

## Episode 93: RSVP to the Breaking of the Aiel

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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)

Sally: I'm gonna turn my hat around so we match.

Emily: Oh, so we're both backwards.

Sally: Yeah, you look a lot cuter in backwards hats than I do, though.

Emily: How -- this isn't a style thing, it's a, um -- it helps mold my hair -- (laugh) the way I need it to --

Sally: Oh, God.

Emily: Be. My hair's in a weird stage right now.

Sally: I like your hair right now.

Emily: Of its life. Well, you don't -- you wouldn't like it when I'm -- when I've just come out of the shower, and then it looks pretty wild.

Sally: You can -- you didn't have to take your hat off, I'm sorry. To bring attention to it.

Emily: Oh, I wanted to --

Sally: I just think you look very nice in backwards hats.

Emily: Thanks.

Sally: I feel like I look like a small child.

Emily: No, you don't.

Sally: I do. Just sort of in general.

Emily: No, you don't. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) That's OK.

Emily: What are you talking about?

Sally: Sort of just built like a toddler. (laugh)

Emily: No you're fucking not -- (laugh)

Sally: A Dynamaxed toddler. (laugh)

Emily: I'm gonna lose it.

Sally: That was a nice Pokemon reference, right? Dynamax?

Emily: I don't know -- I don't know enough about Pokemon.

Sally: Perrin and Ian were playing it -- these are my brothers -- were playing it yesterday at Thanksgiving --

Emily: They were playing it yesterday? Like, the new one?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: 'Cause they -- Perry brought his Switch over.

Emily: Of course. Classic.

Sally: To Thanksgiving. Naturally.

Emily: Natch.

Sally: And they were, like, doing fights together, and all of a sudden Ian's Pokemon got fucking gigantic. And I was like, "What did you just do to your Jane Simmons badger?" and he was like, "I Dynamaxed him." And I was like --

Emily: "I Dynamaxed him"? What the fuckening?

Sally: I dunno. I don't understand Pokemon.

Emily: I don't either.

Sally: Like, I understand it. I just don't understand the new Pokemons.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Like Pokemon Go.

Emily: I didn't even understand the old ones, so.

Sally: I like the old ones.

Emily: (sigh) This is Everybody Hates Rand. (laugh) Your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. It's the day after American Thanksgiving. It's fuckin' snowing. We're going on a cruise in point-48 hours.

Sally: I have to do probably 24 hours of work before we get to go on that cruise.

Emily: I'm very upset by that.

Sally: Doesn't that suck? I work too much.

Emily: I know you do.

Sally: (laugh) It's a problem.

Emily: Let me know if I can do anything to help.

Sally: Do you want to write a grant for me? About birds?

Emily: I --

Sally: Flying into buildings --

Emily: Mean --

Sally: And then killing themselves? Due to light pollution? And how we need to educate the population, particularly children, against this type of light pollution in order to better create environmentally friendly bird habitats?

Emily: See, I could write that.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But I'm worried it would not be up to your standards. (laugh)

Sally: I do have extremely high standards. It's a problem.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: On everything. Which is why I should not get on dating apps. OK, that's Emily. I'm Sally. This is our cat, Tybalt. He's perched on the kitchen counter like a gargoyle.

Emily: Right above my head.

Sally: Just sort of softly meowing.

Emily: Yeah. It's really upsetting. Hello? Are you OK? You've been weird.

Sally: I think the snow's been freaking him out.

Emily: He just -- he just stuck his face in my hand. Yeah, he has been a little --

Sally: Also, this morning, he was --

Emily: AHH.

Sally: Ugh, of course.

Emily: Why are you like that?

Sally: He goes immediately to biting.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Did I tell you --

Emily: This morning what?

Sally: Oh. This morning, he was, like, losing it.

Emily: Oh my gosh.

Sally: 'Cause I was up at, like, six-thirty, trying to decide if I wanted to go to work or not.

Emily: Right.

Sally: But -- so I still have my lights off, and I was just, like, staring out the window. (laugh)  
And I think Tybalt's like, "This is the end."

Emily: Existential dread. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He's --

Emily: Like, "Euuughh."

Sally: It's the end of all time. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, man.

Sally: Hey, handsome.

Emily: Oh, you've got a fucking tear drop right there.

Sally: Oh, he's crying.

Emily: Not crying.

Sally: Guys, Tybalt and I had the fucking best Thanksgiving nap yesterday.

Emily: I'm really jealous about that.

Sally: I cannot put into words what a good nap it was.

Emily: While I was being forced to watch the Mandalorian, Sally and Tybalt were having a fucking lovely nap.

Sally: It was awesome. It was like -- it was like an hour and 45 minutes, which was, like, perfect holiday nap length.

Emily: Were you on the couch?

Sally: Oh, yeah, we were on the couch.

Emily: OK, good. Yeah, couch naps are --

Sally: I love sleeping on couches.

Emily: Couch naps feel a lot less lazy than --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Bed naps.

Sally: Well, and I just -- like, I was reading, and I started to get drowsy, and I was fighting it, but then I was like, "I don't need to fight it. It's Thanksgiving."

