll get there

SALLY: [quote *The Incredibles*] We'll get there when we get there

EMILY: [pause]

SALLY: [laughs] *The Incredibles* is an exceptional movie. It is, dare I say, incredible

EMILY: I'LL kill you

SALLY: [laughs] Okay we haven't even gotten into the palace yet

EMILY: [laughs]. No we're in the palace, we're talking to Agelmar, and the meat of their conversation is he's like, "So what are you doing here? Still working on your thesis?" And she's like, "Yep, still trucking away at that PhD." [laughing] And he's like, "Cool, cool, cool, cool so do you need an escort?" And she's like, "Nope, I've got my two girls, my warder Lan, and these three idiots, and that's gonna be what I need to go do my ish." And he's like, "Oh no! You're taking Lan? I was kind of hoping he would lead an army, ya know? Just 'cause he's here?"

SALLY: Just kinda hopin' I could snag him for a few days

EMILY: MMM. And like hopefully he doesn't die while it's happening because that's always a major possibility in warfare although we don't behave as though it is

SALLY: It's always just the unspoken bummer

EMILY: Yeah, like ooh he could die. But he's Lan so he won't

SALLY: He won't die

EMILY: He won't. I will return him to you whole, your grad student. Lan Mandragoran

SALLY: Your TA

EMILY: Your TA. Yeah

SALLY: [whispers] Oh my god

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Now I want an entire academic AU

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: I'm fucking -

EMILY: Where Moiraine is the professor, working on her sixth PhD, and Lan's her TA

SALLY: Lan's her TA. Egwene is her star student

EMILY: Yeah, Egwene's actually majoring in the course that she's teaching and she's into it. Nynaeve's just there because

BOTH: Egwene is there

EMILY: Yeah, they're best friends

SALLY: It's like when you take – it's like Emily following me to werewolf class

EMILY: Yeah exactly. And Rand's there because he's maybe majoring in it, but he doesn't really know yet. He's on the brink

SALLY: Oh *no*. Rand is definitely majoring in it. He's that fucko that everyone had in their college classes that argued with the professor

EMILY: But later in the series. In this freshman year [laughs]

SALLY: [coughs] That's true

EMILY: He doesn't know yet

SALLY: He's taking a general ed class

EMILY: But he's gonna decide, and then he'll be that fucko. Mat's literally just there for laughs and keeps trying to leave. But it turns out he needs this class to graduate

SALLY: Mhmm

EMILY: But he doesn't even really want to graduate but he kinda has to

SALLY: He needs to

EMILY: Yeah, whatever. And Perrin's there... why is Perrin there? Perrin might not be there

SALLY: Perrin's not there. Perrin...took a different class with Elyas

EMILY: Oh god, that's cute. Perrin was there for the first half of the semester, but then he transferred to Elyas' class

SALLY: Yeah, but then he dropped it before the last drop date

EMILY: To be a park ranger

SALLY: To be a park ranger. To take a, uh, PRT class. Parks, rec, and...what is? I had a friend who was a PRT major. Parks, rec, and – what is it? Parks, rec, and therapy? Why do I want to say it's that?

EMILY: What?

SALLY: I don't think it is

EMILY: I have no idea where your brain is right now

SALLY: That's fine. That's common. I don't know what it is

EMILY: [sighs] I can't believe we keep re-writing *Wheel of Time* as just a better series

SALLY: I know. I can't believe we just keeping fixing *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: I know. I can't believe we're so good at this [laughs]

SALLY: We're so good at fixing *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: Oh my god. Okay [sighs]. Okay, in the real world

SALLY: In the real *Wheel of Time*. In the main timeline

EMILY: There's a small argument where Moiraine's like, "Sorry you can't have Lan. I need him to get me through the Blight to the Eye of the World," and Agelmar's like, "Why are you going to the Eye of the World?" And Moiraine's like, "To save the world, bitch. Like, I don't have time for explanations." And he's like, "Okay, seems fair, but this is a let down because we gone die. I don't know if you've noticed, but it's pretty bad out there. It's been real bad this winter. Worse than it's ever been." And we, the reader, are like wow everyone keeps telling us this

SALLY: But I have no reference for that

EMILY: But there's very little evidence, except for the tone of this chapter is very doom heavy. All the men in armor running around being grim

