



Episode 87 -- **“That’s WHY
He’s the Dragon”**

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Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books. So if you’re anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 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: What does “vibe check” mean?

Sally: (laugh) Should I ask my teen narc, Gethin?

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) It’ll be a live --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Depending on how --

Sally: Instagram is probably the easiest way to get him.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: For some reason, he, like, doesn't text easily. He called me yesterday, and I was like, "What's happening? Hello -- are you dying?" And he was like, "No, I just wanted to see if you were at the store yet."

Emily: Oh my God. Tybalt, just eat your dang food. Tybalt.

Tybalt: (meows)

Emily: Why do you have to make noise? I know you're a living animal, and therefore you make noise -- you can't help it -- but couldn't you take a -- a leaf out of the -- that movie by John Krasinski. Where if you make noise, you die. What's it called?

Sally: Uh, the Silent Place? Is that it?

Emily: The Quiet Place!

Sally: The Quiet Place. Oh my God.

Emily: A Quiet Place. My family's obsessed with that movie, as my family becomes obsessed with many movies. That, um, slowly took over O Brother, Where Art Thou? In terms of our --

Sally: Really?

Emily: Obsession. Well, it's, like, different types of obsession. But, like, O Brother, Where Art Thou? Was the last movie that our family --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Was deeply obsessed with, and then it was A Quiet Place. Before that, I'd say it was Megamind. It's just been a weird ...

Sally: Vibe. Jesus Christ.

Emily: Vibe check. Well, that update will follow, depending on --

Sally: He has officially seen the message on Instagram.

Emily: Tell him it's important. (laugh)

Sally: I told them "we are recording EHR at the moment, and I need you or Dylan, a youth, to explain what vibe check means."

Emily: Just --

Sally: Gethin is only four years younger than us. (laugh)

Emily: I know, but it makes such a big difference.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I know my friends, who are two to four years older than me --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Are all gonna be asking ME what a vibe check is.

Sally: It's OK. That's why you gotta have -- remember what the teen narc process is we discussed.

Emily: Yeah, you gotta have a teen narc. Why don't I have a teen narc? I guess Gethin is sort of my --

Sally: Yeah. He's not a teen, though.

Emily: My go-to.

Sally: He's teen-adjacent. He's got brothers still in high school.

Emily: Yeah. That's true.

Sally: Um. Once Dylan graduates, I don't know what the fuck we're gonna do. I guess we'll have to rely on my brother, the school administrator.

Emily: Oh, that's true.

Sally: Perry told me the other day -- he's like, "Getting a teen narc was actually really good advice." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It was extremely funny. I was like, "Who's your teen narc?" And he's like, "I'm not gonna snitch on them."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It was so funny.

Emily: (laugh, cough) I can't believe we gave good advice to someone.

Sally: I know. That's the only time that's ever gonna happen.

Emily: Yeah, I've never given good advice in my life. Has -- they responded?

Sally: Gethin is typing.

Emily: Oh my God. This is taking forever. Ugghghh.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, he's not great at digital communication. It's his one flaw.

Emily: How can he be teen-adjacent?

Sally: Well -- (laugh)

Emily: And still be ...

Sally: I feel like I can't talk about Gethin as much as I do on this podcast.

Emily: OK, we won't talk about Gethin.

Sally: I feel like I need to -- like, it's becoming ridiculous. (laugh)

Emily: We can talk about Devin instead. (laugh)

Sally: Hi, Devin.

Emily: Hi, Devin.

Sally: I know you're listening now.

Emily: Yeah, it's pretty weird. It's pretty buck-wild.

Sally: Devin is quoting us to us.

Emily: Yeah, that was scary. He said something you said, and I was like, "Where have I heard that?"

Sally: (laugh) "I have no memory of this place."

Emily: And I was like -- yeah, I never have any memory of this place, 'cause seriously, it's like short-term memory.

Sally: At least it was one of my more, like, poetic, well-constructed sentences.

Emily: It was a very poetic thing to say.

Sally: It's -- is --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Unlike that one. (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze) That sentence was fine. You just stumbled a little bit in the execution.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: Of it.

Sally: Lost it in the ten-yard line or whatever.

Emily: You're so good at coordinating jewelry.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: You have very cute little pearl earrings in --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And your little cute Tiffany necklace.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's very adorable.

Sally: Oh my God. He stopped typing, and now he's typing again. This is coming -- becoming ridiculous.

Emily: I'm so mad at him. Auuuugggh!

Sally: (laugh) Anyway, it's officially tea season. I mean, tea season is all the time, but now it's, like, the season where I'm like, I cannot get enough tea in my rotting human body.

Emily: It's at the season where tea feels good.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, you're like, oh, I'd really like to come home and drink some tea. Back when I lived in New York and was walking dogs for most of my life, nothing felt better than coming home and -- and, like, having a warm shower on a really cold day and drinking tea and just chilling out. It was just so nice.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I really still, like, have fond memories of that. The dog-walking in blizzards, though, sucked.

Sally: Yeah, I was always so worried about you. I'd wake up and be like, "She's gonna freeze to death out there. It's gonna be like Hatchet."

Emily: I didn't, is the good news. I'm still alive.

Sally: Is she?

Emily: That's -- yeah, part of me might have died in New York.

Sally: It's International Pronouns Day on the day that we are recording this --

Emily: Sure is.

Sally: So I feel like we should have a check-in. What are your pronouns?

Emily: She -- fill in the blank. She/her. I really -- I really -- I know pronouns are very important -
-

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To everyone, but for me, personally, I do not really care how you refer to me.

Sally: Kay.

Emily: It's whatever floats your boat floats my boat.

Sally: Would you prefer --

Emily: I revel in the ambiguity.

Sally: That I mix it up sometimes?

Emily: Oh, you can do whatever you want.

Sally: And don't call you "she"? That's just how I've always known you. But that doesn't mean I
-- make an effort.

Emily: No one --

Sally: Tan France meme with a gun.

Emily: MAKE an effort. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: With a glock.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: I fuckin' love that meme. (laugh)

Sally: It's -- (laugh)

Emily: Did you know there's a coffee shop in New Orleans called "The French Tuck Coffee"?
And I was like, scream. They must have watched Queer Eye recently.

Sally: Yeah. We gotta go to Nola.

Emily: I know, we really do.

Sally: OK, Gethin responded.

Emily: (gasp) Wait, what are your pronouns?

Sally: My pronouns are she/her.

Emily: Yaass.

Sally: Easy.

Emily: Yasss.

Sally: Um. (laugh)

Emily: I'm so excited.