Emily: Were you reading C.S. Lewis?

Sally: I was reading C.S. Lewis.

Emily: Yeah. Big C.S. Lewis vibe.

Sally: Yeah, it was a really lovely --

Emily: Why are you wet?!

Sally: He's always wet.

Emily: Why -- (laugh)

Sally: He's literally always wet.

Emily: The top of his head is just so wet.

Sally: (laugh) I couldn't tell you.

Emily: Anyway, yeah. (clears throat)

Sally: Anyway, um, this is our ding-dong podcast. I didn't read the chapters.

Emily: That's OK, because -- ahh! Go away. I'm gonna spank you.

Sally: You're such a turd. Get out of here, turd.

Emily: Don't mess with the garbage can. There's no -- it's not fun. OK, yeah. This is fuckin -- fuck. Ding-dong podcast.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Chapters.

Sally: 34 and 35.

Emily: I am so amazed every time how you just know the numbers. Every time I write up the, like, little -- little synopsis of the -- the episode, I literally have to look it up every single time.

Sally: It's OK.

Emily: And you're never in the room, or I would just ask.

Sally: I -- you can always text me.

Emily: I know, it --

Sally: It'd probably be a delayed response.

Emily: Yeah, I need to know right then. Hey! Ah, fine that's food. You can eat that.

Sally: The one piece of kibble that he's going to eat.

Emily: Agggghhhh. OK.

Sally: Kay. We're in not-Perrin's point of view.

Emily: Yeah, thank fuck, we are no longer in Perrin's point of view. Now we're in Rand's point of view, which is almost as bad.

Sally: Almost.

Emily: But at least, you know --

Sally: It's a fine fucking line.

Emily: It's, like, not terrible, this particular chapter. I mean, it's got the whole, like, they reveal his parentage.

Sally: Blegh.

Emily: Which is kind of, like, blegh. But, um, you know, at least there are not too many, like, women of marriageable age around for him to condescend to. (laugh)

Sally: Christ.

Emily: Um. No, we pick up with Rand and Mat getting back from Rhuidean -- which is a very jarring experience, 'cause we've just spent literally ninety chapters --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In Perrin's point of view. And given, like, what happened with Perrin was only a few days.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, maybe, like, a week, at most, if you count the Ways. But, eh. Um, still, it's, like, weird to -- like, this chapter feels like it should've followed the last Rand point of view.

Sally: Yeah, it feels very weird to have cut off here as opposed to after this chapter.

Emily: I feel like an editor was like, "Robert, no one's gonna fucking read the Perrin points of view unless you give them no choice."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: But to, like, get through them to get back to the good stuff.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, so, it's Rand and Mat just hiking back up. Um, Rand is just, like, thinking about how fucked up everything is.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He comments that Mat is not complaining, which is a sign that he is in actual pain.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: There are some iconic Mat, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (laugh) Lines about Mat in this chapter. He says he's like a -- he's a great complainer at small discomforts, so.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The fact that he's silent is worrisome.

Sally: Upsetting, yeah.

Emily: Yeah, so he's just shambling along.

Sally: Poor baby.

Emily: I know. They're both covered in blood. They both look like they came from a Quentin Tarantino film.

Sally: Gross.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Did you eat your one piece of kibble?

Emily: Gnarly. Um, and they're, like, trying to beat the sunrise, so he comes with the dawn. Get it? What if He Who Comes with the Dawn was like ... sex-coming?

Sally: Ha ha. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)



Sally: Unfortunately, that's what I think about every time I hear that title because I'm a twelve-year-old boy. But --

Emily: I'm just saying. It'd be so funny.

Sally: It'd be really funny.

Emily: They're, like -- he, like, comes back afternoon time and they're like, "Ah, he can't fuckin' be the prophesy." But then, like, next morning or whatever --

Sally: Having sex.

Emily: Having --

Sally: Right as dawn breaks.

Emily: Fucking. They're like, "Oh." Well, that one other person -- unless there's --

Sally: Is like, "Ohhhh."

Emily: Unless Rand has an exhibitionist streak.

Sally: Maybe he does. I wouldn't be surprised.

Emily: I know.

Sally: No, he's too full of shame.

Emily: That's true, yeah. Rand -- Rand has lots of weird kinks, but.

Sally: We never explore them.

Emily: Yeah, but we never get to explore them.

Sally: Thank God, honestly. (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause we're repressed. Yeah, so --

Sally: I would not want to read Rand's kinky sex scenes in detail.

Emily: I don't want to read any kinky sex scenes in the Wheel of Time in detail. I don't think they'd be done well.

Sally: No.

Emily: Um. Anyway, they are kind of coming uphill when suddenly, Couladin comes out with some of his dudes, and they're like, "What the fuck? Where's --" What's his name? Couladin's brother?

Sally: Muradin.

Emily: Muradin! How do you know that?

Sally: 'Cause I'm amazing.

Emily: You are amazing.

Sally: (laugh) No, I just looked at --

Emily: You're also scrolling through -- (laugh)

Sally: The synopsis on Wiki! I was scrolling through Twitter, 'cause I had a notification, and it really bothers me, but then I saw someone that I really admire liked one of my retweets, and I felt validated, and then it was a good moment, and now we're back.

