



Episode 76 – “Is He Snek?”

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Running Time: 48 Minutes

SALLY: Everybody Hates Rand is a *Wheel of Time* podcast that will contain spoilers for all fourteen books, so if you're anti-spoiler pause this, read all fourteen books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

EMILY: Our title is a joke and is meant to be taken as such. In the context of this podcast, “everybody” refers to us and our cat. You are free to feel however you want about Rand, who is a fictional character. Don't DM us.

[Theme song by Glynna Mackenzie plays]

EMILY: Alright, this is going to be the shortest recording of all time, because we only have eight minutes and thirty seconds –

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] – until my pizza is out of the oven.

SALLY: *The Shadow Rising* is a bad book.

EMILY: The end! End of podcast.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Wouldn't that be? What if we?

SALLY: [laughs loudly]

EMILY: [laughing] What if – I’m serious here – what if we just skipped to *The Fires of Heaven*?

SALLY: Maybe.

EMILY: Uh, we should come back to that. Uh, there’s too many – the problem is, with *The Shadow Rising*, there’s too much good Mat stuff.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And there’s some pretty good Nynaeve stuff.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: That’s it. I couldn’t think of anything else. I just –

SALLY: Let’s read some of the reviews. They’re always pretty wild.

EMILY: I don’t – oh, no. What are they gonna say? This book...is a great [laughing] paperweight.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] This fucking book could be the book on which you build the next –

SALLY: “The fourth volume of the most ambitious American fantasy saga continues to suggest that the *Wheel of Time* will also be the finest dot dot dot. This volume, indeed the whole saga, surpasses all but a few of its peers [chuckles], and is highly recommended for all collections.” [collar jingling]. Get off the table, you slut!

EMILY: The great thing about *Wheel of Time* reviews [laughs], is that they’re all so subtly brutal.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: All but a few of its peers [jingling continues].

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: Like, bronze medal to you, Robert Jordan, but definitely not gold.

SALLY: You took fourth. You didn’t medal, but.

EMILY: You did okay.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: And these books continue to suggest. They haven't got there yet.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Especially this one, knocked you down a couple rungs.

SALLY: Yeah. I also love – this one's, like, in all of them. *Locus* says, "The series is so complex I can't recommend starting anywhere but at the beginning."

EMILY: I know that one is –

SALLY: Like, what?! [laughs]

EMILY: – hilarious.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Like, did Harriet, when she was putting together these books or whatever, I don't know what her actual job was as editor.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Was she like, "We gotta put in that one review, because we don't an unwary victim opening these books in Book 4 and being like, 'What the fuckening?'"

SALLY: Be like, "This is bad."

EMILY: "Am I supposed to know what's going on?"

SALLY: I mean, as someone who chronically picks up the third book in trilogies not realizing they belong to trilogies, you do make a valid point.

EMILY: That is pretty, um.

SALLY: It's alarming, I know.

EMILY: Yeah, it's a little –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: It's happened several times [laughs].

EMILY: A little upsetting, but sure.

SALLY: Well, I just don't even know what to say. It doesn't feel good in the hand.

EMILY: Oh, well that could be because it was literally in my trunk for, uh.

SALLY: Oh, well.

EMILY: Approximately nine months. This isn't a joke. I put a lot of *Wheel of Time* books in the back of my car to weigh it down for when it was snowy outside.

SALLY: I think that was a valuable choice. I'm sorry if you –

EMILY: Yeah, no. I had a very safe winter, surprisingly, driving. I didn't ever feel like I was gonna skid off the road. So. Yeah, the *Wheel of Time – The Shadow Rising* did its job. This reminds me that *A Memory of Light* is also probably in the trunk of my car, and I have to dig it out so I can start doing my blogs again [laughs].

SALLY: That's right!

EMILY: Fuck me, right? We haven't even *fucking* introduced ourselves, and we're down to halfway through the podcast, because my pizza –

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] – is coming out in four minutes and thirty seconds. This is Everybody Hates Rand, [voice breaking] your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. [laughs] I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: And I'm Sally Goodger.

EMILY: We're back. In black, bitches.

SALLY: I lo –[laughing] I love Led Zeppelin.

EMILY: I love Led Zeppelin. That is probably the most finely executed joke in all of film history.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, I don't want to hand that award to Marvel to –

SALLY: I want to hand it to Tom Holland, specifically.

EMILY: Yeah, he really nailed that delivery.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He just [mumbles] –

SALLY: I *love* Led Zeppelin!

EMILY: I love Led Zeppelin! [vocalizing the beginning of *Back in Black* by ACDC].

SALLY: [screeches]

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Isn't that how it goes?

EMILY: I can't do the guitar noises with my mouth. Some people are blessed with that, and I am not one of them. I also can't do drumming on the car steering wheel. [pause] Do you know how some people can, like, actually drum along to a song, because they have a sense of rhythm [laughing], which I apparently lack.

SALLY: Your hair's getting very poofy.

EMILY: I know!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: It's on my to do list to cut it tonight, okay?

SALLY: It's a little distracting [laughs].

EMILY: Sorry!

SALLY: No, I think it looks very good.

EMILY: [laughing] No, it doesn't!

SALLY: But it is just also *very* poofy.

EMILY: It's just a little hedgehog-y around the sides.

SALLY: [laughing] Gotta go fast.

EMILY: Gotta go fast.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay, this is our stupid podcast –

EMILY: UGH!

SALLY: [laughing] – or whatever.

EMILY: I keep looking at the timer being like, “Surely, my four minutes is about to be up on my pizza.” But NO! It’s down to three minutes now. What the hell? What?

SALLY: Liz is my niece. Recurring character on the podcast.

EMILY: Yeah, who we talk about constantly, because she’s hilarious.

SALLY: Had discovered the phrase “what the heck?”

EMILY: Oh. My god.

SALLY: And it’s the funniest thing in the entire world.

EMILY: What the heck?

SALLY: ‘Cause she’ll just be like “*What the heck?*” in her tiny little three year old voice.

EMILY: Her little baby voice.

SALLY: It’s very cute.

EMILY: What the heck?

SALLY: What the heck? Anyway, I love my niece. She’s a baller.

EMILY: Light of our lives.

SALLY: And a shot caller.

EMILY: Should we talk about the cover, first?

SALLY: I think we have to.

EMILY: I think –

SALLY: We have to address the elephant in the room, which is –

EMILY: Uh, the cleavage?

SALLY: [laughs] That’s one of them!

EMILY: Seriously, though!

SALLY: I know. It is, like, tit’s out.

EMILY: Is that supposed to be Moiraine?

SALLY: Let me see.

EMILY: I refuse to believe that Moiraine –

SALLY: Yeah, Moiraine does not show that much titty.