Sally: He's -- he said --

Emily: The anticipation is killing me.

Sally: "According to the Urban Dictionary, it is when a person attacks to check somebody's vibe and murders them in the process."

Emily: WHAT?

Sally: "Which is vague." (laugh) But then he continues, "On a personal and spiritual level, I feel that it means to be in the act of vibing, and someone kills the vibe by bringing up the vibe, ending any vibe energy and murdering them, so to speak. Y'know?" So make of that what you will. (laugh)

Emily: That had layers upon layers. And I'm no closer to comprehending it than I was when I began.

Sally: Well, Teen Narc has failed. This episode of Teen Narc is not as illuminating as other episodes of Teen Narc have been.

Emily: What would the sting for the sitcom "Teen Narc" be?

Sally: The sting?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Gosh, I dunno. "You're trying to have a moderately successful Wheel of Time podcast, you need to keep up with the slang." (laugh) I dunno. That should be fun. That should be our next project. After we make merch, we'll make a comic called "Teen Narc."

Emily: That would be fun. If only one of us could draw.

Sally: Devin can draw it. (pause) Can Devin draw, or does he just do boy design? (laugh) What is --

Emily: (laugh) What?! What is boy design?

Sally: I don't know! (laugh) I couldn't tell you. It's just, like, word vomit. (laugh) Anyway. I dunno. I think I was --

Emily: I'm gonna hack his Twitter and put "boy design" in his -- (laugh)

Sally: I think I was trying to say "Is he a design boy?" but I just, like, got crazy there for a second. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God. He's primarily a designer, but I know that his job just, uh, has started transitioning him to being more of an illustrator and doing more drawing --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: So he just got, like, a new fancy, like --

Sally: Cool.

Emily: iPad and drawing, um, kit. But anyway, we also probably know other people who draw.

Sally: I was gonna say, alternately, Sarah McClintock --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Do you want to illustrate "Teen Narc: The Comic Book"?

Emily: Has Gethin provided more context?

Sally: No. Julie's talking now. She's providing her analysis of Gethin's definition.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: I put -- I dropped it in the group chat.

Emily: Sure, yeah.

Sally: That's the only way Gethin responds to me.

Emily: Oh. Unless you call him.

Sally: It's like the panopticon of social pressure. (laugh) Other people are looking.

Emily: Well, Instagram is freaky too, 'cause everyone knows when you've seen it.

Sally: You can -- yeah. Yeah, that's true. That's true.

Emily: And I'm like, just 'cause I've seen it --

Sally: Also tells you when you're active.

Emily: Yeah, doesn't mean I want to talk about it right now.

Sally: Yeah. Sometimes I need to digest.

Emily: OK, anyway, we've probably been going on for a while, and somewhere in there was an introduction. So this is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I am Design Boy. (laugh)

Emily: That's Design Boy. And, ironically, our pronouns are she/her.

Sally: (laugh) I'm Sally.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or something.

Emily: So here we are to talk about something that isn't Perrin and Faile for the first time in a long time.

Sally: It feels good.

Emily: Yeah, it feels -- I feel really refreshed.

Sally: Would you get off Tumblr? We are recording. (laugh)

Emily: (cackle)

Sally: We are actively recording. (laugh)

Emily: I was doing fine! Multi-tasking. (laugh) So rude.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's just hard for me to talk about, like, Tairen politics, y'know?

Sally: Yeah, I don't wanna talk about that shit.

Emily: Without multi-tasking. It's just, like --

Sally: Blegh.

Emily: It's just, like, boring, but it also is, like, relevant because Robert Jordan won't let it become irrelevant throughout the entire series, which is a little bit annoying. Because, like, I get

it. You want to do your world-building stuff and have, like, I don't know, a wealth of characters and contexts and cultures in the background, but that doesn't stop it all from being fucking boring.

Sally: Well, yeah. And I just think that, in the vein of -- um, for some reason, like, epic fantasy, it has become that world-building equates to, like, complicated Game of Throne-esque politics?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, there's something about the, like, medieval or medieval-adjacent -- I know everyone is like, "Wheel of Time isn't a medieval fantasy," whatever. Medieval-fantasy adjacent -- like, aesthetic that they want everybody to be in the court of, like, King Henry the Eighth or whatever.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Scheming and murdering each other. And, like, that, of course, still happens in everyday politics, but, like, that isn't, probably, a huge part of most people's everyday lives, so, like, what else is going on, y'know? World-building doesn't have to just be the Game of Thrones.

Emily: Yeah. Like, it's just a little bit ridiculous, because most people, if -- it -- like, if you catch yourself -- you're writing your fantasy novel, and you catch yourself being like, "Well, it's just unrealistic that this person would only ever interact with 20 people," which, actually, is on the high end of things --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Ten people. Be like, "How many people do I interact with on a daily basis? For me, it's, like, three.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, there are people I see, but there are only a few people that really need to be named in the story of my --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Day.

Sally: I think mine, on average, is five.

Emily: Yeah. Five, I'd say.

Sally: And one of those is Emily.

Emily: Yeah. Same.

Sally: So. (laugh)

Emily: One of them is Sally, not myself.

Sally: One of them is Tybalt. Let's be honest.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: He's the biggest presence in anybody's life.

Emily: I'm just saying. Yeah, we don't need to know all of the, like, scheming of the nobility here. But of course we do, because it's Moiraine talking --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that's, like, her whole schtick.

Sally: Yeah. And, like, in that way, it's interesting, and her point of view becomes more immersive in that aspect, because we are seeing the world portrayed -- the world according to Moiraine. Like, this is what she's thinking about, and it makes sense. Like, if you'd got the same scene from Egg's point of view, she wouldn't be -- allegedly -- thinking about these types of things.

Emily: Yeah. I mean, Mat never thinks about these things.

Sally: oh my God. Mat has some iconic moments in these two chapters.

Emily: Mat has some very good moments --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In these two chapters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: God. His sex appeal is off the charts.

Sally: I know. When Moiraine is describing his physical appearance, and she's just like, "I don't -- I don't know what that is."

Emily: "He's so slovenly."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm just like, "Sign me the fuck up."

Sally: I'm like, "Yeah. Hey, daddy."

Emily: HA! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Calling Mat “daddy” is, like -- it’s entering a whole new level that I’m unprepared for.

Sally: Can we call him a “zaddy” ‘cause he’s got money?

Emily: Is that what that means?

Sally: That’s what I’m learning on this podcast that I’m listening to. Let’s Google it.