Emily: OK.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thanks for the recap.

Sally: You're welcome.

Emily: So Couladin's like, "Did you fucking murder my brother?" And Rand has a flashback to seeing Muradin --

Sally: Clawing his eyes out.

Emily: Clawing his own eyes out, and he's like, "Eh, no."

Sally: Turns out the weight of the past murdered your brother.

Emily: Yeah, turns out cultural trauma or whatever murdered your brother. Being lied to for generations --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Upon generations.

Sally: It'll get ya in the end. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, so they're like -- what?

Sally: It's such a weird episode already.

Emily: I know, I don't know --

Sally: OK --

Emily: Don't fucking have energy.

Sally: Muradin.

Emily: They're like, "Did you murder Muradin?" Rand's like, "No, I didn't," and Couladin's like, "I don't care, I'm gonna shish kebab you anyway," and a bunch of people throw spears at them, and Rand gets out his little fire sword, and Mat's got his Odin spear, and they knock it away, and there's some *ta'veeren* stuff where they all form a perfect circle. All the spears.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's like ... yeet.

(cat meows in the background)

Emily: Cool, I guess. Tybalt! Shut up.

Sally: Hi, baby. Would you like some scratches?

Emily: And Couladin's like, "See? You have weapons. You broke the rules of Rhuidean by going into Rhuidean armed," and then Bair, fucking powerhouse -- is her name Bair? Yeah.

Sally: I've always pronounced it "bear."

Emily: Yeah. I just --

Sally: It's probably Bah-ear-ah or whatever. (laugh)

Emily: Bah-eer. (laugh)

Sally: In Robert Jordan language.

Emily: Bair.

Sally: Bair.

Emily: "Bear" fits her.

Sally: She's a legend.

Emily: She's just a -- it, like, didn't occur to me that it sounded like an animal, except I was looking at your hat, which has a little wiener dog on it.

Sally: (laugh) It definitely does.

Emily: (laugh) I was like, "Oh. Bair." Anyway, she comes, uh, sprinting down the slope and is like, "No spears! Don't murder each other! Stop it," and is like, "Fuck off, Couladin. Get fucking lost."

Sally: Pretty much.

Emily: And then, to Rand and Mat, is like, “Um, so please don’t.” She’s like, “Mat, did you actually find that in Rhuidean?” And he’s like, “It’s --” “Boy, did you find that in Rhuidean?” and he’s like, “It was given to me, old lady.” (laugh) “And I’m gonna keep it.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She’s like, “Yeet. I respect you.”

Sally: (laugh) There’s a lot of different uses of “yeet” in this --

Emily: I’m sorry!

Sally: I really like it.

Emily: I’m so tired.

Sally: No, I really like it. Please continue.

Emily: Just “yeet” is just a punctuation --

Sally: Yeet.

Emily: Punctuation for me. But she’s like, “You gotta show them the signs,” to Rand, and he’s like, “Oh, yeah, I got a tattoo now.” Because I don’t know -- why are they -- they’re, like, hiking through the desert. Why aren’t they wearing short sleeves or whatever? But he, like, rolls his sleeves up and he’s like, “Oh, look, I got the dragon -- sparkly dragon tattoo.”

Sally: Isn’t it so weird?

Emily: What?

Sally: That it sparkles. It’s, like, actual scales.

Emily: I know, that it’s, like, shiny.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, you can’t get actual iridescent tattoos, can you?

Sally: I don’t know.

Emily: I don’t either. Also, wouldn’t his arms hurt?

Sally: Yeah, I imagine -- and also, like, I guess they’re magic tattoos or whatever, but, like, shouldn’t they be, like, scabbing?

Emily: Yeah, I mean, like, they're not actual tattoos, 'cause I don't think -- we don't know -- TYBALT!

Sally: (sing-song) It's time to imprison our stupid cat.

Emily: Stop -- trying -- to go in the closet!

Sally: Oh, you can get iridescent tattoos.

Emily: Oh, you can?

Sally: I ...

Emily: (distant) Yeet!

(door shutting)

Sally: Oh, most of these look like they're temporary.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Some of 'em look -- some of 'em look real.

Emily: Rand has temporary tattoos.

Sally: Team bride.

Emily: Teen pride?

Sally: Team bride. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, team bride. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Do you have teen pride?

Emily: I'm proud to be a teen.

Sally: I certainly was not proud when I was a teen.

Emily: Yeah, no one is actually proud to be a teen. Unless there's something seriously -- seriously wrong.

Sally: (laugh) I -- I can't figure out if these are all temporary or if some of them are the real deal.

Emily: The aesthetic is really cool, y'know? Having shiny tattoos. But.

Sally: I bet Rand's arms look like mermaids.

Emily: You right. You're so --

Sally: With the shiny scales.

Emily: He looks like he has fish arms. (laugh)

Sally: He's got little mermaid arms. (makes fish noises)

Emily: (makes fish noises)

Sally: But anyway, they're like, "No! Show us the other sign," and he rolls up the other dang sleeve.