EMILY: Yeah, Moiraine –

SALLY: What's that...lady that whoever's pretending to be? Like sexy peddler lady?

EMILY: Yeah, well there's two peddler ladies at the end. There's the quote unquote ugly one, who is actually Lanfear.

SALLY: Schwink, schwink.

EMILY: Who is using the classic femme fatale uses old or ugly woman disguise to trick young man.

SALLY: We'd never know.

EMILY: And then there's a woman who's actually just, like, a huge slut and I appreciate that about her.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And, um, just loves money and it's like – and she's a Darkfriend I think, but she's there also.

SALLY: But you're also kind of like, "These are values I respect."

EMILY: Yeah, you're kind of like, "Okay, yeah, that's fine."

SALLY: I am going to say that that is her, because also I find it impossible to believe that Moiraine would not have somebody bring her food.

EMILY: I just think – it doesn't make sense to me that the sexy lady is there. Like –

SALLY: Okay, but I just don't want it to be Moiraine.

EMILY: Yeah, I don't know want it to be Moiraine, but I think it is. Because she's got the dark hair in ringlets, which is, like, an 80s perm.

SALLY: Yeah, and the blue dress.

EMILY: Like, my mom had that exact haircut, I think.

SALLY: [laughs] And I bet Becky *rocked* it when she visited the Aiel Waste.

EMILY: She probably did. My mom was fucking hot.

SALLY: Becky was really hot. She's still pretty beautiful.

EMILY: She's still extremely beautiful, but when she was, like, my age?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Damn. She was hot. Legs for days.

SALLY: I can't believe it took your dad seventeen dates to kiss her.

EMILY: *More* than seventeen dates!

SALLY: I'd be like –

EMILY: This is a revelation I found out earlier this week, people. That it took my dad double digits to mack my mom. Like, what the fuckening?

SALLY: Christopher.

EMILY: She's so hot, though?

SALLY: Yeah, how did you get seventeen plus dates?

EMILY: Yeah exactly!

SALLY: [laughing] Is the fucking question.

[timer goes off, both yelling]

EMILY: OH, THE PIZZA! AH!

SALLY: [laughing] Are we gonna pause while you eat your pizza, or do you want to eat on air?
[laughs] Some great audio.

EMILY: Well, it's gotta cool right now –

SALLY: Full in the mouth.

EMILY: – and then we'll figure it out.

[computer makes a noise]

SALLY: We can just get some primo blooper reel content while you eat.

EMILY: Yeah, that would be hilarious.

SALLY: Um.

EMILY: For now, let's keep talking about the cover.

SALLY: I just don't want it to be Moiraine. That's so much –

EMILY: But, like, then who? Okay, obviously this is Rand, because he's got kinda reddish hair. He is also blatantly wearing jeans –

SALLY: Again!

EMILY: – as in the last one.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: What is it? Like, I feel like Robert Jordan discovered Barry Bluejeans.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: What in the hell?

SALLY: I don't understand why they have Rand al'Thor in jeans.

EMILY: Yeah. [collar jingling in the background] Then they've got this guy here in a red jacket. It's, like, is that supposed to be Mat because he's got a longbow? Nope [collar jingling]. But Mat doesn't even carry a longbow at this point.

SALLY: You're right.

EMILY: And then you've got Dances with Wolves in the background.

SALLY: Yeah. It's, like, who is that? Is that Rhurarc?

EMILY: Lan? Who knows?

SALLY: Lan? Like, what is going on? Yeah, I'm confused, because at first glance I was like, "Oh, the jackets are color coded, this is Rand and this is Mat," but you're right. This one has the red hair and the classic Rand blue jeans. So, it's, like, yeah who's this bitch? Can't be Mat, right?

Or maybe again the person didn't read it, and Harriet's like, "I don't know. Mat's the one with the bow. I can't remember." So they just gave him a bow.

[beeping noise]

EMILY: Okay, we're back.

SALLY: Emily ate eighteen pizzas.

EMILY: Yeah, I ate *so* many pizzas.

SALLY: Do you feel so strong now?

EMILY: Yeah, yeah. I feel like that's – my fuel is frozen pizzas that I put in the oven. I've been eating a lot of frozen pizzas lately, because now I have a grown-up job so I don't have time to cook as much.

SALLY: Yeah. [pause] It sucks doesn't it?

EMILY: Yeah, it really does. We were talking about the cover and how upsetting it is that Moiraine's entire titties are out.

SALLY: Because it's just, like, on the one hand, good for you. Tits out.

EMILY: But on the other hand –

SALLY: That's not Moiraine's character.

EMILY: Like, on the one hand, canonically Moiraine does run naked through the desert in this book.

SALLY: [laughs] Which is pretty legendary.

EMILY: Yeah, which is, like, yeah.

SALLY: Which is the one reason we can't skip this book.

EMILY: Yeah, exactly [laughs].

SALLY: Because Mat's like, "Is that? Was that?" [giggles]

EMILY: Mat's like, "Was that Aviendha?" And Rand's like, "No. You're joking." And Mat's like, "I'm not joking!"

SALLY: [laughs] I just saw –

EMILY: “And I’m *not* hallucinating!”

SALLY: I just saw –

EMILY: “*You’re* the crazy one Rand, not me!”

SALLY: “Yeah, I just saw a naked woman run through the desert” [glass ringing as they hit the table].

EMILY: “I just saw a naked woman run through the desert, and I have no idea why.”

SALLY: “Rand, it’s not my fault you don’t know what a naked woman looks like.”

EMILY: I mean, he does. Well, no he doesn’t because they’re always in the water in his dumb sex dreams.

SALLY: Yeah, and sex igloo isn’t until Book 5.

EMILY: UGH.

SALLY: [laughs] We’re gonna – I’m gonna dress in all black a veil [laughing] for the sex igloo episode. Gonna dress in Victorian mourning clothes [laughs].

EMILY: I think for the sex igloo episode we should both just come prepared with a very bad sex scene that we have discovered either in another book or on the internet somewhere and just read it out loud.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: Inflict that on you guys.

SALLY: What if we wrote our own bad sex scenes.

EMILY: Oh no.

SALLY: [laughs] The problem is I’m so good at writing sex scenes.

EMILY: [laughing] You really are!

SALLY: It’s a hidden talent [laughs].

EMILY: It really is.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: One time I read one in church. It was really fun.

SALLY: Yeah, that was really one of the funniest things of all time. I was like, “Did you already read this?” and she was like, “Yeah, I’m in church.” [laughs]

EMILY: I was bored.

SALLY: [laughs] Ohhh my goodness. Okay, sex igloo’s gonna be a fun episode then.