Emily: What, zaddy?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What does the “z” stand for? Zillions?

Sally: (laugh) It does now.

Emily: Zillionaire daddy. Zaddy.

Sally: What does “zaddy” mean?

Emily: Oh, no. What will Urban Dictionary say?

Sally: This is Bustle, first of all.

Emily: Oh, sorry, I just figure it’s Urban Dictionary whenever it’s slang.

Sally: “A slang term for a really handsome guy who is very appealing and looks really fashionable.” That’s just a dude. “A handsome gentleman with a certain flair, typically an older age.”

Emily: So, like, a sophisticated daddy rather than, like, a --

Sally Yeah, this one says it’s a level above being a daddy.

Emily: the level ABOVE being a daddy?

Sally: Yeah. It means you’ve graduated.

Emily: What’s the level above zaddy?

Sally: I dunno --

Emily: Thaddy?

Sally: What?

Emily: Like Thaddeus.

Sally: Thaddeus Binks from Hocus Pocus or whatever? It's Thackery Binks, excuse me.

Emily: Is that the cat?

Sally: What does zaddy mean? Yes, that's the cat.

Emily: I love that cat. I think -- I think -- I think teen boys being transformed into cats is a, like -- is a storyline we, as a society, haven't explored enough.

Sally: What?

Emily: I don't mean that in a kinky way. Gross. Get your mind out of the gutter.

(long pause)

Sally: Huh. Well, no conclusive -- I do like the, um -- "It appears it has --" Oh, hold on. Merriam-Webster. "It appears it --"

Emily: Merriam-Webster?!

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Um. "However, there is no indication ..." um ... "describing a well-off ..." like ... "though perhaps it might carry the influence of terms like sugar daddy, describing a well-off man who supports or spends lavishly on a partner. A zaddy seems to have that certain je ne sais quoi combining looks, confidence, and charm." I cannot believe this is a full-ass article on Merriam-Webster dot com. Oh! "Whether -- what we can say conclusively is that 'zaddy' is certainly attractive and fashionable. Whether it has the funds to cover the budgets it's running up or is just here from dusk till dawn is yet to be seen."

Emily: Well, I don't know if Mat is quite a zaddy because he is, like, the antithesis of fashionable? He's, like, the --

Sally: (laugh) That's true.

Emily: He takes fashion and just, like, consumes it and spits it out.

Sally: But isn't that what, like, fashion, capital "F", people do? They're like, "I'm wearing my shirt inside-out because I'm really thinking about clothing."

Emily: You're asking me? I don't know shit about fashion.

Sally: Get Lee on the phone. (laugh)

Emily: Get Lee. Get Sarah McClintock. All you --

Sally: Anyway.

Emily: All you clothes people.

Sally: You're right. Mat isn't fashionable, but he does have a lot of money, so he's somewhere in between the levels --

Emily: Daddy and zaddy.

Sally: Of daddy and zaddy.

Emily: Well, that leaves most of the alphabet open to us.

Sally: That's true. He can be --

Emily: E through Y.

Sally: He can be a -- what can he be?

Emily: I'm horrified. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) He can be a saddy. (laugh) That's what Mat's gonna be for the time being.

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: This episode has so many gems in it.

Emily: He can be a Matty. (laugh)

Sally: He can be a Matty. There we go. That's more -- that's more clever than -- because he is in a realm all to his own, isn't he?

Emily: I know. He just occupies a very weird sexual space. I was talking to Devin -- he was like -- I was like, "Our -- our special Christmas episode should be that I just make you read all of the moments in Wheel of Time that gave me a sexual awakening without context --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And you'll just weigh in on them."

Sally: That would be so good.

Emily: And he was like, "I kinda need context," and I was like, "No, most of them stand on their own. They're just like --"

Sally: That's true.

Emily: "Mat catching a knife out of the air or whatever."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, "Oh. Big horny for that."

Sally: Awakened something in me.

Emily: It -- yeah, definitely awakened something in me. A lot of what Mat does awakened (sing-song) things in me when I was younger and still --

Sally: Come -- putting the sexual constellation together?

Emily: Yeah, it really is. Um. He's a -- he's like the north star of my sexual constellation.

Sally: I mean, yeah. He really just has so many things that work for me.

Emily: Yeah. There's a lot going on.

Sally: Especially his money.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: This nice man who's secure --

Sally: I just -- yeah. I read this very interesting article about, um -- whatever. We don't have -- this is not "Sally Read an Interesting Article: the -- a Wheel of Time podcast." (laugh)

Emily: It could be. (laugh) We don't know where we're gonna be five books from now.

Sally: It's true. Fuck. Five books from now is, what? The ninth one?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But what's -- I don't know what the fuck that one's called. I haven't read it.

Emily: Umm. Well, we could look on the back of the Shadow Rising 'cause me remembering is too complicated.

Sally: 'Cause it's a Crown of Swords, and then a Path of Daggers, then is it Winter's Heart?

Emily: UGH. It's Winter's Heart. Yeah. Fuck me.

Sally: So we will be talking about "Sally Read an Interesting Article: A Wheel of Time Podcast."

Emily: Yeah, that one's pretty -- that one's not great, I'm just gonna say. Has some great Mat content, though.

Sally: Well, that's what I really care about.

Emily: Yeah. OK, anyway.

Sally: Anyway, sorry for completely --

Emily: We've talked for ten minutes about Mat.

Sally: Derailing that. (laugh)

Emily: Like usual. Um, so we're in Moiraine's point of view. We are finally now going back to before the earthquake --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That Rand sets off in the Stone of Tear because, y'know. Um, which, she and Egg are, like, wandering into the Stone of Tear. There's all these nobility around. Moiraine's shorter than all of them. They're all being kind of rude to them, 'cause they're Aes Sedai, and Moiraine's like, "I will not stand for this," so she's just, like, cuttin' bitches down with her glares. And the entire time, she's like, "Where the fuck is Lan?" and Lan is, like, off being horny for Nynaeve or something like that, or paying Juilin to go babysit Nynaeve.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who the fuck knows where Lan is. And Moiraine's like, "Oh my God, I'm losing complete control of him. I don't know what to do about that. My control issues are kicking in."

Sally: Yeah, it's Moiraine's literal nightmare to not be in control.

Emily: Yeah. She's like, "Ahhhhhh!"

Sally: "This is a story about control."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "My control."

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: "Control of what I say and control of what I do." (laugh) It's a Janet Jackson song. It was the opening song in Hustlers.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: For those of us who were paying attention. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I was paying plenty of attention in Hustlers, just apparently not to the things you were paying attention to.