Emily: "Show us the other sign." And he's like, "What?" -- he's like, "Wot?" and Bair's like, "Your other sleeve, god damn you."

Sally: (laugh) "Stupid fucker."

Emily: I know, she's like, "You're so fucking dumb." So then he shows both arms and is kind of expecting everyone to be like, "Whoa."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, you know, like, bow down for him. Like -- like Simba on Pride Rock or whatever.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But everyone's -- kind of regards him silently and then turns around and goes back to their tents. (laugh) 'Cause they're like, "Meh, fuck this."

Sally: They're like, "I can't cope --"

Emily: The Aiel are so legendary.

Sally: "In that capacity at the moment."

Emily: Yeah. Bair, meanwhile, like, yeeted the, uh, water pouch to Mat, and he suddenly realizes he's holding it and upends half the thing on his head. And is like, "OK, well, that was weird." And all the other Wise Ones arrive, along with Lan and Rhuarc. Um, and they have kind of a brief convo about what's going down. Rand's like, "Where's Moiraine?" and they're like, "Well, she went to Rhuidean --" Oh my God, it's like --

Sally: (laugh) It's like Tybalt has been possessed. I hate him. He's been so annoying the past couple of days.

Emily: (laugh) We'll start missing him, like, day two into our trip, but.

Sally: And then we'll come back and be like, "Why?"

Emily: Be like, “Why did we do -- why --”

Sally: “Why did I have feelings for you --”

Emily: He’s the fucking worst.

Sally: “For this demonic creature?”

Emily: Rrrrghhhh. Ugh. Um. Uh, but they’re like, “Oh, yeah, Moiraine and Aviendha both went into Rhuidean.” And Mat’s like, “I fucking told you Aviendha went into Rhuidean NAKED, Rand.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand’s like, “Oh, OK, OK.” And Mat’s like, “You’re not impressed enough by this.”

(rustling in the background)

Emily: What is he -- he’s literally just flinging himself against the door.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He’s so stupid. If you hear a distant thudding in the background, that’s Tybalt. Trying --

Sally: Flagellating himself against the door.

Emily: Yeah, trying fucking desperately to escape. (laugh) And it’s like, what? I think he probably just has his little catnip toy in there.

Sally: Probably. I think he’s got both his catnip toys in there.

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: So he’s gonna come out very silly. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

(rustling in the background)

Emily: (distant) Ah, I just see him. You’re fine! Stop it.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (distant) Oh, I just took his fish. OK. Augggghh!

Sally: He’s so annoying. Today, one of my coworkers called weed “the devil’s lettuce,” and I’ve never heard -- (laugh)

Emily: Called what -- weed? The devil's lettuce?!

Sally: Yeah, I've never heard that before. (laugh)

Emily: The devil's lettuce.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Devil makes a salad with weed.

Sally: Well, he was talking about how he can't go to Utah Valley without being high. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I mean, big mood.

Sally: It was very funny.

Emily: Big fuckin' mood. Utah Valley is --

Sally: The fucking worst.

Emily: I know. It's where dreams go to die.

Sally: OK, anyway.

Emily: Yeah, so everyone's like, "Yeah, they went to Rhuidean." Um, and Rand's like -- and Egwene mentions, like, "It's been a while," and Rand's like, "How long's it been?" and she's like, "Oh, you've been gone seven days." (laugh) And he's like, "WHAT?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "The -- the -- the fuckin' Forsaken could've done so much in seven days." And it's like, calm your tits, Rand. Like, what? He's always so fuckin' stressed --

Sally: I know.

Emily: About the Forsaken, and it's like, the Forsaken are goddamn idiots.

Sally: They are very stupid.

Emily: They're so stupid -- they've literally done nothing to make you afraid of them in the last three and a half books.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Lanfear? Was like, "Hey, look, I'm sexy." If you had a brain, that's pretty easy to resist. Given, you're not the smartest and you think with your dick, but. (sigh)

Sally: How would we map on our three boys to the three companions from the Wizard of Oz?



Emily: How would we what?

Sally: Map the three boys to --

Emily: Oh, you're saying -- because Rand --

Sally: If I had a brain.

Emily: Is brainless, yeah. Um. If I had courage and if I had --

Sally: A heart?

Emily: A heart?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I wanna -- well, I wanna have Rand be the one who doesn't have a heart.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Perrin be -- have no brain, and Mat be -- have no courage 'cause he says he has no courage.

Sally: Yeah, Mat is also, sometimes, has no brain. (laugh)

Emily: Mat -- yeah, they're all --

Sally: They're all very stupid.

Emily: They've got one brain cell between them all --

Sally: OK.

Emily: And usually Mat has it, but.

Sally: Usually. So Rand is no heart, Perrin is no brain, and Mat is no courage.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So he claims.

Emily: Cowardly -- well, yeah, that's the whole point of the dang Wizard of Oz.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is they're like --

Sally: (whisper) Yeah, you're right.

Emily: "I don't have a brain," but really he's the tactician -- the scarecrow is the fucking tactician amongst them.