EMILY: Yeah, but until then we have so many not fun episodes to get through [gagging noises].

SALLY: What if we just started every episode with a bad sex scene? [laughs]

EMILY: This cover – [snorts] This cover’s so pink is one thing about it [collar jingling in the background, soft mew from Tybalt].

SALLY: Yeah, I also think that wagon that they have is so interesting.

EMILY: It’s, like, like, it’s just so odd, because most of the other books’ covers, they lend themselves to the belief that the artist did not necessarily read the book.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Obviously. But generally speaking, you can, like, distinguish which characters are which, like, central characters. Like, *The Great Hunt* is an actual scene, *The Dragon Reborn* is sort of a bastardization of an actual scene, *Eye of the World*, *Fires of Heaven* I guess – yeah, I can think of what that is. It’s when they’re, like, in Caemlyn.

SALLY: [whispers] Oh, yeah.

EMILY: Right before –

SALLY: Oh yeah! [laughs, snorts]

EMILY: [laughing] Right before everyone gets their asses kicked and Rand has to –

SALLY: Right before Mat punches Rand in the kidneys [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, and Rand has to retcon their deaths.

SALLY: Yeah, Rand’s like, “Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!”

EMILY: “Hold up a second.”

SALLY: “OOC.”

EMILY: “OOC.”

SALLY: [laughing] “Don’t kill my friends.”

EMILY: “*Dad?!*” You can’t kill Mat!

SALLY: You can’t kill Mat.

EMILY: He’s like, “I’m the comic relief.” But, like, generally speaking most of the – or, you know, we get to the phase of books that’s just Rand looking dramatic and flexing.

SALLY: [laughs, snorts loudly]

EMILY: Which is, like, whatever that’s a genre, I guess. *The Shadow Rising* is just such an enigma.

SALLY: Yeah, I know. Everything about it is confusing.

EMILY: Like, I have no idea who these characters are, I have no idea what they’re doing, I don’t know where this takes place in the book. It’s just, like, sort of a vibe. Like, “here we are in the Aiel Waste,” but these people do not look like Aiel, except they kind of have light hair.

SALLY: They’re just kind of, like, Aiel – like maybe Aiel in the background.

EMILY: Like, when they describe the Aiel garb – *cadin’sor*, is that what it is?

SALLY: I think so?

EMILY: That is not what I picture. Like, just a tan tunic over tan breeches with tan boots. I think of it as, like, funner gear, ya know?

SALLY: Yeah, more stylized.

EMILY: Like camo pants [laughs].

SALLY: OH my god.

EMILY: But desert camo pants. Yeah, but just more stylized. More, like, costume. Sarah, Sarah McClintock would ideas about this, I’m sure.

SALLY: Yeah. I’ve seen some really cool renderings of Aiel garb.

EMILY: Yeah

[crosstalk]

SALLY: This looks – legitimately does look like what a mountain man would wear. Like tanned leather.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Or suede, or whatever.

EMILY: Yeah, this looks like the beginning of the Donner Party, you know?

SALLY: Jesus Christ.

EMILY: So, swing and a miss Darrell K. Sweet on this one.

SALLY: I like the blue on *The Shadow* – on the actual letters. [laughing] I think I said that about *The Dragon Rising*. Oh my god!

EMILY: You totally did.

SALLY: *The Dragon Reborn*.

EMILY: You were like, “The lettering is nice.” Because you can’t think of anything else nice to say about it [laughs]

SALLY: No, I just think it’s such a nice pale blue. It’s very soothing and contrasts, like, the yellows and stuff.

EMILY: And then there’s Moiraine’s dress. Yeah, Moiraine is the sort of focal point almost because she’s in blue.

SALLY: As she fucking should be.

EMILY: As she should be, but then it’s like, “Oh, now I do have to look at her tits, because...there are lines, there are gazes drawn to it.” So, like, what the fuck? Why does – Moiraine would not wear a low-cut dress.

SALLY: Moiraine –

EMILY: Not that there’s anything wrong with that, but just given Moiraine’s character.

SALLY: Hell yeah. Titties out.

EMILY: She’s sort of a –

SALLY: Sort of a tightly laced woman.

EMILY: Yes. Yes. Exactly. [pause] Do you want to read my alternate *Shadow Rising* titles?

SALLY: [laughing] Okay. I forgot that you did this. Alright, let me crack my knuckles. Ah, I cracked one singular knuckle [bones crack]. Oh, there we go [bones cracking].

EMILY: I wish I could present – I need to figure out a way to present these to you in a way where you don't just see the full list.

SALLY: Oh.

EMILY: Where you just see one at a time.

SALLY: What if you made me a PowerPoint?

EMILY: I could make you a PowerPoint.

[both laugh]

EMILY: [laughing] Should we pause again for ten minutes to make a PowerPoint?

SALLY: [snorts] Yeah, that would be –

EMILY: No!

SALLY: [laughing] We could post it on our website [laughs].

EMILY: You could do that –

SALLY: All those star wipes.

[both laugh]

EMILY: I'll do that for *Fires of Heaven*, I promise.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay.

EMILY: Okay, you have to scroll down once. I did, um, uh, all the central six characters plus Min, because she actually has a character arc in this one, sort of. She's in the White Tower.

SALLY: Oh, is this Falmindreda?

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Or whatever.

EMILY: And I did one for Moiraine and one for Lanfear.

SALLY: Lanfear? Oh, Jesus Christ.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] I like the theme.

EMILY: Yeah, well. I was in traffic and trying to think [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Okay. [laughs] Rand: Ego Rising.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: [laughs] Elayne [laughs]: Daddy Issues Rising [laughs].

EMILY: RIP, Thom. Send one up.

SALLY: Nynaeve: Combat Stats Rising [laughs]. Min: Character Arc Rising (that cometh before the fall). That's true.

EMILY: This is her peak character.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah.

EMILY: After this, it's just all downhill.

SALLY: Mat: Literally Rising Because of the Dang Rope Around His Neck [laughs]. Egwene: Cultural Appropriation Rising (or is it???) Question mark, question mark, question mark.

EMILY: We can talk about it. Is Egwene doing a cultural appropriation in this? She's doing some weird stuff with cultural – we'll talk about it.

SALLY: 'kay. I can't believe you've done this [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] I'm sorry.

SALLY: Perrin: Dick Rising (but also amount of dead relatives rising which is a pretty upsetting combo if you think about it).

EMILY: [laughs] It really is though! Why is Perrin's horniest book also the one where his entire family gets murdered?

SALLY: Listen, I have said it before, at least in some graffitied book.

EMILY: Sure.

SALLY: That it is absolutely fucking stupid to give Perrin a huge family that you then just murder. That doesn't actually become a trauma that impacts [laughing] his character.