Sally: Well, I think we were all paying attention to J. Lo's ... butt.

Emily: To J. Lo's butt?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, exactly. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, that's exactly -- (laugh)

Emily: Whooo!

Sally: And her fun fur coats.

Emily: I know.

Sally: I don't believe in fur coats, but I believe in J. Lo in fur coats. (laugh)

Emily: I know, it was really good. (laugh)

Sally: Anyway. (laugh)

Emily: Um, so Moiraine is like, um, "La dee da dee da, what is Rand -- the heck is Rand doing?" and then Rand appears with the sword over his dang shoulder and is like --

Sally: He's carrying it like a scepter.

Emily: Is he? Oh my God.

Sally: Yeah, that's why Moiraine -- she's like, "He's got it in his elbow like a fucking scepter."

Emily: What -- it's sharp, Rand, you dipshit.

Sally: Yeah. He's like, "I'm gonna cut off my own arm to prove how in control I am of myself." (laugh)

Emily: You say that, but -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I know he loses a hand. I made an inappropriate joke about it in one of our episodes.

Emily: Oh, did you?

Sally: Yeah, when I was like "Hand Al'Thor." (laugh)

Emily: (wheeze) Oh, yeah.

Sally: At -- in my defense, I didn't know that he lost a hand at that point.

Emily: In your defense, it's completely irrelevant that he loses a hand, because the disembowel -- the disability --

Sally: Doesn't he --

Emily: Politics in these books suck ass.

Sally: That's true. We should have a special episode about that.

Emily: Yeah, we can do it when Rand loses his hand. Which is, like, in the neighborhood of when Mat loses an eye, I guess. Eh. A couple books off.

Sally: You should be Mat Cauthon for Halloween one year.

Emily: Why?

Sally: Don't you have an eyepatch?

Emily: No. Not anymore.

Sally: Oh. Well, I just feel like you have the same aesthetic as him. Long limbs. Brown hair.

Emily: Rumpled.

Sally: Rumpled.

Emily: Yeah, I just need to get a good hat. Um -- and a spear. Am I right? I would love a spear.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yesterday I walked in carrying a plastic pirate sword, a handsaw, and a roll of dinosaur wrapping paper. Sally did not flinch. Totally -- (laugh)

Sally: It seemed pretty normal to me.

Emily: (laugh) Exactly.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) I don't know what to tell you.

Emily: Whooo. Anyway, um. Yeah, Rand comes in being his drama queen self. He's got a whole fuckin' entourage of Aiel, who are just, like, veiled, which means that they're ready to kill --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it just begs the question of the, like, conversation that Rand had with them prior to get them to agree to this.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause it seems like they choose when they veil themselves.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It shouldn't be Rand's call, especially 'cause he's not, like, in control of them yet.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Technically? So don't really know where that's coming from. If he was just like, "Could you guys do me a huge favor? It WILL be hilarious." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And they were like, "We'll do anything for the joke."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) I bet that's -- he was like, "You guys really wanna make them uncomfy?"

Emily: He was like, "Rhuarc, do you want to make a bunch of these noble people piss their pants?" and Rhuarc was like, "I thought you'd never ask." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Like, "Can you get a hundred of your boys to veil?" and Rhuarc's like -- (snaps)

Emily: "This is my calling." (laugh)

Sally: "Lads, we're doing it for the joke!"

Emily: "Lads! It'll be hilarious. Can't wait." Anyway, Rand gets up there and is like, "Ollo. I have made a decision that the Tairen army will be marching, but not to Illian, as many of you may have anticipated, but to Cairhien on a humanitarian project." And I'm like, yeah, nothing says "humanitarian" like armed men.

Sally: That was literally the joke I was gonna make. (laugh)

Emily: It's so stupid. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He's like, "You're gonna bring, like, grain and also all of your swords." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. "And also, you'll just, like, kill anyone who gets in your way, I guess. We'll just do this."

Sally: And Moiraine is like, "You dipshit."

Emily: Moiraine's like, "Listen, Rand. It's a laudable idea, but the execution is all wrong."

Sally: "Terrible."

Emily: "Also, you're gonna get ripped apart by the Forsaken." And Rand's like, "the Forsaken who?" and Moiraine's like, "Well, there's the one that I'm about to murder, in a book and a half from now. There's the one you're about to, uhhhh, enlist? In your weird entourage? There's the one, um, that Moiraine -- I mean, Nynaeve and Elayne -- are about to fight." Does Moiraine -- I always think Mat has killed a Forsaken, but then I remember that he hasn't, which is always very upsetting to me.

Sally: Yeah. Mat should just murder a bitch.

Emily: Yeah, I mean, obviously. Anyway, um. Um. So everyone's super disappointed about that, especially because Rand is like, "And I'm going to have these six dudes or whoever, like, leading the charge," and they're the six who are plotting against him. And Moiraine's like, "Oh, well, that sucks, 'cause he totally didn't, like, realize that this one woman is really the most dangerous in the entire world," but I'm -- I guess Rand did know that, because he's like, "You're also going to go to this lady, but I'm leaving your ailing husband in the care of your arch-rival," which is just, like, what --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What the fuck? I don't know.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Apparently it's politically savvy. And I don't have the brainpower or the willpower to dissect that to see whether it is actually politically savvy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: My suspicion, as with most things, is that it's not.

Sally: Yeah. It's just written so that we think it's impressive.

Emily: Yeah. Which is actually all of Brandon Sanderson's writing style. I know we're not there yet, but that's how he do.

Sally: Shit.

Emily: Well.

Sally: No, I agree with you. Mistborn and I have been in an eight-month long battle.

Emily: Um. Anyway. Pfffft.

Sally: Anyway, Egg was like, "That's really cruel."

Emily: Yeah, Egg was like, "I don't really know what just went down, because I am but a naive farmgirl, but I -- I have the emotional -- the emotional depth of the ocean --

Sally: (whisper) That's true.

Emily: "And I just, like, understand -- I pick up on other women's emotions, so I definitely understand that," and Moiraine's like, "You're such a cliché." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) But she's also a lesbian, so.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: That's the unclichéd thing about her.

Emily: (laugh) Um, and Mat is just like, "La dee da dee da." Mat did not approve of the idea of them going to war, but -- oh! It's so good. When Rand walks in, he, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Glares at everyone, and then he and Mat exchange smiles --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Moiraine's like, "Oh my God, they look like they're about to pull some mischief."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, it's so odd seeing Mat and Rand's relationship from outside of them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because whenever you view it from either of their perspectives, it's so strained --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, weird. But apparently they're just, like, grinning at each other, 'cause -- ha ha ha.