Sally: Unit.

Emily: Unit. Love that scarecrow.

Sally: And the heart is the Tin Man?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or the brain is the Tin Man.

Emily: Heart's the Tin Man.

Sally: And courage is the Cowardly Lion.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Courage the Cowardly Dog. Show fuckin' scared the shit out of me as a kid.

Emily: It -- did it?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: I've never seen an episode, I don't think.

Sally: Oh my God, they're horrifying.

Emily: I was obsessed with the Wizard of Oz movie as a child. So then the Wise Ones are like, "Come talk to us in the tent, Rand, and we'll kinda, y'know, heal you guys up." And Rand's like, "Can you use the fuckin' power to Heal us?" And they're like, "No, 'cause -- for plot reasons, we do not have that particular power." And he's like, "Nyeh." And Egwene's like, "Show some respect, Rand," and he's like, "Mah, fuck off." Anyway, then they go to the tent. They're like, "Well, Lan and Rhuarc can't come. It's just Wise Ones. 'Cause we gotta talk about Rhuidean." And he's like, "No, I want them to come. Because I only feel secure when I have two very tall men also with me." And they're like, "First of all, that's reasonable, but also, it's tradition," and he's like, "I'm literally -- literally the guy in the prophecy who's going to, like, break all your traditions, so let's start with this one here." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They're like, "Can't argue with that, my good bro." And, uh, then they all go into the tent, and Rand's like, "So does everyone see that, Rhuarc?" and then Rhuarc tells him that actually everyone sees something -- like, that it's your ancestral line, not Rand's ancestral line, so everyone technically does see different things --

Sally: OK.

Emily: Up until, he said, everyone pretty much sees the same thing at the Rhuidean water -- the, y'know, the first scene Rand saw. Um. So I guess everyone is kind of descended from that one motherfucker. Uh, but I guess he had lots of ancestors. So we find that out and then Rand's like, "So you know from the prophecy that I'm gonna, like, break you or whatever. And do you all know what that means?" And they're like, "Nah. We don't fuckin' know what that means." (laugh) "We're gonna fiiiiind out, though."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Then they're in the tent and they smear some ointments on Mat and Rand.

Sally: (laugh) Poor Mat.

Emily: I know. Poor Mat. Immediately endears himself to all the Wise Ones, I guess, by making some medical jokes. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Old ladies just love Mat.

Emily: Old ladies -- I'm telling you, Mat has big old lady energy.

Sally: That's true. He is an old lady. He's got big dumb lesbian energy and big old lady energy.

Emily: Yeah. Big old dumb lesbian energy. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Mat is like an old lesbian who just sits on her porch and kind of, like --

Sally: Gambles.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) He's constantly gambling with her book club friends. That's what -- they call it a book club, but really it's poker.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And they yell at the neighborhood kids but, like, in a nice way.

Sally: "You look great today!"

Emily: "You look great today, Timmy!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Go practice your violin!" Or whatever. Yeah, that's Mat. Um, so yeah, he gets -- he gets right along with his best friends, the Wise Ones. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) He's such a stupid idiot.

Emily: I know. And then Rand's like, "Wo what do you know -- like, did you know my mom?" To Amiss, Ameese, Amice, whatever the fuck her name is. And she's like, "Yeah, I knew your mom. Her name was Shael. She was this rando lady that we found -- we, the Maidens, found -- kind of, uh, close to the mountains. Um, like a -- a, uh, wetlander." Which, in my head, I always want to translate to "European." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Found this fucking European in the desert."

Emily: Yeah, "We found this European lady." She's got all her, like, pack horses and things. And everything dies and they're all just, like, following her to see what happens. Until finally she faints and they're like, "OK, have some water." Oh my God, my sister's calling me. Mmm. Oh, yeah. So they're like, "Yeah, we saved your dumb European mom and she was like, 'I have been given a prophecy that I have to come here and become a Maiden of the Spear. Otherwise all my people will perish or some such thing.'"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And they're like, "OK, sounds reasonable --" (laugh) "Enough. Because we're the Aiel and we don't give a shit."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "What you want to do. And also you're ginger, so it's fine."

Sally: Yeah. "So we'll accept it."

Emily: "So we will -- we will accept you."

Sally: If she was blonde, though. Fuck that bitch.

Emily: At least, I think she was ginger. Anyway, we, the readers, know this was actually Tigraine or Teegraine or however you say her name. Tiger lady.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and that she was given the prophecy by the, uh, the Aes Sedai lady who also prophesied Rand's birth. That old bitch who --

Sally: Yeah, isn't it like Gitura or something?

Emily: Gitara.

Sally: Katara of the Southern Water Tribe. (laugh)

Emily: Katara, Gitara, I don't know how to say her name.

Sally: She's a guitar.

Emily: She's a guitar.

Sally: A good guitar.

Emily: Guitar-ah. Anyway. (laugh) So fucking over it. Uhh. What is wrong with me?

Sally: But she also drops that she left a baby behind --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: And then it's like, "Oh, shit. I have a half-brother."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And all of us are like, "Oh, fuck. That's Galad."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "And he's sexy, and you are not, so."