EMILY: In any way!

SALLY: In literally any – he has one scene of crying and Faile, like, sucks him off and he's like, "Oh, I'm fine." [laughing]

EMILY: Yeah, like literally what the fuck.

SALLY: [laughing] It's so –

EMILY: We'll talk about it when we get there. I can't.

SALLY: [laughs] I see why you were singing now. Lanfear: Bad Moon Rising.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That came on when I was on my way home and I was like, "DUN DUN."

SALLY: Moiraine [laughing]: Patience Swiftly Dropping.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Not my best work, I'll admit it –

SALLY: No, it's funny!

EMILY: – but also *The Shadow Rising* is the definition of mediocrity, so.

SALLY: [softly] I told you it was good.

EMILY: Okay thank you.

SALLY: You're welcome.

EMILY: That's so nice of you.

SALLY: I'm a genuine person.

EMILY: I'm going to delete this note. Just kidding, no I won't.

SALLY: Make me a PowerPoint. Prove you love me.

EMILY: Yeah, I'll make you a PowerPoint.

SALLY: Prove you love me [laughs].

EMILY: If you loved me, you'd make a PowerPoint!!

SALLY: [laughs] Isn't that how the kids do it now day?

EMILY: Yeah, that's definitely how they do it.

SALLY: Star wipes. Or the one that's, like the checkerboard that flips... [mumbling]

EMILY: The – what?

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: I don't think anyone does, really.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Does this one have a prologue? Oh god it does. Fuck me, right?

SALLY: [sighs]

EMILY: It's called "Seeds of Shadow."

SALLY: [laughs] That doesn't make any sense.

EMILY: I know. It just – what?

SALLY: [spooky voice] Seeds of Shadddooww.

EMILY: We get some Seanchan stuff.

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: We get White Tower drama. Oh, we have to just go through and wipe out Gawyn's name everywhere. Actually, it's mostly Min's point of view.

SALLY: [talking to the cat] Hey, baby.

EMILY: Oh, it's not! It's not a prologue! It's chapter one!

SALLY: Well, see! [collar jingling in the background]

EMILY: But it does sort of function as a prologue and the next chapter is our main boys. I don't want to talk about this. *The Shadow Rising* is [pause] a terrible book.

SALLY: Like we kind of got into this a bit at the beginning of our weird extra episode, which I realize I did not call Episode 76. My brain just automatically called it an extra, so I'm sorry if I messed up your numbering system.

EMILY: Oh, no. That's fine.

SALLY: [talking to the cat] Hello would you like this bottlecap? You're not supposed to be on the table.

EMILY: Do you want this episode to be 76?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Sorry.

EMILY: No, I'll fix it.

SALLY: I'm just stupid.

EMILY: I should have asked before I –

SALLY: [laughing] No you don't have to ask. I'm just neurotic, and my brain was like –

EMILY: I just – okay. So [groans].

SALLY: We talked about this a little bit at the beginning of our, um, advice podcast that we did last time, but –

EMILY: Sorry.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Just blanket apology [laughing] for that one.

SALLY: No, that was a good one. We gave you good advice. You're welcome. You can take that advice to the freaking bank.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Find a federal credit union.

EMILY: Yeeeaah.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I don't know anything about banks.

SALLY: I don't either. Banks are stupid.

EMILY: They kind of scare me.

SALLY: We need to open a bank account for this podcast.

EMILY: I can't talk about this on air [laughs].

SALLY: Anyway. Um. [laughing] we talked about this a little bit at the beginning of our advice podcast, but there are parts of *The Shadow Rising* that are so interesting. Predominately, like, I find Mat's arc in this book *really* fascinating.

EMILY: Yeah. Yeah.

SALLY: Um, it's [clanking noises]. Okay, I can't. I can't do this. There you go.

[muttering, clunking noises as Tybalt is thrown off the table]

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: You already lost it, you absolute dingus.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay. Oh, it's still gonna be bad audio. Tybalt [sound of a bottle cap being pushed across the wood floor]. Anyway, Tybalt's in prison now.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: We made it pretty far into this episode.

EMILY: Yeah, we did.

SALLY: He's got a bottle cap with him, though, so at least we sent him with a –

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: – a, you know, shank.

EMILY: Now, we just give him a paper bag [laughing] and let him loose.

SALLY: Um, but there are parts of this book, again, that are so interesting, like, Mat's arc is really fascinating. And Rand is at the center of it, which is – actually, I don't have much problems with Rand's arc in this book in particular, because it becomes so tied in with the Aiel and his adoption narrative is interesting and we can talk about that, but the Aiel's cultural trauma and the way that that begins to play out.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Is interesting.

EMILY: It's not necessarily, like, [mumbling for a second] – it's – it's a – it's good fodder for discussion.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I think is what it is. Because it's like is it white savior-ish?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because you do have this outsider perspective that is very much to do with a cultural, and although he can technically claim it as part of his heritage, he also, more or less, insists on being ignorant of it.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: For the next, like, six books.

SALLY: And it seems, like, it's constantly like he's making an active decision to not –

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like...

EMILY: Immerse himself.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Or understand it.

SALLY: And he, like, doesn't feel any connection to it.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Which I find interesting about – because he's so desperate of course to hold on to Tam as his father, which is –

EMILY: Another interesting thing, yeah.

SALLY: An understandable sentiment, but also, I don't know. It's just interesting.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Um, and so, kind of building off the Aiel, you also – and their, like, culture break and their – that trauma that happens, is this book where we start to see a lot of geopolitical fracturing in Wheelworld.

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: Which, when Emily first sold *The Wheel of Time* to me as something I should read, she's like, "The first three books, while entertaining and interesting, really don't – they're just kind of very prototypical high fantasy, and it's once you get into the late third book and beyond where *Wheel of Time* starts to really sort of take on a life of its own and become something that's really, kind of does some unexpected and weird things. And this is where those things start to happen, but unfortunately you also have Perrin going back to the Two Rivers, completely, like, shattering –

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: – the Hero's Journey in a way that is obvious, because it doesn't work for Perrin, I don't think.

EMILY: Yeah, there's a, um, there's a sort of weird need, I think, at the center of this, which, I think a lot of – [sighs] I can't, I can't quite back this up yet. But a lot of high fantasy deals with the idea of going back home and home being changed and now having to rescue home. Like, this is taken straight out of the end of *The Lord of The Rings*.

SALLY: Yeah, of course.

EMILY: Where the Hobbits go back to the Shire, and still have to save the Shire.

SALLY: Yeah, it goes back to the Odyssey, where Oedipus comes home –

EMILY: Exactly!