Sally: Lads.

Emily: "We're lads. And that was my best friend back in the village."

Sally: "That was my billage -- my village lad."

Emily: Your billage boy? (laugh)

Sally: My billage boy. My billage voy. (laugh) Anyway. Yeah, so Rand is doing maneuvers or whatever.

Emily: Yeah, then everyone's like, "But you're coming too, aren't you?" and he's like, "NO." And then he stabs the ground. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) So drama.

Emily: And does an earthquake, and everyone falls over, which is actually hilarious --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I wish I could see that --

Sally: I know.

Emily: Depicted visually.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) It's just --

Emily: Is it like dominoes?

Sally: It's just like, bink!

Emily: Wheeeee.

Sally: It's super funny, 'cause, like, Egg falls on Moiraine, and she, like, shoves her off --

Emily: Moiraine's like, "Get the fuck off me."

Sally: "I will NOT lose my footing." (laugh)

Emily: "Dignity? She's mine!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It is so funny. Yeah, and she's like, as all they were struggling to get to their feet --

Emily: And the Aiel were just like, "What?"

Sally: The Aiel are, like, surfin' USA, y'know?

Emily: Yeah. They love it.

Sally: They're like, "Wheee! Again!"

Emily: Like, "Great. Love it. Partay!"

Sally: God, I love the Aiel so much.

Emily: I know, 'cause they're so fucking cool. Um, anyway, Rand is like, "So I'm just leaving this sword as a reminder that I will be back, because I love threatening you guys." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and, uh, don't try and touch it. Only the worthy ruler will be able to pull the Sword from the Stone." And everyone was like, "Wow. Wowwww. Even I -- even I understood that."

Sally: "Even I, a fictional character where Arthur is not a legend, was like, 'Ah, the King Arthur parallel.'"

Emily: Yeah, even Mat, the stupidest person in the room, is like -- (laugh) "Even I, an illiterate son of a bitch --"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "Understood that reference."

Sally: Yeah. "I've seen the Sword in the Stone animated movie."

Emily: "I've seen the Sword in the Stone --" I haven't, actually.

Sally: It's pretty charming. I mean, it's fine.

Emily: Yeah, sure. I've read the, uh, book that it's based off of, but.

Sally: Which one's that?

Emily: The Once and Future King.

Sally: Didn't you not like that book?

Emily: I mean, I didn't love it. It was pretty boring.

(incoming message alert)

Sally: (inaudible) -- oh, God, sorry.

Emily: RIGHT in the mic. Um, no. In fact, most, uh, books that contain Arthurian legend are incredibly boring --

Sally: Yes, I would agree.

Emily: Because they're, like, stylistic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In unfortunate ways ... which, I think, is why I liked King Arthur: Legend of the Sword so much was because it just totally wrecked that styleism.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It was just like, "No, we're going to be a gangster movie."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I was like, "Oh, OK. This was a fun new take --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "On Arthur-adjacent mythology."

Sally: Yeah. I think, to your point on stylist, like, the people -- the stylists? Oh my God, what am I saying? The stylistically things ... words. The type of people who are, like, attracted to retelling Arthurian legend are a very specific type of people.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Y'know?

Emily: Yeah. For sure.

Sally: Which is fine, if that's your thing. I just am like -- would so much rather read Madeleine Miller retell Achilles and Patroclus falling in love in the sand.

Emily: There's a really great essay in that book you bought, the Dark Fantastic --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: About, uh, the BBC Merlin and how, uh, Guinevere is a black woman. And it's just, like, a really fascinating essay.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: About, just, like, how the show failed her and how also -- just, like, how the fans reacted, which was bad, basically, 'cause --

Sally: People are racist.

Emily: Everyone's racist.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, "Guinevere's supposed to be fair," and I'm like, "Fair means attractive, and that lady is super hot."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Angel Coulby. God. She's a goddess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway. Anyway, so then Rand just, like, dips out again, and Moiraine and Egwene run to catch up with him and are like, "What the fuck is happening now? What are you doing?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he's like, "Well. Now I am going to Rhuidean," and they're all like --

Sally: ... "What?" (laugh)

Emily: "What?" And Moiraine's like, "You make me so angry." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Moiraine's like, "Every time I see you, I want to murder you because of how angry you make me."

Sally: That's an understandable sentiment.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Although Moiraine is really gross in these chapters about -- talking about how she had to send Thom away because he had too much influence, and Rand needed to listen to her --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And her alone.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, she just admits it, blatantly. She's like, "Rand is mine to control."

Emily: Yeah, it's a very, like -- it doesn't, like, lend to Moiraine's likability at all.

Sally: Mm-mm.

Emily: Much like the longer Siuan's on screen, the more you're like, "Oh, she's the worst."

Sally: Yeah. She's a toxic person.

Emily: Yeah. The longer Moiraine's on screen, the more I'm like -- y'know, she has some really incredible moments and, like, is coming from a good place, but she also just has also really horribly terrible missteps.

Sally: Yeah, like, the more I think about it, the more I think I don't ever, like, enjoyed Moiraine as a character. Like, aesthetically and conceptually, I'm really into our tiny angry lady Gandalf, but, like -- yeah, she's just toxic.

Emily: She does things, usually unrelated to Rand --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm really into that.

Sally: Like tackling Lanfear into a door?

Emily: Like tackling Lanfear. That was the funniest thing she's ever done.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The coolest thing she's ever done. But, like, um -- like, in this book, when she's just like, "Oh, I guess I gotta go to Rhuidean --"

Sally: Yeah, that's pretty rad.

Emily: So just, like, strips down and runs through the desert too.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm just like, yeah, OK, Moiraine.

Sally: Cool.

Emily: Cool cool cool cool cool. Yeah, like, she does stuff I can get behind. She's just, like, kinda shitty too.

Sally: Yeah. Wow, women are complex. Who'd've thought?

Emily: Yeah. I mean -- yeah. It is -- it is nice to have a, uh, ethically gray area woman because that lot usually goes to men.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But I'll point out that men who are in ethically gray zones are usually made to be likable -
-

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Or, at least, the intent is for them to be likable, whereas ethically gray women, uh, usually are not.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Anyway, I think it's fun that Rosamund Pike will be playing Moiraine, 'cause she, uh, portrays the world's most ethically gray area woman in Gone Girl --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To my understanding. She also plays, um, uh, a character in Clash of the Titans and Wrath of the Titans --

Sally: Oh my God. You --

Emily: My favorite duology of movies. (laugh)

Sally: We should watch them. I mean, I've seen them --

Emily: Yeah. We should. I think she's Andromeda? That's what I want to say.