Emily: Yeah, it's very confusing.

Sally: "Short end of the stick."

Emily: Galad got all the sexy genes.

Sally: I guess he got all the sexy Cairhienin genes.

Emily: Yeah, from his mean dad.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who Tigraine did not like. They're like, "Yeah, she left a child behind. She really regrets that. But she did NOT regret leaving her loser husband behind." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Which also endeared her to us."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "We were kind of like, 'Cool.'"

Sally: "Cool."

Emily: "Iconic."

Sally: "Fuck husbands."

Emily: "Fuck husbands."

Sally: "Sorry about your baby, though."

Emily: "Sorry about your baby, though."

Sally: Poor Galad, who just got abandoned by his mom so she could go become a desert witch.  
(laugh)

Emily: I know, it actually is really sad. (laugh) So she could go become a -- a Dune knock-off.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. It's super sad. Galad ... RIP.

Emily: Ah, Galad could be such an interesting character. But Robert Jordan's never like, "I'm never -- not gonna go into his trauma about being abandoned as a child --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm just gonna talk about how he wants to be a religious extremist. Because for some reason, that makes sense." I don't fucking know.

Sally: RIP, my good bitch.

Emily: Also, how messed up would you be if you were the sexiest person alive?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Like, don't you think it would kind of fuck you up? (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, I feel like it would.

Emily: 'Cause everyone's like, constantly like, "I can't even talk around you."

Sally: Yeah. Either give you, like, the weirdest ego --

Emily: It'd -- yeah.

Sally: Or, like, the most self-conscious.

Emily: Yeah, or you'd just be like, "Wow, my entire worth is in my looks."

Sally: Yeah, my beauty.

Emily: And you'd be really fucked up by that.

Sally: Oh. He's also a good sword-fighter, lest we forget.

Emily: Yeah, it's just that Galad's entire body is perfect and beautiful and does everything correctly. So yeah, you'd be like, "Ah, dang."

Sally: "Nobody cares about my heart."

Emily: I think -- I think Galad loses, like, an arm in the Last Battle or something.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: I can't remember, but of course, it's the Last Battle, so we don't get to see any of the actual repercussions of that. I don't -- it -- but it kind of, like, mirrors the fact that Rand loses one arm, I guess?

Sally: Oh, yeah, loses a hand.

Emily: Which I guess makes up for the fact that they never interact on screen.

Sally: (laugh) And then we're like, "You get it? They're brothers. They both lost an appendage."

Emily: I know, it is buck wild. I'm just realizing now that they're like, "Oh, and you have a half-brother," and then never mention it again.

Sally: Yeah, and Rand's like, "I don't fucking give a shit."

Emily: And Rand, I think, at some point, is like, "Oh. Galad's my half-brother." And then does nothing to try and create a relationship with him. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It's kind of sad if he's like, "Oh, Galad's --? No."

Emily: He's like, "Euuughh. I don't -- I don't wanna --"

Sally: "I'm just gonna dodge that bullet."

Emily: I mean, I guess it would be kind of weird if you were like, "You're my brother, and I'm dating your sister."

Sally: Yeah, it's -- it's awful.

Emily: It's so bad. It's all -- it's all-around just super terrible.

Sally: "And then your other brother is dating the woman I thought I was gonna marry in ... baby school."

Emily: Oh, it's like the most fucked-up Brady Bunch of all time.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ooh, God. Um.

Sally: (singing) This is a story ... about a man named Brady ...

Emily: (singing) About a man named Gawyn ...

Sally: (snort)

Emily: (singing) Who was super ... ugly ...

Sally: Shitty.

Emily: (singing) And the worst. (normal voice) Anyway, they're like, "Yeah, so Shael -- she never gave a different name -- was eventually adopted. She had to work her butt off to become a Maiden 'cause, y'know, she was a rich, blue-blood type."

Sally: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, they're like, "She could shoot an arrow, though. She had one redeeming quality."

Sally: Good.

Emily: "That and she was ginger." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So after enough training, she fit right in."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But they're like, "But then the whole war broke out, so we went over the Dragonwall, and a few years into that, uh, when we went to -- when we went to Tar Valon, she went missing. And she had been sleeping with the, like, clan chief, whose name --" Rand's dad's name already escapes me because he's fucking irrelevant.

Sally: But I want to know.

Emily: Like, and then they report -- it's, like, Yanduin or something.

Sally: Oh, yeah, I remember now.

Emily: Jan.

Sally: Jan -- Jan -- Yanduin, maybe. He's --

Emily: Yeah, Yanduin.

Sally: He's -- yeah.

Emily: Yanduin, OK.



Sally: Like Yacob.

Emily: OK, yeah, let's call him that. Anyway, Yanduine then goes into a depressive -- (laugh) Um, period and is like, "I can't live without Shael, I guess," so he decides to go -- to just abandon, uh, the clan. He's like, "I will no longer be clan chief." And everyone's like, "You can't fucking do that." And he's like, (whisper) "Watch me." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And leaves.

Sally: The fucking drama just runs in Rand's blood, I guess.