SALLY: Oedipus. Oh, my hell.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Odysseus comes home and everything is *fucked*, like.

EMILY: Yeah, it's a thing. Like, even when you get home, there's still shit to do.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: But it's also just, like, it's bad, because this isn't actually the end of the book.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, this is too transparently, like, a method for Perrin to accumulate an army and power.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it's, like, yeah. It just doesn't really work for him.

SALLY: Yeah! It really, like, 'cause I think it's pretty safe to say that there's a little bit of a division between the narrative arc of the first three books –

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: – and the narrative arc of the rest of the series. So, it's, like, totally fine to see some plots wrapped up in those first three books, I think. Like Rand has pretty much, um, accepted what's going to happen for better or for worse. And, like.

EMILY: And you also, more or less, have the series broken up into trilogies.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: Those first three books are really, like, centralized on this one arc of Rand becoming the Dragon Reborn and claiming that. And then Books 4 through 6 are kind of, like, more or less a lot to do with Rand getting a solid base of power.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And a lot of characters moving into that. Like, this is where – in the next three books Mat's going to get an army.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And, like, you know, become a fucking general. Perrin's going to acquire an army. Uh, Egwene is going to become the Amyrlin Seat.

SALLY: [softly] Hell yeah.

EMILY: And Elayne and Nynaeve are going to, sort of, rise into being Aes Sedai.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, it's just –

SALLY: And Rand gets the continent.

EMILY: Yeah, Rand gets the entire fucking – no he gets.

SALLY: Not yet. He doesn't get Illian.

EMILY: [laughing] He gets the weird southeast portion of the continent.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I don't know. And everyone – and all the Aiel Waste.

SALLY: Yeah. Dun dun. Yeah, so it's just...so, yeah. I completely lost my train of thought.

EMILY: Sorry, I totally interrupted you.

SALLY: No, it's – you're totally right. It does get those kind of, like, brackets on certain books where there are thematic things happening. And in a series so big, like we've said before, like, it's okay that the wheel of the Hero's Journey turns several times, and, like, there are macro Hero – micro Hero Journeys inside the macro Hero's Journey, but, like....

EMILY: The frustrating thing about Perrin, and I've realized this especially as I've reread the last few books in the series, are that he is never given – he's never given anything new.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: To think about or to talk about or to deal with.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, take Mat, who, sorry he's the easiest example. Mat goes through these stages of different things developing in his character. We had kind of the first three books, which really dealt with his, uh, foolishness and his trickster side and his mischief and his just kind of like growth from court jester, home fool, like village idiot, to kind of being someone centrally in the narrative.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And then we have this, like, military arc coming up where he's going to step into that and then he's going to be stepping into political – politics and marriage and dealing with that. And it's just, like, he's doing stuff. He constantly has something new for his character to be thinking about and doing.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Perrin...has, like, two characters, and, like, three things that he's thinking about constantly.

SALLY: Yeah, and I think only a few episodes ago you talked about how, like, Perrin's battle with the wolves doesn't get resolved until, like, Book 12 or 13 or whatever.

EMILY: Yeah, I finished the To – I finished *Towers of Midnight*, like, uh, last week or whatever. A couple weeks ago. And there's this scene at the end where Perrin, like, very much the authorial intent is to put a bow on Perrin's little wolf narrative.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And I said in my blog, and it is, like, very true and I can't emphasize enough how true it is, that that moment meant nothing to me because it felt like it had already happened, like, seven times in that book alone.

SALLY: Yeah. It happens, like, I feel like on every page. Like, literally any given moment of Perrin's arc could be him coming to terms with the fact that he's got a bond with the wolves and the fact that it keeps getting rehashed and rehashed and rehashed is just, like, exhausting.

EMILY: Yeah. Like, they're trying to break it up into different things, like, what – like, okay he has to deal with the dreaming part of it. And he has to deal with what it means for his berserker type thing, and what it means to have a balance in his life, and it's just, like, that's – that's not a – that metaphor doesn't stretch that far.

SALLY: No, it does not.

EMILY: Like, you're overusing something. It's just really bad.

SALLY: Yeah, it's just, like, taking the plot device of Hamlet, which is indecision.

EMILY: Uh-huh. Yeah.

SALLY: And, um, making it go on for [laughing] 87 hours instead of 5 hours.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: And, like, even in Hamlet by the end you're like, "Oh, my fucking god, you little bastard. Please make a choice."

EMILY: Yeah, by the end of Hamlet you're like fucking ready for Hamlet to die.

SALLY: Yeah you're like, "Please. Take him."

EMILY: You're like, "Okay, death. I'm ready for all these people to fucking lose it 'cause –"

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: It's just like indecision – and I think it's really – like indecision can be interesting up to a point, because it's something that people deal with and it's kind of refreshing on the other side where Rand gets to a point where he's like, “Decision. Decision. Decision. Decision. Decision.”

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: “Decision. Decision.” To have Perrin be our thoughtful character that, like, meditates on things. But it just like – there's not enough of a balance with Perrin. It's just like [gagging noises]

EMILY: And just you very much get the sense with Perrin more than Mat and Rand and a lot of other characters, that Robert Jordan reached a point with Perrin and just didn't, didn't have any plans for him.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which is a little bit sad. But it's like he's mucking around in, like, some – like the weird no man's land of Ghealdan, Amadicia, and Murandy for, like, seven books. Like, Perrin sends him – I mean, not Perrin. Rand sends him there to get Masema, and then it's just, like, he's there. Faile gets kidnapped. He has to get her back. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And it's just like –

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Oh, man. You know?

SALLY: Yeah. It – and so, Perrin has truly – is truly, for me, and this book solidified it, just, like, the slog point of view.

EMILY: Yeah, like, you have to push through.

SALLY: Yeah, it's like you have to – at one point when Emily was reading *The Wheel of Time* and I wasn't, she, like, wasn't responding to my text, which was very rude and she was like, “Sorry I had to get through, like, ten Perrin points of view, and I just had to, like, sit down and do.” And I was like, “That's weird,” but then I got to the same stretch and I was like –

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: You really do have to [laughing] like block off your time.

EMILY: [laughing] You just have to fucking do it.

SALLY: Yeah, and just dedicate yourself to doing that for an hour or two or whatever. Otherwise, you just won't get through it.

EMILY: It's so bad. Like, yeah. Perrin and Elayne are the two that I just most struggle with.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: To really get through. But, um, yeah. Perrin, I mean, we'll talk about it more, but Perrin's arc through *The Shadow Rising* is just fucking brutal to deal with.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Nynaeve and Elayne are kind of interesting, um, in a really – I – Nynaeve and Elayne have a really weird position in this book.

SALLY: Yeah, they do.

EMILY: Where they just – they're not memorable, honestly.