Sally: That sounds right.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, it's really cool. And she's, like, a cool warrior lady. OK --

Sally: Good for you, Rosamund.

Emily: Yeah, we should watch them. The last time I watched them was with Westin Wong, my friend from high school. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Oh, Westin. Hope you're well.

Emily: I hope you're well, Westin. I had to unfollow you on Twitter 'cause you're so annoying on Twitter. But. Really cherished our time together in high school.

Sally: Brutal. One day Emily's going to say that to me, and I'll be like, "I understand."

Emily: No, I'm not. He Tweeted like nine times a day.

Sally: (whisper) Sometimes I Tweet nine times a day.

Emily: No, you -- "sometimes" being the operative word. He Tweeted like nine times every day, usually about Grey's Anatomy.

Sally: What did he have to say? Oh. Well. So, that's important to some people.

Emily: Yeah, it is important to some people. Just know that if you tweet nine times a day, I either don't follow you, or I have stopped following you.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Yeah. So just -- it's fine.

Sally: You can only Tweet nine times a day if it is about Fullmetal Alchemist.

Emily: No, even then, I think I'd get annoyed. What is there to say nine times a day?

Sally: What if you were just, like -- every hour, like, "This is the best show ever made." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "Just a reminder: Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood --"

Sally: Just a reminder!

Emily: "-- is an incredible television show and a work of art."

Sally: What if somebody just Tweeted nice pictures of Fjord all day?

Emily: Of who?

Sally: Fjord.

Emily: Fjord -- oh. From Critical Role.

Sally: Ford, the motor company. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Like, "Look at this fuckin' truck." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, that would be pretty upsetting. Um, I forgot what happens. Oh, then we cut to Rand's point of view as they are leaving the Stone of Tear --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rand is like, "I need to describe to you how casually I am dressed so you know that I'm not, like, trying to lead the procession."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm just riding at the front of the procession --"

Sally: It's so stupid.

Emily: "But I'm not in charge or anything." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's so dumb.

Emily: And, like, Rand is just, like, doing these mental gymnastics to keep himself from embracing his leadership roles --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's just, like, so stupid.

Sally: Yeah. And, like, I get it. When he's like, "It's nice to just pretend for a little bit that I don't have the weight of the world on my shoulders," like, I get that. That's a relatable sentiment.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But when you're doing it in the context of, like, risking a hundred people's lives as you take them through a Portal Stone, it's like, what are you doing?

Emily: Rand also does this a lot, so I guess it's a theme we can talk about a lot, where it's like, his whole thing is about getting back to being a common person --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And not being the person with the weight of the world on his shoulders. Like, he, a couple times, goes out in his, like, disguise kind of thing. It's, like, complicated. We'll get to it, I think, in the later books, as it becomes more relevant. But just, like, that is a theme with Rand.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: And, uh, I have not parsed yet whether it, uh, has anything interesting to say.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: But we'll come back to it, I guess. Anyway, Rand is, uh, riding alongside Egg, who is there chatting.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's probably the most amiable chat that they have in the entire series. I don't remember -- I don't even know what happens. It's just very casual.

Sally: I think they're just, like, reminiscing. And --

Emily: Oh, yeah. Egwene's like, what -- Yeah. "What's going on with -- why'd you do that -- why -- why do you feel that way about Elayne? What's going on with Elayne?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "What do you mean?" She's like, "Well, why didn't you try and stop her from going?" and he's like "Why would I?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I don't understand."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And Egwene's like, "Ugh. Men." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, and I'm like, this is --

Emily: The stupidest -- (laugh)

Sally: Toxic heteronormativity.

Emily: Yeah. It's so bad. Oh, man.

Sally: And Rand's like, "She wanted to go?"

Emily: I know.

Sally: And Elayne's like, "You're right, and it would've been terrible to try and stop her, but why didn't you?"

Emily: This is, like, Rand being a good partner, actually --

Sally: Yeah. Yeah.

Emily: And it's just, like, everyone's --

Sally: Everyone's like, "Fuck you."

Emily: Everyone's like, "You're so bad."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You should have more longing and passion." And Rand is like, "She told me not to stop her, so I didn't."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Because I'm an effective communicator -- in this one chapter."

Sally: (laugh) Well, yeah --

Emily: "Never again."

Sally: "Never again in my life."

Emily: "Fuck me if I'm ever a good communicator again."

Sally: It's because everyone was so negative towards him about it.

Emily: Yeah, Jesus.

Sally: Aviendha's like, "You were so bad to Elayne." And Rand's like, "Who are you?"

Emily: Rand's like, "What is happening?"

Sally: "We've never talked."

Emily: "I don't even know who the fuck you are."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I'll be sleeping with you a book from now -- but who the fuck are you?"

Sally: Oh, yeah, fuck in a sex igloo. Wink. (laugh)

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: "We're gonna get -- we're gonna melt that igloo. You know what I'm saying?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Do you think -- (laugh) that the energy -- the thermal energy produced by two people having sexual intercourse is enough to melt an igloo?

Sally: Emily. It was -- first of all, it was a joke --

Emily: Just checking in. (laugh)

Sally: Second of all, I'm not an idiot.

Emily: I guess they are magic people.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Third of all, Rand, like, could probably shoot lightning out of his butt.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I'm just saying. Weird stuff could've happened during that sex scene. We don't know. Robert Jordan --

Emily: Can you imagine? He just sets everything on fire every time he comes?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Like, he's getting a nice handjob, and it's just, like --

Sally: No! The poor lady! Her poor hand! Or man. Their poor -- their poor hand. (laugh)

Emily: It doesn't have to come out of his dick. (laugh)

Sally: Oh, the lightning? That's true. (laugh) For a second, I was like, wait -- (laugh)

Emily: He just ejaculates fire. (wheeze, laugh) That's why he's the dragon.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, I'm so mad. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Phew.

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: I just need to -- I -- do you ever wish you could just scrub your brain, because --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's how I'm feeling right now. The visuals floating around in there are really disastrous. Um. (laugh) Anyway, then Egwene and Rand are talking about Rhuidean or whatever, and Moiraine and Lan come up, and then Mat comes up -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) God bless him. He looks so angry.

Emily: Mat's like, "I don't even want to be here." Rand's like, "Mat, you don't have to come," and Mat's like, "No, I do." Mumble, mumble, mumble." And Rand's like, "Are you sure I'm the one going insane?" and Mat's like, "I'm sane. You just don't have the context."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which, actually --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Think about that one.