Emily: I know. And then he leaves and goes up north to, like, fight the Dark One, which is what boys who can channel in -- amongst the Aiel are told to do, is just go fight Trollocs till they die.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But then it's reported that he, uh, was actually killed by a man who looked like Shael, which I guess is Lord Luc. So again, that becomes confusing because Lord Luc slash Isam is, like, Perrin's nemesis.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's never relevant that, like, he actually killed Rand's biological father. I mean, I guess it doesn't -- in a way, that's sort of refreshing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Rand's not like, "I must kill the man who killed my father."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "Fuck that guy. I mean, he contributed some sperm, but."

Sally: "He's not my real dad."

Emily: "My real dad is Tam."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so I dunno. (laugh)

Sally: Ah. Fucking weird shit.

Emily: Anyway, they tell Rand this story, and he's kinda like, "OK. Processing." And they're all like, "Comfort comfort comfort," and he's like, "I don't want comfort. I want you all to just be Mat, who's ignoring me currently." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "I'm not upset at all, but for some reason, I don't have an appetite." So then he goes outside to watch to see if Aviendha and Moiraine come back. And then Mat comes and sits with him. And, uh, eventually Aviendha does come back, and Rand's like -- his little internal monologue is like, "Oh, I've always liked Aviendha. I like that she dislikes me for extremely human reasons, which is that she's friends with my girlfriend." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And just thinks I'm -- I'm shitty."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, but then Aviendha, like, sees him and her Kill Bill sirens go off and is like -- (makes siren noise) And he's like, "Oh. Ohh. Well, if she went to Rhuidean, then she probably saw what I saw."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "And now knows I'm responsible." Which, actually, if I -- we either remember or are reminded that the women see something different on their first go. They, like, go through the rings to see their future, so what she actually saw was that she'd fall in love with Rand. And you have to admire the fact that she's, like -- (laugh)

Sally: Furious.

Emily: Furious about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "Fuck this guy."

Sally: Yeah, "I hate him."

Emily: How iconic would it have been --

Sally: I don't want to have his babies.

Emily: If she just, like, threw a knife at him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The first thing she saw. (laugh)

Sally: It'd be so good.

Emily: She's like, "Fuck my fate."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm gonna kill this fucker."

Sally: So -- that would've been so good.

Emily: Oh, God. Alas. The story that could have been.

Sally: There are so many opportunities for Rand to just kick the bucket --

Emily: I know.

Sally: In hilarious ways.

Emily: I know, just, like, super early on.

Sally: Yeah. And --

Emily: Like, it wouldn't have been funny if it was in the first book, but, like --

Sally: Here?

Emily: Fourth book?

Sally: Hilarious.

Emily: So funny.

Sally: Peak comedy if Aviendha was just like, "I am not marrying this asshole," and just, like, knife to the throat. (laugh)

Emily: This would actually be a very good book if the, like, Chosen One got killed off and then his whole, like, fellowship slash coterie --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Had to fucking con everyone into thinking --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He was still alive.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Had to do, like, a Weekend at Bernie's.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (laugh) To save the world.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: God, it would be so fucking good.

Sally: Why don't we write these books?

Emily: I know, why aren't --

Sally: Why didn't we write the Wheel of Time?

Emily: Why wasn't I put in charge of the Wheel of Time? Yeah, Rand would die in this scene if I was writing it.

Sally: (laugh) So good.

Emily: Uh, but she comes back, and Mat's like, "Oh, I'd watch your back around that lady." And Rand's like, "Yeah, Mat, I'm not fucking stupid." And Mat's like, "Historically, yes, you are."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And then Bair comes out and fucking pitches a loaf of bread at Rand's head, and Mat snatches it out of the air with his, like --

Sally: Iconic.

Emily: Starts eating it.

Sally: That was very sensual.

Emily: Thank you.

Sally: Miming of bread-eating that you just did.

Emily: It's 'cause I love bread.

Sally: I also love bread.

Emily: Nothing -- nothing sexier than bread.

Sally: My nephew got to eat a croissant for the first time yesterday --

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: And he was, like, going apeshit.

Emily: I bet.

Sally: He was so excited.

Emily: Like, “Rrrrrrggghhh.”

Sally: He tried to shove the whole thing in his tiny little one-year-old mouth, and everyone was like, “Declan, a relatable sentiment, but you cannot do that. You will choke.”

Emily: He was like, “I’ve gotta down the whole fucking croissant.”

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, he’s like, “If I don’t, I’ll die.”

Emily: “It is MINE.” She’s mine!

Sally: It was very funny. It’s like, “This is such a big mood.” Declan was serving moods all Thanksgiving.

Emily: An icon.

Sally: I know, I love him. Anyway, that’s my nephew, and I’m obsessed with him.

Emily: (sigh) Good.

Sally: He’s such a little demon.

Emily: Then Moiraine comes back and she’s, like, super tired and Lan picks her up and carries her in or whatever. And this is all happening on the same night, so Rand was all worried that he would lose three days. Um, so he’s excited that they’re both back on the same night that he is, so it’s like, “Oh, we can just pack up and go.” He talked to Rhuarc and was like, “How can I get all of the clan chiefs in, like, one place?” and Rhuarc was like, “Have the Wise Ones, like, dream them some creepy RSVP messages.” RSVP in your dreams.