SALLY: Uh-uh. Yeah, I forgot.

EMILY: I, like, never remember what Nynaeve and Elayne are doing until I actually get into the meat of this book. And then it's like, "Oh, yeah, they're continuing this weird Black Ajah chase that, again, is just kind of a bit of a poorly written plot for them." It's just so – how did Robert Jordan come up with these brilliant things for characters like Mat to do?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like Mat – whatever Mat's doing at the moment always feel completely organic.

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Even if it's buck wild.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like a building collapsing on him when the Seanchan are invading.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: That moment feels so potent because it just feels like things are lining up.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And I mean it helps that he's got literally the narrative arc of Mat's dice in his head.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: To sort of point that out for us. But then, moments just don't feel as fated or as important or as relevant for a lot of other characters.

SALLY: Yeah, and it's like – I feel like this, not to harp on EHR faves, but I feel like Egwene has very much the same type of thing. Because she's a character that's so intentional with her choices.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Nynaeve and Elayne while – kind of get caught up, I think, a little bit more in just whatever the winds take them, when this book is very much a choice of that. Whereas Egwene makes the active decision –

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: – to split from that, because she wants to improve herself and learn different things.

EMILY: Yeah, Egwene pursues things. Yeah, you're right.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And so she has these moments of, like, there a little less hard to define, but I'll always, like, remember these – just the chapters when Egwene is first becoming the Amyrlin Seat and having these small victories.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Those are *so good*.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: They're so powerful. But then, yeah, you have this weird thing with Nynaeve and Elayne where it's, like, Elayne is the one who is, like, the queen.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: So, it's a little bit odd that she's just sort of romping through the countryside.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, I don't want to limit women based on their social status.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: You know? But it's just, like, an odd choice, like, yeah.

SALLY: Yeah. I almost think I would find Elayne more interesting if she felt a little bit more of a political responsibility.

EMILY: Yeah, and she tries to tell you that she feels a political responsibility.

SALLY: And you're like, "You're in a fucking circus."

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: [laughing] I don't know what to tell you. Book 5 is also just – everything in Book 5 is so buck wild.

EMILY: I realize –

SALLY: The fact that –

EMILY: [laughs] Sorry. I've realized, this is a *Wheel of Time* tv show thing, what I want is every time Valan Luca's circus is on screen I want it to be a full-on Baz Luhrmann musical.

SALLY: YEEES! Yes, yes, yes.

EMILY: I want everyone in the circus to be singing and, like, doing musical numbers, and it – always, like, everyone joins in for it, except for the Two Rivers people.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: So, when you get the girls Nynaeve is just like, "What the fuck?" Like even Elayne and Thom and Julin are in it and she's like, "What? What is going on?" And then you get Mat and he's like, "WHAT IS GOING ON?"

SALLY: [laughs] God, remember how we cast Lin-Manuel Miranda as Valan Luca, and that was perfect?

EMILY: Yeah, I stand by it. That would be so good.

SALLY: And then that would be so fun, because then Lin-Manuel Miranda could write original music for *The Wheel of Time* –

EMILY: [screams]

SALLY: – and just, like, be in a dramatic circus outfit.

EMILY: UHHH. I love him.

SALLY: I know, what a perfect man.

EMILY: That would be so good.

SALLY: It would be so good! Emily, that was an excellent *Wheel of Time* production decision.

EMILY: Thank you!

SALLY: Why aren't we in charge of the goddamn *Wheel of Time* tv show?

EMILY: I know [laughing], it's so upsetting.

SALLY: It upsets me more and more every day [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] Because I could do such a good job with it.

SALLY: They could sing "Circus" by Britney Spears.

EMILY: Yeah. I intentionally left that off of Mat's playlist, because I was like, "Wait."

SALLY: No.

EMILY: "It doesn't belong to him."

SALLY: "It specifically belongs to Valan Luca."

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: [laughs] As Lin-Manuel Miranda.

EMILY: Absolute, absolute weirdo. Ooh, we get another fun bard figure in this book. We get

BOTH: Asmo-deen

EMILY: Asmo-deen!!

SALLY: Do you know I also read Rhuidean as Rhui-deen [laughing] for this entire book.

EMILY: That makes sense.

SALLY: Rhui-deen!

EMILY: Asmo-deen, I always think of him as –

SALLY: Asmo-deen [laughing].

EMILY: Okay, so.

SALLY: [coughing] Sorry. I don't know where that come from.

EMILY: Here's a fun Emily childhood story. So, as you all know, when I was little [laughing] I was obsessed with the tv show *Redwall*.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: And in *Redwall*, in the main arc of the first one, you know, *Redwall* the actual book, not one of the sequels? The main villain that the main mouse has to fight at the very end to get his magic sword back, is named Asmodeus.

SALLY: MM.

EMILY: And it's a snake. So, like, you picture a little mouse fighting a giant snake.

SALLY: [whispers] Amazing.

EMILY: And he always comes on screen and he does the whole, "Asmodeusssssssss," hissing thing.

SALLY: Nicccccce.

EMILY: And I was very afraid of that as a child, 'cause there's, like, Asmodeus just eating mice and shit.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's very upsetting. Anyway, that's why whenever I read Asmodean I always think he's a snake, sort of.

SALLY: [hissing noises]

EMILY: My brain, like, inputs snakey vibes.

SALLY: Does he play a flute, ever?

EMILY: I think he mostly plays, like, his lil' lyre, or whatever.

SALLY: Well, I mean, if we are thinking of Asmodean as a snake, Rand plays the flute so he's got a snake charmer thing going on.

EMILY: Hey!

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Is Asmodean like a snake thing? I don't know what.

SALLY: I'm googling it.

EMILY: Okay, thanks. Um, anyway yeah, Nynaeve and Elayne occupy this really weird space where they're doing stuff and it is, like, important for them. Like, it's important Nynaeve kind of has this big badass moment where she's fighting Moghedien, and I – like, much as I don't like Elayne, it's important that she has interactions here with way less competent rulers and, um, I don't know. I guess her dad issues with Thom or whatever.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But, like, comparatively when you have things like Mat getting hanged happening on the other continent, the other side of the continent –

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's like, "Shit. Nothing matters."

SALLY: Yeah. Mat got *hanged*.

EMILY: Yeah. That's a very –

SALLY: Aviendha ran naked through the desert.

EMILY: I know. Aviendha didn't [laughing] run naked through the desert for this.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: You have the really cool scene at the, like, very center of this book where Rand is going through Rhuidean.

SALLY: Oh, yeah.

EMILY: And seeing all the points of view of the people. God that's such a cool.

SALLY: Yeah, wild. We're gonna take – I saw an interesting thing. I haven't listened to the episode, but the Wheel of Time spoilers podcast?