Emily: Think about that one. Just -- wrap that --

Sally: Do any of us have the context?

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Are we all sharing a constructed context, and that's what we call sanity?

Emily: You're getting too deep for me.

Sally: Remember how we were just talking about --

Emily: No. (laugh) Fuck you.

Sally: (laugh) Look, I brought it back. Anyway, Mat's like, "I hate this," and Rand's like, "You can leave," and Moiraine is like, "Eeek." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I know, Moiraine is like, "Rrrrrrghhh."

Sally: "No, he can't!"

Emily: "No, he can't. I'm already so mad at you that Perrin left."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, they're in the Stone of Tear, and Moiraine's like, "Where's Perrin?" and Egwene's like, "He's such a rule follower. He's fine. He'll be somewhere else."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Moiraine's like, "Just kidding. He ran away. Like a princess in the night, going off on a quest --"

Sally: With an actual princess.

Emily: "To find himself --" Yeah. Yeah. Anyway, Moiraine's all pissed that Perrin left. She's like, "How dare you go back to save the people you -- your families." Oh, wait, Perrin doesn't --

Sally: Moiraine's like, "I don't have any concept of what it means to value human life." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Honestly.

Sally: "So can't relate to this."

Emily: "You just have to be doing your shit!"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway. Um, so then everyone's like, "How are we even gonna get to Rhuidean? It's gonna be so long," and Rand's like, "Oh, actually, we're gonna get there in, like, 20 minutes." (laugh) And everyone's like, "How?" and he's like, "A Portal Stone," and Moiraine's like, "What the fuckening? How do you know there's a Portal Stone? How do you know it's gonna get you there? How do you know how to use one?" and Rand is like, "Well, here's my analysis. And I have taken the time to cite my sources --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, "through multiple -- multiple scopes. I went to a librarian. I double-checked his work on -- in books. I did all of this work." And Moiraine's like, "You suck at research and everything else, and I hate you. You're not my PhD student anymore."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Rand's like, "OK, Mom. Fuck you too." (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "But actually, I did a good this time."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I don't know what you're saying."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he's like, "OK, so it should be somewhere in this general vicinity," and Rhuarc's like -- (cough)

Sally: Well, and Lan's like -- (cough)

Emily: Oh, yeah, Lan's like, "(cough) You have this huge resource right behind you." Oh my God. That's what Egwene and Rand are talking about. The Aiel's looting. (laugh)

Sally: Oh, yeah. (laugh) Egwene's like, "Why'd you let them do this?" and Rand's like, "Eh, I don't think I could've stopped them." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) They're all like, "We take the fifth of whatever city we take, and we did take the Stone of Tear. Therefore --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "We get a fifth --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Of its stuff." And Rand's like, "Fuck me, that sounds reasonable, so yeah."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Fucking go for it."

Sally: And I also love his comment -- he's like, "Rhuarc did not let them take an ounce more than the fifth."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 'Cause you imagine Rhuarc, like, looking at everybody's chest.

Emily: Rand is like, "Is that -- hey. HEY."

Sally: "Hey, hey!"

Emily: "How much have you taken already?"

Sally: "How many fuckin' bowls do you have in there?"

Emily: And Gaul's like, "Awww, dad."

Sally: "Dad, let me have this one extra bowl."

Emily: "Dad, it's for my mom." Wait. (laugh)

Sally: "Dad. It's for -- Perrin."

Emily: “Granny.” (laugh) It’s for Perrin. “It’s a courting gift.”

Sally: “It’s a courting gift.” And Rhuarc’s like, “OK.”

Emily: Rhuarc’s like, “Yeah, fine, fine.”

Sally: “Go court your boyfriend.”

Emily: Um, anyway, Rhuarc is -- sends all of the Aiel out to just go search for this tall rock. And of course Aviendha’s the one to find it so that she and Rand can have a moment while --

Sally: She also finds the phallus, so to speak, in the rolling hills, so.

Emily: Gross. Didn’t think about that.

Sally: That’s why I’m here.

Emily: Super gross. (gagging noise)

Sally: (laugh) That’s what I bring to the podcast. If there is a phallic symbol, I will tell you.

Emily: Anyway, she’s like, “Why are you so mean to Elayne --” Rand’s like, “Why do you hate me?” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, which is also, like, bold. Like, who just is like, “Why do you hate me?”

Emily: “Why don’t you like me? Why don’t you like me?”

Sally: “It’s important that everybody likes me.”

Emily: “It’s important that everybody likes me even though I’ve literally made myself to be as unlikable as possible.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “On purpose, to drive people away.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “But I want you to like me, ‘cause you’re a beautiful woman.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And because I’m stupid.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Aviendha’s like, “You’re right. You are stupid. That’s why I don’t like you. Fuck off.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) He's like, "Shit."

Emily: He's like, "Ah, shit." Wouldn't it have just been iconic if she was like, "I'm a lesbian"? (laugh)

Sally: She's like, "I want to fuck Egwene."

Emily: "I want to fuck Egwene." (laugh)

Sally: And he's like, "OK."

Emily: Oh, yeah, in Moiraine's whole point of view, she's like, "Yeah, Egwene is obviously pissed because Rand has been canoodling with Elayne."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is just like -- Moiraine's lack of ability to understand human people --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is just astounding sometimes.

Sally: Yeah. For supposedly being our, like, spymaster.

Emily: Yeah. How funny is it when she is like, "It is incredibly difficult to track Mat Cauthon."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) She's like, "He's always slipping away from my spies."

Emily: "Whenever anyone gets too close, he's just, like, shoom. Gone.

Sally: Yeah. Zoom zoom, bitch.

Emily: Like roadrunner.

Sally: (laugh) Beep beep.

Emily: Beep beep.

Sally: Meep meep.

Emily: She's like, "I haven't bothered keeping tabs on Perrin."

Sally: She's like, "I tried --" yeah. "Perrin? I always know where he is."

Emily: "I always know where he is."

Sally: "He and Faile are always fighting loudly somewhere."

Emily: "Perrin comes and tells me where he is. He checks in."

Sally: "I just need you to know that I'm going --" (laugh)

Emily: "Mom, is it OK if I go -- wait. Mom. I'm not gonna tell you this time." That was Perrin's whole -- that was Perrin's master maneuver.

Sally: Oh. Yeah.

Emily: Is he didn't check in with Moiraine --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For the first time in his life.