SALLY: [coughs] What's interesting is the Two Rivers – I'm sorry, we're always going to compare this to *Lord of the Rings* – but *Lord of the Rings* has a really long opening section in *Fellowship* where we're in the Shire for a really long time, and that's really important to give us something to be afraid for. We don't want the Shire to get caught up in this war of darkness. And the Two Rivers kind of functions in the same way, but the problem with that is that they're also so isolated because that isolated community also has to serve another function in letting our characters go outside and learn things for the first time. But the problem then is that we don't see what's happening to the rest of the world. So we have to learn everything that's happening to the world while retroactively learning how the world exists while currently learning that the world is not the way it once was

EMILY: Yeah exactly

SALLY: It's, like, one problem with this type of portal slash immersive fantasy that *Lord of the Rings* and *Wheel of Time* operate in, is that it's asking you to do so much suspension of your disbelief for the current political moment

EMILY: And there's two problems that arise in the next couple of chapters that I think stem from this directly. First of all, we keep being told that the men of Shienar are about to go face this big important battle, but the problem is we're not emotionally invested in it at all. We keep being *told* that it's going to be really important for the fate of the world. If they get overrun, the world – like Cairhien's next and then Andor, and the fucking princess. You know. Whatever. But we don't care [claps], really

SALLY: Yeah. I really don't

EMILY: Yeah. You don't really care too much about the world, except you care about the world because you're supposed to

SALLY: Yeah. It's, like, you care about the world because it's shitty not to

EMILY: Yeah, but you don't know this army. You don't know these men. So their deaths are of very little import to you

SALLY: It's, like, Agelmar is delightful, but I don't – it's like

EMILY: He's been delightful for the three pages he's been on

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: But, again, if he's dies I'm not

SALLY: I'm gonna be like, "Okay there are a hundred thousand characters in this book."

EMILY: I'll find a new dad. I'll find a new gay uncle

SALLY: I will! But it's, yeah, it's weird. There's no connection to it, and it's very strange

EMILY: It also because this ridiculous thing where we're being told Lan's backstory

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: And you just become – or at least I was overwhelmed by how isolated these Two Rivers kids are that they didn't know about the fall of an entire country

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Not too long ago

SALLY: Yeah!!

EMILY: And it sounds like Malkier was fairly important, at least in terms of the stability of the world. Given it wasn't Andor, their country of birth, but it would be – [laughs] I'm trying to think of a parallel. It would be like if Japan...just disappeared

SALLY: Yeah, just disappeared. We're all like, "Oh! Never heard about that."

EMILY: Yeah. They're just like, "Okay, it's not there anymore." And given, on a worldwide – on a global level we recover too quickly from huge losses like this one

SALLY: Absolutely, we really do. And memory – cultural memory is short, unfortunately

EMILY: Yeah cultural memory is incredibly short, so – but this hasn't been mentioned at all because Robert Jordan, it feels like, just wanted it to come out of left field at us

SALLY: Robert Jordan, like...

EMILY: He's just loved the sucker punch of a good reveal a little too much

SALLY: A little too much, yeah. He's too invested in revealing things when it's, like, convenient

EMILY: Mmhmm

SALLY: As opposed to when it is logical

EMILY: Yes

SALLY: So...not that I would really care whenever they told me Lan's backstory because it is not interesting

EMILY: And, like, you...I don't know. It's fine. It's fine, because Lan doesn't come off as the type of person who would tell them any of this

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: And certainly Moiraine's been close-mouthed enough. But it becomes this weird thing where Thom didn't tell them?

SALLY: Yeah Thom wasn't like, "Guys."

EMILY: Thom wasn't like, "Here's the hot gossip. I have to tell you this it's hilarious."

SALLY: It also just so – as we talked about a couple chapters ago with just learning suddenly that we're going to the Eye of the World, and you're like I don't know what this means but I'm so fatigued at this point, I'll just go along with this –

EMILY: Yeah I'm just here

SALLY: - rushing current of a plot. They drop what is significant backstory, and a significant political thing, for one of our main characters and one of our main countries, just in the middle of this storm of the final push, that I just like...it's like water off a duck's back. There's just too much else going on for it to...