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: Another *Wheel of Time* podcast, recently talked about that episode – not recently, a couple of months ago. And someone mentioned that the, like, glass towers in Rhuidean are like concentric, like, the concentric rings of a tree, so it's like –

EMILY: Oh, damn.

SALLY: The history of the people.

EMILY: Damn!

SALLY: Interesting.

EMILY: Like the family tree.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: That's so interesting.

SALLY: Yeah, so we'll have to talk –

EMILY: Especially because you have the tree of life, like, ten feet away, that Mat is getting hanged from.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. So Asmodeus, to go back for a second, is “a prince of demons in – or in Judo-Islamic lore the king of the earthly spirits.”¹

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Um, and he's “an antagonist in the deuterocanonical Book of Tobit.” [laughs]

EMILY: Oh, yeah.

SALLY: “Asmodeus represents lust in Binsfeld's classification of demons.” Um, “referred to as a prince – one of the seven princes of hell.” So, the seven demons – or, seven deadly sins.

EMILY: But is he snek?

SALLY: I'm trying – that's what I'm looking for.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I thought I found it. “The name *Asmodai* is believed to derive from the Avestan language” where it means wrath or demon...um [humming]. I'm – I'm trying to find snek. Maybe my metaphor will fall upon itself.

EMILY: Sorry.

SALLY: Oh, I mean. That's okay. We'll just take *Redwall* as the canon not the Bible.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asmodeus>

EMILY: Yeah, obviously.

SALLY: [laughs] Obvi – obviously!

EMILY: Obviously! It's still good.

SALLY: Wikipedia's so wild.

EMILY: I know.

SALLY: "Asmodeus was wildly depicted as having a handsome visage, good manners, and an engaging nature."

EMILY: Huh, well. That makes sense. For our emo boy. God, he's so short lived. He really only has the next book.

SALLY: Uh, Asmo-deen.

EMILY: I know. Burns brightly, [laughing] like a star in the night sky. And then gone.

SALLY: No, I don't think he ever looks like a snekedy, snek. Unless you want to take the general idea that a prince of demons would be a snake in the Garden of Eden.

EMILY: I have no idea.

SALLY: "Asmodeus also features heavily in the lore of the game Dungeons and Dragons, as the ruler of the nine hells." [laughs]

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Didn't know that!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Haven't interacted with that one, yet.

SALLY: "Asmodeus appears as Mangus Bane's father in [laughs] The Shadowhunters series."

EMILY: Why would bring this – you need to –

SALLY: [laughing] "Based on Cassandra Clare's popular series *The Mortal Instruments*."

EMILY: Get off the Wikipedia, [laughing] you're torturing me with this. Literally. Torment.

SALLY: Okay, we're done with Asmodeus. Sorry. Emily's gonna delete all of that because it turned out to be uninteresting.

EMILY: No, I won't. I'll delete some of it.

SALLY: Asmo-dees?

EMILY: The pauses. Asmo-dees?

SALLY: Asmo-dius.

EMILY: A snek.

SALLY: Asmo-snek. [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] I feel like I'm having a stroke.

SALLY: [snorts, laughs] That's what we go for in every episode of EHR. If you don't feel like you're having a stroke [laughs].

EMILY: [making weird noises]

SALLY: Then *what's* the point!

EMILY: I don't even remember what we're talking about. Nynaeve and Elayne. Weird.

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: And then there's Rand, who we already talked about Rand. Egwene, doing some odd shit.

SALLY: Yeah, Egwene's arc is buck wild.

EMILY: I know.

SALLY: When she's with the Wise Ones.

EMILY: Like, yeah. It's like bootcamp. She's just doing bootcamp the entire time.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And then there's fucking Mat, who, yeah, has a – literally everything –

SALLY: [coughs] Sorry.

EMILY: That happens to Mat's character for the next eleven books happens in this book.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, like, what the hell?

SALLY: Oh, Matty.

EMILY: Oh, Mat. And then there's the White Tower breaking, which comes back to your thing about all these geopolitical shenanigans happening. Importantly, the first chapter of this covers the set up for the White Tower breaking, and also the return of the Seanchan, which are going to be the two major happenings that kind of influence the continent for the rest of the series.

SALLY: Yeah, and the Seanchan are their own geopolitical nightmare, so.

EMILY: Yeah, and I guess, excuse me, the Aiel are also, like, a major thing, because they're going to leave the Waste, prompted by the events of this book, and follow Rand, more or less. Also, some of them will choose not to follow Rand, because of the stupid way he –

SALLY: Because Rand's an idiot.

EMILY: Because Rand's a dipshit and he doesn't understand cultural trauma or whatever. But it's also, like, what would anyone else have done? I have no idea how to solve that problem. Like.

SALLY: No, it's an unsolvable problem.

EMILY: Yeah. Um, yeah, so it's about to break bad at the end of this book.

SALLY: Yeah. Shit.

EMILY: But then we kind of have to get through this book. Happily, *The Fires of Heaven* doesn't have any Perrin points of view.

SALLY: I know. That's why it's one of my faves.

EMILY: Because he's on his honeymoon.

SALLY: Gross.

EMILY: I know.

SALLY: Yuck.

EMILY: But also I'm so happy I don't have to read about it.

SALLY: Yeah, I mean truly. We do get sex igloo, though, which is unfortunate.

EMILY: [groaning] Why do we get? There's a lot of sex in *The Fires of Heaven*.

SALLY: Yeah. *The Fires of Heaven* is –

EMILY: A sexy book.

SALLY: A kinky motherfucker.

EMILY: Sex igloo. Then there's Mat with his, like, dom Aiel lady.

SALLY: Oh, yeah.

EMILY: Yeah, there's some weird vibes going on there. Ugh. And Lanfear as always.

SALLY: Tits McGee herself.

EMILY: Oh, is that the one – no. Book 6 is where Egwene meets up with Gawyn and just starts having her sex meet ups with him.

SALLY: [laughing] Oh, yeah! [snorts]

EMILY: Hilarious.

SALLY: And the tavern, and the innkeeper is like, "Okay, horny kids." And Egwene is like, "Don't make fun of me!"

EMILY: "We're just kissing! And doing hand stuff."

SALLY: [laughs] "We're doing everything but anal [laughing] so it's fine."

EMILY: [laughing] Oh my god.

SALLY: Oh, Egwene. The only good thing that Gawyn has ever brought to this series is that he seems to make Egwene sexually satisfied.

EMILY: I know. Just, like, her libido skyrockets whenever he's around.

SALLY: Which I don't understand. [laughing] My libido does the opposite whenever he's around.

EMILY: I know, I literally wanna kill myself whenever he's on screen.