Sally: She's like, "I can't believe my baby boy is rebelling." (laugh) "I expected this from Mat, my oldest."

Emily: "Mat, my most rebellious." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat has big middle child energy.

Sally: It's true. "Rand, my oldest and most petulant. Mat, my middlest and most -- chaotic child."

Emily: "Perrin, my youngest."

Sally: "Perrin, my sweet baby, who's never done anything wrong in his life."

Emily: Yep.

Sally: "Until he's run away."

Emily: That tracks. It all tracks. Anyway, everyone groups up around the, uh, Stone -- the Portal Stone -- and Rand is like, "OK, I know, um -- like, I know, sort of, how this goes," and luckily Rhuarc is like, "It's one of these two symbols. Fifty-fifty either way." And Mat's like, "Heh. I have a solution."

Sally: "Two?!" (laugh)

Emily: Mat's like, "I have a solution that works for fifty-fifty odds," and Rand's like, "What is it?" and Mat's like, "I'll flip a coin," and Rand's like, "Sounds good. Do it." And Moiraine's like, "WHAT?!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Is wrong with you guys?!"

Sally: Egwene's, like, actively vomiting. She's like, "This is so stupid."

Emily: Egwene's like -- (laugh) Egwene's like, "We're gonna die."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because you're like, "Let's flip a coin," and Mat's like, "No, it's me. So when I flip a coin, it's special." And Egwene's like, "What? I wasn't present at your Waking up in Vegas montage."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I don't know what the fuck you're talking about."

Sally: Yeah. Mat, you don't tell anybody anything.

Emily: But anyway, Mat, uh, flips the coin, and Rand points to the one he thinks it is, and look -- they match up. (sing-song) *Ta'veren*. So then Rand is like, "OK, everyone, gather up." And then --

Sally: "Come on, children. Storytime."

Emily: Yeah, and then they just -- go.

Sally: And then they zip.

Emily: Then they blip. (sing-song) Teleport. (normal voice) All the way to the Aiel Waste, and that is where we will pick up next week, with my favorite chapters of all time -- well. Pretty close.

Sally: They're good chapters.

Emily: Top five, perhaps.

Sally: They're very good chapters.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: We're gonna have to talk about the confusing chapters, though.

Emily: Which confusing chapters?

Sally: About the history and stuff.

Emily: Oh, the -- the couple where he's in other people's heads?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah, that'll be a rough one.

Sally: I'm excited for you to explain it to me.

Emily: (mumbling) I don't fuckin' know if I know how to explain it.

Sally: I'm excited for us to Google things.

Emily: Yeah, OK.

Sally: We can rely heavily on the Wheel of Time wiki.

Emily: I think I've got -- I understand it more now, definitely, than I did the first time I read it when I was twelve, but. That's a -- sort of a given. (laugh)

Sally: You were a very smart twelve-year-old, I'm sure.

Emily: Uhhhhhhh. Wouldn't say so. Um, anyway. I like your crop top.

Sally: Thank you. I bought it yesterday.

Emily: I know. It's so cute.

Sally: I wasn't sure how I felt about it with this skirt, but I went with it anyway.

Emily: No, I like it. It's very cute.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: OK. We do not have too much heavy analysis this time. Sorry.

Sally: It'll get pretty heavy, probably, when we're in Rhuidean.

Emily: Rhuidean.

Sally: 'Cause a lot is going on there culturally and theoretically and stuff.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah. There's not just, like, a lot of -- there's not much that we haven't covered. Tybalt's been quiet this entire episode --

Sally: I know.

Emily: And I'm, like, waiting for the reckoning to begin.

Sally: Yeah, we, like, didn't lock him up.

Emily: Yeah. It's gonna happen.

Sally: He's just staring out the window.

Emily: It's really actually disturbing.

Sally: Dun dun.

Emily: Yeah. Are you ever like, "Oh my God, my cat could be a serial killer"?

Sally: (laugh) Didn't we talk about that? Feline Rear Window?

Emily: Oh, yeah. (laugh) That has been a thing. OK. Thank you to Glynna Mackenzie for the use of our theme song. Thank you to all of you for listening. Thank you to ... you.

Sally: Aw, thanks. (laugh)

Emily: For being here. (laugh)

Sally: That's so nice.

Emily: And co-hosting.

Sally: (laugh) That's so charming.

Emily: (laugh) You're welcome. And, uh, that's it from me. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Um, this is sort of a deep cut throwback, but I was reminded of it when Emily and I went and saw Hustlers last weekend --

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: 'Cause there was an advertisement for a Romeo and Juliet ballet. (laugh)

Emily: AH, NO! NO! Don't throw me under the bus like this! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It was both of us! We were both throw -- I'm throwing both of us under the bus. (laugh) When Emily and I were in London, we, like, had this one week where we were, like, really manic and were like, "We gotta go see a million plays," for some reason. We, like, saw a play with this weird boy on our study abroad. He invited himself. It was very rude.

Emily: Oh my God, yeah. What the fuck. What a weird

Sally: (laugh) Anyway. Emily loves Romeo and Juliet, and we saw an advertisement for it, and so we were like, "Oh, we should go watch this Romeo and Juliet play," so we -- (laugh) we buy tickets, and we, like, get all ready to go, and someone else is like, "Hey, I was looking at that earlier 'cause I wanted to go with you --" I think it was the same kid -- and he was like, "I was gonna come with you, but, like, the tickets -- the play is in 2016," I guess, at this point, and it was 2015.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It was, like, a full year away from the date that we were gonna go and see it (laugh), where we would not even remotely be in the same city or country or continent. And it was just, like, so funny. It was, like, my favorite thing that ever happened. (laugh) Emily, did you ever get a refund?

Emily: Yeah, I think so.

Sally: Cool.

Emily: I don't fuckin' remember. It was, like, five years ago.

Sally: Anyway, it was just, like, really funny. (laugh)

Emily: God, I hope I got a refund. Pretty expensive tickets.

Sally: Yeah, anyway.

Emily: As I recall. I also just spent a shit-ton of money in London.

Sally: I did too. I was like, boom, boom, boom. It's Daddy Warbucks over here.

Emily: Yeah, we went to the -- yeah, we went to the Globe and were like, we'll spend all our money here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We got a manga Hamlet.

Sally: That's true. He's very beautiful.

Emily: It was so funny. OK, anyway. Yeah, that was my goldfish brain.

Sally: It was the best!

Emily: At work. (laugh)

Sally: 'Kay. Remember to be slutty, and don't do war crimes.

Emily: Goodbye!