EMILY: Especially because I seriously question the worth of Lan's character at all in this series. He doesn't do much for the plot

SALLY: I was thinking the same thing when reading this

EMILY: Lan does almost nothing -

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: - in terms of the greater plot of this series. You could argue that he has a good portion of the Last Battle, but without getting into too many spoilers, I think that should have been assigned to other characters

SALLY: It's also super random that he and Moiraine would end up together. I'm sure they cover that in the prologue, but

EMILY: Yeah the prologue book is all about them getting together, but it's just – I don't – it's mostly about Moiraine. I don't recall –

SALLY: [whispers] As it should be

EMILY: As it should be. She's fantastic

SALLY: So he's funk— he's so weird. He serves such a weird non-purpose

EMILY: Yeah and it's just like Robert Jordan trying to be like, "Oh here's this tropey character that I also have to have in here because he's a trope and fantasy falls for it."

SALLY: Yeah. I don't know. I feel like he'd be one of Robert Jordan's favorite characters

EMILY: Yeah. I mean

SALLY: He just reads like that

EMILY: Yeah. And I guess he's like supposed to function as a mentor figure to Rand, but, again, I question whether he actually dispensed any wisdom of value to Rand. Besides the whole sword shit

SALLY: But it's like – and that's the thing. There are so many other characters, men of the sword, in this series that could be the same for Rand. Like, Davram Bashere could have just as easily been a sword master as anything else. Or, one of Rand's little channeling buddies later in the series, or, like, literally – Thom

EMILY: [giggles]

SALLY: Make Thom a sword master. Could you imagine?

EMILY: [laughing] Could you imagine?

SALLY: That would be hilarious

EMILY: Thom would be such a Mary Sue at that point. Of like having every skill in the entire fantasy world

SALLY: I know

EMILY: It would be hilarious

SALLY: But it's Thom so I would care. I think it would be hilarious if Thom was like, "I'm a bard," and then whips out a big sword and is like, "Let's..."

EMILY: And also a heron marked blade master

SALLY: And he's also like, "You don't know...I've had a varied life."

EMILY: Exactly

SALLY: "I, Thom Merrilin, am the entrée."

EMILY: And it's just, like, I can respect Rand needing this male figure in his life. I mean, I don't really care about him being male, but, like, we needed the sword master figure really early on in the series. And we needed him to be there with Moiriane – paired up with Moiraine in an interesting way. But you could have had Lan be there, and not be this set of tropes

SALLY: Yeah. It could have just been Moiriane's Warder is literally another farmboy. No biggie

EMILY: It's just we're bored

SALLY: It's just weird. It just doesn't make any sense

EMILY: Lan has his moments, I think, but for the most part

SALLY: Lan [laughs] like the village idiot moment in the last chapter

EMILY: Oh my god. So good

SALLY: Was hilarious. But the fact they're like [intense voice], "Lan learned swords the way the other children learned toys. And Lan learned the Blight like other children learned their mother's garden." I was like I am bored with this Jon Snow motherfucker

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I am not *interested*

EMILY: [whispers] for the watch

SALLY: [whispers] for the watch

EMILY: Stab

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: Okay

SALLY: Anyway. That is where I stand on Lan

EMILY: We're all over the place here. But in terms of actual plot in this chapter, after chatting with Agelmar they go and have dinner with him. Moiraine's basically like, "We're getting up at the crack of dawn boys, and we're heading into the Blight." And they're all like, "Great. Let's have din din first." She's like, "Okay, cool."

SALLY: Gotta get them calo-ries

EMILY: Gotta load up on them carbs. And she's like, "Great." So they're having dinner when, who should appear but Padan Fain escorted by several guards. They're like, "We found this fucker, just climbing in." We do learn some interesting cultural things, I think, about living in the Borderlands. Like the fact that you have to have your face uncovered all the time, and there's this idea that when people discover a Darkfriend – like someone who's letting in, you know, Trollocs or whatever into the city – they just turn on them so fast. It's just like mob rule. Kill them before anything can happen. It's just, I don't know, it's an interesting – more interesting setting, I think, than

SALLY: Oh yeah. I would love to spend more time in the Borderlands

EMILY: I'm a little upset we don't get more time in the Borderlands, because much of what happens when Borderlanders politically happens outside of the Borderlands

SALLY: It happens with them coming into the main continent so to speak, which is interesting. It's a different set of interesting things, but it's, like, what's happening in Fal Dara?