SALLY: Bleck. Anyway. Yeah, and then Egwene – does she start having sex dreams in Book 5? Or later? After the sexcapades?

EMILY: I think Book 6, yeah. It's like she starts having sex dreams and then she runs into him and is like, "I can finally make my sex dreams a reality."

SALLY: Which is, like, good for you, girl.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Get it.

EMILY: But also Rand's sex dreams in this really just break me, fundamentally as a person.

SALLY: [gagging noises] Because they're *sooooo* pervy.

EMILY: They're [voice wavering] sooo gross.

SALLY: Not to, like, sexuality should not be a thing of shame, but the problem is Rand harbors a lot of shame.

EMILY: Yeah, not to yuck anyone's yums, but yuck.

SALLY: [laughing] Oh my god! What? What did you just say?

EMILY: It's a phrase.

SALLY: Are you serious?

EMILY: Yeah. I don't want to yuck your yums. Have you never heard that?

SALLY: I have never heard it.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I hate it.

EMILY: I do, too. That's why it's hilarious. [laughs]

SALLY: Where did it come from?

EMILY: It's literally for this specific instance.

SALLY: [laughs] God, like, dropped it into someone's head.

EMILY: I don't want to kink shame you, is the definition. I don't want to yuck your yums, but.

SALLY: I've literally never heard this. What dark corner of the internet are you inhabiting?

EMILY: I wasn't on the internet! I've heard that legitimately all my life. Not all my life, probably. I mean, Utah County, come on. It's a phrase.

SALLY: Must be a Utah thing.

EMILY: [yelling] It is not a phrase!

SALLY: I've never heard that shit in my life.

EMILY: You've lived in Utah ninety nine percent of your life!

SALLY: I've lived in Utah, but I'm not of Utah.

EMILY: I'm googling it. I'm gonna – yuck your yums.

SALLY: It's not that I don't believe you, it's just that it's gross and I don't –

EMILY: Yuck your yum origin.

SALLY: Disgusting is what it is.

EMILY: Don't ever type yuck your tum origin into google, you'll come up with some weird shit.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: It's in an article by the Huffington Post in 2016, so it has at least been around that long.

SALLY: Yeah, you heard it all your life.

EMILY: I – shhhh.

SALLY: No, I, like, I'm gonna say it all the time now.

EMILY: No, you're not.

SALLY: I'm gonna yuck your yums.

EMILY: What I'm saying is I don't want to kink shame Rand, but I'm fully shaming him for his dumb sex dreams.

SALLY: Again, I just think Rand harbors so much shame around sexuality.

EMILY: Yeah, which really – the shame just jumps out.

SALLY: We should do an episode of sex positivity in *The Wheel of Time*. It should be one of our themes.

EMILY: What do you mean?

SALLY: Just because there are some wonderfully sex positive characters.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: Aviendha.

EMILY: Aviendha's very sex positive, yeah.

SALLY: Then there's Rand who –

EMILY: Rand's very not sex positive. Mat is sex positive, 'til bad things happen.

SALLY: Yeah. Then there's Egwene who's like, "Boy toy."

EMILY: [snaps] "Lay down, I'm gonna hop on your dick."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: "Move it or lose it, bucko. [laughing] Come on champ, I haven't got all day.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay.

EMILY: [laughing] We have to end this episode. I don't know what this was.

SALLY: I've – if you've enjoyed the last few minutes so thoroughly, [laughing] you should consider supporting us on Patreon.

EMILY: No! We haven't earned it!

SALLY: [laughing] Woooo! Also, I don't think last episode we thanked Glynna Mackenzie for our wonderful pod – theme song.

EMILY: Oh, yeah. It's because we had a really weird intro. Sorry. But, yeah, [laughing] thank you Glynna Mackenzie for the use of our theme song.

SALLY: [laughing] It's a departure –

BOTH: of the album

SALLY: Putting the days to bed. No, it's an origin composition by a beautiful creature.

EMILY: Yeah, thank you so much. Do we have any housekeeping?

SALLY: Uhhh. Follow us on the internet. Check out our website.

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: We – I worked very hard on it.

EMILY: Yeah, it looks great.

SALLY: Emily edited it very hard, because I don't know how to write words.

EMILY: No, I didn't.

SALLY: Yeah, you did.

EMILY: I did?

SALLY: You edited it at least so it didn't look like garbage.

EMILY: Yeah, but it wasn't heavily. I think I removed some commas or some shit.

SALLY: Yeah, I'm pretty comma heavy. Um –

EMILY: Everyone is as I've learned at my job.

SALLY: So, do that and enjoy your week and we love it to hear – we love hearing you tweet about the show and comment on our Instagram and put us in your Instagram stories or whatever that you do. It's really helpful, because obviously we can say that we have such a great podcast, but nobody believes that. They believe it when you, the listeners, our beautiful listeners, say it. So, thank you to everyone who's been talking about us on social media and leaving reviews on iTunes and telling your friends about it. We really appreciate it.

EMILY: We'll be back next week with, at the very least, the first chapter of *The Shadow Rising*. Who's to say how far we'll get into it. We'll also probably be releasing a reading schedule sometime in the next week.

SALLY: Yes [hits the glass table].

EMILY: By the time this comes out it'll probably be up.

SALLY: Again [whispers] check the website.

EMILY: Yeah, check out our website. So, if you want to follow along, that's where it will be.

SALLY: Cha.

EMILY: Ummm, do you have a sign-off?

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Okay, great.

SALLY: So, for the past nine or ten months Emily and I have been living in this apartment. [laughing] Across the hall from us lives a boy that I went to high school with.

EMILY: Oh god.

SALLY: Um, who I was, like, friendly with. We ran in the same friend circle. I have not made any contact with him. We have seen each other across the parking lot several times [laughs], and the other day we walked up the stairs together [laughing], and I, the most awkward person in the world, still didn't say anything, and just went inside my apartment. [laughing] So, it was a pretty astounding, bit of social awkwardness that I committed on our stoop [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Was he the one who, just when we were standing there?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Oh god.

SALLY: Because it's, like, [laughing] now it's gone on too long.

EMILY: Maybe he – have you acknowledged that you know each other even?

SALLY: I mean I'm like – I've smiled at him.

EMILY: But yeah, that could just be, like, normal human behavior.

SALLY: But I am not an easy person to forget with this hair and stuff, so, like, I'm – or maybe he's forgotten me, I shouldn't be that vain.

EMILY: [scoffs] Doubtful.

SALLY: [laughs] Thanks. So, anyway, it was extremely awkward and now I want to die. So [laughs].

EMILY: Don't!

SALLY: Have a good week.

EMILY: Bye!