EMILY: Yeah exactly. I want to go back to these paranoid lunatic people who always have the streets well lit, and just have to live with the reality of being this close to monsters

SALLY: [whispers] so interesting

EMILY: It's cool

SALLY: It's, like, what the Watch in *Game of Thrones* wants to be, but it's actually, like, got a lot of depth because there's different cultures. It's just interesting

EMILY: Yeah! And there's people not just dudes

SALLY: [coughs] Yeah, it's like a whole civilization that lives with this

EMILY: Not just gross dudes

SALLY: Not just dudes, who've been rejected from society

EMILY: Have STDs

SALLY: Hate women and themselves

EMILY: BLEGH

SALLY: and everything and it's boring

EMILY: Anyway, so Padan Fain gets in here and we're like, "Oh look, it's Padan Fain. Funny seeing him." And Rand's like, "Oh, it's the beggar." And they're like, "Oh, must have been the guy following us in the Ways. Must have been the guy following us the entire time." Duh duh duh duh. And he's like, "I'm fucking crazy," and Moiraine's like, "Okay I've gotta go take him and talk to him." So while she's doing that, you know, they're have their whole Rand is pacing, Perrin's playing with his food, Mat's, like, throwing things

SALLY: Yeah, Mat's lounging around grinning like a fucking lunatic

EMILY: They're all being very impolite, which bothers me a little bit, because they're, like, with a nobleman?

SALLY: Yeah, and they're generally all three very polite farm boys

EMILY: Yeah, and Rand was totally panicked when he was in the presence of the Andoran noblemen? Noble people? God, when he was with the queen he was really concerned with decorum and stuff. So it's just an out of character moment

SALLY: I'm also confused about what exactly they're so afraid of. Because Rand is talking about 'what is he telling her?' Her being Moiraine

EMILY: Yeah, they just, like, I don't know

SALLY: [coughs] And he mentions something like, "Is he gonna tell her that the Dark One is after us?" Or something. What does he say?

EMILY: Are you gonna tell us why?

SALLY: Oh yeah. I guess that's it, because I'm like, "Moiraine knows, you fucko. She is not surprised!"

EMILY: Yeah, I guess that makes a little more sense. Maybe he'll finally reveal what is happening

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: I guess I'd be a little upset that I was there for the convo. It seems relevant to *me*

SALLY: [flipping pages] Wrong chapter

EMILY: But while they're being impolite, Egwene and Nynaeve are chatting with Agelmar

SALLY: [laughing] Sorry, this talking about – "'It's the law in Shienar,' the Warder said. 'No man may hide his face inside a town's walls.' 'Are they all that good looking?' Mat laughed." [laughing] What a fucking loser

EMILY: [laughs] Mat's so stupid. God bless America

SALLY: So. Dumb

EMILY: There's a moment in this chapter where Mat opens his mouth to say something and Rand just glares at him. And he's like, "God I wish he'd learn how to shut his mouth." Which is hilarious because Rand is the king of

SALLY: Not shutting your mouth

EMILY: Not shutting your mouth, and also Mat will, later in the series, be really good at holding his tongue

SALLY: Yeah. Rand is the king of not staying in his lane

EMILY: Yeah, Mat stays in his lane pretty well

SALLY: Yeah Mat wants – Mat wants to stay in his lane. It's all that he wants

EMILY: Mat just wants to survive and be in his lane

SALLY: It's all that he wants, but he keeps getting almost murdered and dragged out of his lane

EMILY: Perrin also wants to stay in his lane

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: And he just keeps marrying queens to be and blah blah blah blah

SALLY: And taking on, uh, feudal states

EMILY: [giggles]

SALLY: Who knows what's going on with him

[in the background you can hear our neighbors laughing because our New York apartment was a hellscape. Door slams.]

EMILY: I don't even know if I'm going to go through Lan's backstory because it's so fucking boring and irrelevant

SALLY: It's basically like

EMILY: It's a lot like – it reads very King Arthur. You know, there's a *woman* who's a sort of femme fatale, who

SALLY: Jealous of

EMILY: married the king's brother, but then was like, "Aw, you should be jealous of your brother," and he was like, "I'm not," and she's like, "But you should be, because that's more convenient for the plot," and he was like, "Fine, I'll go be jealous of him, but I'll die trying." And she's like, "Great! This is a great excuse for me to usurp. Let me get this other guy involved." And I'm like, "Why are there multiple dudes involved? There's so many fucking people in this dumb, convoluted story."

SALLY: Yeah, where are you getting all these – just pulling boys out of bag?

EMILY: But that guy's a Darkfriend so he's gonna bring in the Trollocs and Myrddraal, and they're like, "Oh no, it's too late. Everyone, all the Trollocs and Myrddraal are here real fast and now this treacherous lady and her baby – Isam, who, as we know, is important – are gonna flee and we don't know what happened to them. But we can assume they're dead." [whispers] huh! They're not. Or, at least he's not. I don't care about her

SALLY: Yeah. RIP, bitch

EMILY: "And we have to put a sword in an infant's hand, which is just the stupidest fucking thing I've ever heard in my entire life."

SALLY: Seems safe. He's got little baby meaty hands, he can't...

EMILY: I know. I have a nephew who's, like, two weeks old and he can't fucking grip things

SALLY: All he does is sleep

EMILY: Literally

SALLY: And, like, look confused at everything

EMILY: He's like, "What?! I have fingers? Object permanence? Oh god! Oh god!"

SALLY: So what are you doing to this kid? This little beeb. You're like here's a huge sharp object

EMILY: Yeah, enjoy your childhood trauma. Like, Jesus

SALLY: Yeah. No wonder Land is... weird. Land, I just called him

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: But whatever, we've talked enough about that and how it bores us

SALLY: Yeah and anyway the country falls and Lan is the last of the boys

EMILY: Lan is Last of the Boys

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Exactly

SALLY: Last of the Boys

EMILY: And then we get a little more int Fain's, uh, whole spiel, which is, like, Moiraine comes back and has to scrub her hands off like 60 times, which is hilarious to me

SALLY: Yeah she's like, "He's disgusting."

EMILY: She's like, "He's disgusting. Not like dirty, I can handle dirt. But just, like, ethically disgusting."

SALLY: "Ethically, he *disgusts me*."

EMILY: "And I, a pure woman, who has never eavesdropped on anyone. Me? Moiraine? Never."

SALLY: Eave – [Moiraine voice] "Eavesdropping?"

EMILY: Dropped eaves?

SALLY: [Moiraine voice] "I would never." [back to normal voice, quoting Sam from *LOTR*] I ain't been dropping no eaves, sir, I swear!

[Both laugh; Sally coughs]

EMILY: But here's the deal with Padan Fain. Uhhh

SALLY: He's a bitch

EMILY: Yeah, he's a bitch

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: He's gross. He was a Darkfriend and then, just because he happened to go to the Two Rivers and that general geographical area, the Dark Lord was like, "I'm gonna need that bitch, because conveniently he can go scouting in this otherwise, I guess, devoid of Darkfriends area." I don't know what the deal is. He's like, "I'm just gonna send you out there to go look for them." And Fain's like, "Okay. Cool cool cool cool." After a couple of tries he does indeed identify the boys. And the Dark Lord's like, "Okay, I'm just gonna do some scientific monstrous shit on you to make you magically able to detect them all the time."

SALLY: Which sounds awful

EMILY: Yeah it does sound awful, but and, uh, probably shouldn't happen to a human being, but, uh, Padan Fain is gross and does many crimes

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: As Moiraine is quick to tell us. Yeah that's sort of the whole thing with Fain. Is he pitiful, or is he just disgusting? Which is how he parallels Gollum in a way

SALLY: Yeah, yeah [coughs]. But it's interesting to me with Gollum. It's not super interesting to me with Fain

EMILY: Yeah, he just kind of becomes this caricature, human embodiment of all the decaying forces at work in this world. Like, we know – they don't quite know yet, or they don't realize – that he is sort of also housing the spirit now of Shadar Logoth. He's got what's his name? Mordeth?

SALLY: More death

EMILY: More death

SALLY: It probably is Mordeth, but it looks like More Death

EMILY: Yeah, More Death, as we've discussed. He's got More Death in him and also there's a little aside here about how he ran into the black wind in the Ways and how it was just like, "Hey, buddy."

SALLY: "Hey there, pal."

EMILY: Like professional courtesy. Just all these gross forces that work in the world are all sort of warped around Fain. And eventually he's going to become this, basically fog of a man who just goes around tainting everything he touches

SALLY: Which is...

EMILY: Disgusting?

SALLY: So ridiculous and kind of just over the top [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, yeah. It's a little ridiculous

SALLY: [coughs] But yeah, interesting that you can have a city possess a man. Have wind possess a boy

EMILY: And just the idea that there are two conflicting forces possessing him. The one that's Shadar Logoth, which is so anti-the Dark One, and then the Dark One himself has, like, fixed him in a way that made this possible

SALLY: [coughs] It's also really interesting how it talks about how Fain at one point tried to turn away from hunting the boys and he just gets really sick, and it's, like, really nasty

EMILY: Yeah, he physically can no longer stop himself from following them. Basically it just sounds like he should die because that's going to be his only release

SALLY: And he keeps coming back in the damn series. It's like there's always, suddenly, randomly just when you're unsuspecting, a disgusting Padan Fain point of view chapter that nobody asked for and nobody wanted

EMILY: Yeah and he'll just keep cropping up, sort of like Robert Jordan wants him to be this omnipresent threat, but because he's so...he's just one dude, and sort of incapable of commanding forces, you know? He doesn't become much of a threat

SALLY: And you're just like...

EMILY: I don't know. We'll analyze him more at length as he continues to crop up in the series, but for now we're not

SALLY: Now he's just, like, here

EMILY: He just sort of serves this purpose to tie all the plot threads together

SALLY: Who's been following them

EMILY: Oh, he's the one – yeah, following us, who brought the Trollocs, who identified us as the three boys

SALLY: How does the Dark One know us, blah blah blah blah. All Padan Fain. All roads lead to Padan Fain in turns out

EMILY: Unfortunately

SALLY: But then, after Moiraine has sufficiently washed her hands

EMILY: She's like, "Okay, that's it. We're going to get going tomorrow."

SALLY: And Agelmar's like, "Just to clarify. One more time."

EMILY: "You want these idiots?"

SALLY: “You want these idiots, but –”

EMILY: “Because I can give you different idiots.”

SALLY: “If you’ll just like come help me real quick with an army. Then I could give you that army.”

EMILY: And she’s like, “No, I’m not going to help you. And now I don’t want other idiots. These are the idiots that will be fighting at the Eye of the World.” And he’s like, “That’s sounds fake, but okay.”

SALLY: He’s like [squeaking voice], “Are you sure, though?”

EMILY: She’s like, “Look at them. They are Manetheren,” as Mat’s like picking his teeth with an entire dagger

SALLY: Mat’s fallen asleep

EMILY: Mat’s like [laughs]

SALLY: Mat is asleep on the table, and Agelmar’s like, “Sure, Jan.”

EMILY: Consider this. Give the direction of the *Wheel of Time* TV adaptation to Taika Waititi

SALLY: [yelling] It’s all that I want!

EMILY: [laughing] he would do it justice

SALLY: He would get the humor of it, and the soundtrack would be just so fucking banging

EMILY: That village idiot line would just be like laugh out loud hilarious. Because whoever he got to be Lan would be this actual comedic force

SALLY: Oh my god, who would be a hilarious Lan?

EMILY: Chris Hemsworth

SALLY: [whispers] Oh my god. You’re right. I kind of want – I don’t know. I just have a hard time picturing Chris Hemsworth as anyone but Thor now

EMILY: Yeah that’s true. Who’s that guy? This is gonna sound bad, but he’s one of very few Native American actors, but he’s in *Parks and Rec*

SALLY: Oh my god!

BOTH: He’s hilarious. He’s so funny

SALLY: That *Parks and Rec* episode where he’s like, “I told them that I cursed everything.”

EMILY: He's like, "White people are terrified of curses." That's hilarious. He's got comedic chops. We should get him in as Lan

SALLY: Him as Lan

EMILY: Train him with a sword

SALLY: "Hey, village idiot"

EMILY: Just have him running around

SALLY: Being hilarious

EMILY: Yeah. Great love it. Okay well

SALLY: I can't believe now we have to do an entire episode where we design a Taika Waititi style soundtrack for the *Wheel of Time*

EMILY: Oh, we will get there. Ya. We will do that

SALLY: [coughs] I already have some thoughts

EMILY: Um, that's gonna do it for us for these chapters. That was all over the place

SALLY: That was a mess

EMILY: I'm sorry

SALLY: A hot, steaming

EMILY: We're in a weird place right now

SALLY: Pile of shit

EMILY: We are, to reiterate, moving across the country, and it's like just at a really weird time and we're both leaving our jobs, and Sally's sick and we both have family reunions to attend the same month that we're moving. And it's just

SALLY: Let us die

EMILY: A lot is going on, but we're going to do our best to keep producing content for you guys. We're for sure going to finish *The Eye of the World*. Hopefully in the next two episodes?

SALLY: Yeah, it's what will be coming up. [laughing] Not every episode will be like this

EMILY: Yeah, sorry. They might be a little on the long side if we – I mean, there's a lot going on in those last few chapters. And, then, I think we're going to have a bye week where we just take a break

SALLY: Take a breather

EMILY: Where you will have to live without our dulcet tones. Then we're going to release a Q&A episode, which, because we have to record it before all this stuff in our lives starts happening, we're asking for you, if you have questions, to submit them by this Friday

SALLY: June 29th. By 5pm Eastern Standard Time

EMILY: Because we're going to need to record right around then

SALLY: And I'll have to go through your questions, none of which will be rude or derogatory in content so it won't matter, because you're all going to ask lovely questions. Prefer – I mean, the goal here is for you to ask *Wheel of Time* and/or book related questions

EMILY: Yeah, it doesn't necessarily have to be *Wheel of Time* we just got someone on Twitter asking us about *Les Mis*, which we will be delighted to talk about

SALLY: I cannot wait. Emily and I had a conversation about *Les Mis* just the other day

EMILY: We did. I can't remember what it was. I think it was mostly about the weirdness of Russell Crowe being cast in the movie, but

SALLY: He can't sing. And how funny it would have been if everyone else was singing, but Russell Crowe just talked

EMILY: That would have been [whispers] so funny

SALLY: Hugh Jackman's just out here bellowing his guts and Russell Crow's like, "No."

EMILY: Yeah, so we have a lot of thoughts about a lot of books. We're both, uh, we've both read a lot

SALLY: Well read and highly opinionated

EMILY: If you have any polite questions about us, we will probably throw a few of those in there, too

SALLY: Yes

EMILY: We can handle those

SALLY: Yeah, but logistically, the best way to get those to us is either to tag us on twitter @ehr_podcast, send us an email at everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com, or send us an ask or message on tumblr. I posted – our tumblr is everybodyhatesrand. I posted on tumblr on tumblr, so you can also reblog that post with your quote – with your question if you want to do that. If that's easiest for you

EMILY: Just DM us in any capacity

SALLY: Yeah, any capacity to just make sure that we're going to see it is the best way to do it. Um, so yeah. 5pm this Friday. Send us your questions. We are going to – I'm sorry, I just have no faith in humanity anymore I guess, but I want to have faith in you guys so surprise me

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: We withhold the right, obviously, to not answer or acknowledge a question if you are rude. So don't be rude. But I'm hoping you guys have a lot of questions, and we'll answer as many as possible

EMILY: And that's sort of the agenda for the next few weeks. What you can expect from us

SALLY: There will be another miscellaneous episode that we're still figuring out the details, but I think it's going to be really good

EMILY: We'll probably get to *The Great Hunt* – probably not until September to be honest. The month of August is just gonna be a little whack

SALLY: Okay

EMILY: Does that make sense? All of July is gonna be either miscellaneous episodes or

SALLY: Yeah, but okay. Okay

EMILY: Oh god. August

SALLY: I was like

EMILY: I just briefly lost capacity to

SALLY: I guess we're not recording in August!

EMILY: I just lost my understanding of the Gregorian calendar so

SALLY: That's fine. We'll get back to you sometime early August

EMILY: August

SALLY: With *The Great Hunt*. We're gonna dive right into that good, good book 2

EMILY: Oh god

SALLY: [singing] I'm about to *dive in*. Straight in. I don't remember book 2 literally at all

EMILY: We fucking need to end this, because we are off the rails

SALLY: I just don't remember it

EMILY: Just tell me what your sign off is. What's your sign off?

SALLY: What's my sign off?

EMILY: Will you just sign us off? Will you just sign us off? I'm so done

SALLY: [coughing] Um, today

EMILY: Oh boy

SALLY: One of my friends at work, who I love her to pieces. I'm going to be so sad to leave her, specifically

EMILY: Oh

SALLY: She's just the most hilarious person. Her sister was there with her at work today because she was like packing – she works for one of our glassblowers, like, packing and shipping glass. Which is terrifying. And her sister was there so I went to meet her sister. And she was like, “Oh man, you sound sick,” and somehow we got on the subject and I said, like I was trying to say I had a little bubonic plague, but I was like, “Yeah I just had a little boob over the weekend”

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] And I did not realize what I said, and she was like – and her and her sister were like what the fuck? And I was like yep we're just gonna leave it there. So. My bad speech habits are really coming to haunt me

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: A little boob over the weekend. Just a little boob over the weekend