Sally: A paperless post. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, a paperless post. “Will you be attending this very important meeting?”

Sally: “Will you be attending the breaking of the Aiel?”

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: “Yes/No?”

Emily: So they’re going to this -- “Will you be attending the breaking of the Aiel?” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So they're like, "Please come to this place." It's called Alcair Dal or something. And Mat's like, "Ah, yes, the Golden Bowl."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And Rand's like, "Mat has become the Duolingo owl. What happened?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Mat's like, "I have adopt -- I have learned a new language, but I'm going to remain completely oblivious of that fact for another book or two."

Sally: (laugh) So stupid.

Emily: Which, I don't know how that happens.

Sally: I know, it's so funny.

Emily: It's like bad fanfiction, when you know someone is trying to write a bilingual character --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But is monolingual themselves.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Oh, sorry, I forgot to switch to my --"

Sally: Yeah. Speak to my other language.

Emily: "Speak my other language." Language is a conscious choice, y'all. So dumb.

Sally: Unless you're as stupid as Mat Cauthon, I guess.

Emily: Ah, well. Yeah. Easier to believe with him. Uh, and there's, like, fun about this canyon is that it's got some, like, cool, like, sonic, like, you can --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What -- like, what is -- it's like an echo chamber. You can just stand in one place and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like how --

Sally: If you whisper into the corner of that one cathedral --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It'll, like, go up the dome --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And you can hear it.

Emily: And everyone can hear him. Which, I guess, is kind of cool but also a little inconvenient, 'cause what if they're there and Rand's like, (whisper) "Should I tell them that I'm --" (laugh)

Sally: (whisper) "Should I tell them that I'm the Car'a'carn?" And they're -- everyone's like, "WHAT?"

Emily: "YEET! Kill him!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God, that would actually be when he dies. (laugh)

Sally: That would -- ah, there's just -- (laugh) I wish we could keep killing Rand over and over again.

Emily: It'd be, like, a Groundhog's Day style -- just murder him?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And every day he wakes up.

Sally: It's like, "What the fuck?"

Emily: Has to get through that day without dying the same way. It would explain why he's survived this far.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If he's just on, like, a video game --

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Despawning run. Anyway. Uh, next chapter we switch over to Egwene's -- Egg's point of view as she meets with Elayne in Tel'aran'rhiol, which she explicitly promised the Wise Ones she would not do. But this is Egwene, so who gives a fuck.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And she's like --

Sally: She's a bad bitch.

Emily: She's like, "Yeah, what's going on?" And Elayne's like, "I'm trying out the Sea Folk shirtlessness thing," and Egg's like, "OK? How is it?" And Elayne's like, "Breezy."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Egg's like, "Copy that." Um, Egg's like, "Guess what? Some of the Wise Ones can channel, and it's, like, super weird," and Elayne's like, "Ah, yeah, some of the Windfinders can channel." And then she immediately is like, "I did promise that I would not tell another living soul about that. Whoops."

Sally: (laugh) She's the worst.

Emily: She's the fucking worst. She's like, "I guess it doesn't matter if I just tell you." And Egg's like, (whisper) "I'm going to be the Amyrlin Seat."

Sally: (whisper) "It will matter."

Emily: (whisper) "In two books. And then I am going to use this. It will definitely matter." (normal voice) But Egg's like, "It's very interesting that there are women out there who don't have to be bound by the Three Oaths but are still incredibly respected in their communities and honored way more than Aes Sedai are." And it's like, yeah, it's almost like if you don't, like --

Sally: Manipulate and murder people --

Emily: Manipulate and murder people -- (laugh) Then --

Sally: (laugh) Then maybe people will like you a little more.

Emily: You'll earn their respect, I dunno.

Sally: It's kind of a weird --

Emily: Maybe if you don't build a giant fucking tower and just, like, creep people out --

Sally: A literal ivory tower.

Emily: Maybe if you -- maybe if you try to be part of communities rather than --

Sally: Again, sitting in your literal ivory tower. (laugh)

Emily: Ivory tower. God.

Sally: With your dumb libraries and going around committing, you know, eugenics --

Emily: War crimes.

Sally: Against men who can channel. (laugh)

Emily: And Egg's like, "It makes no sense."

Sally: "It's simply incorrigible." (laugh)



Emily: “What the hell?” Anyway, then Amys literally yanks Egg out of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tel’aran’rhiod and freaks her out with, like, a little nightmare thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then brings her back, and Egg’s like, “Ahhhh!” And Amys is like, “What did I fucking tell you?” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Egg’s like, “I know, but it’s, like, not a big deal. And also I’m an Aes Sedai.” And Amys is like, (whisper) “No you’re not. I’m not fucking stupid.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Amys is like, “Yeah, OK, I get it, but I did also tell you --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “To do something, and you agreed to do this, so you’ve gotta start wearing your hair in two braids, ‘cause you’re acting like a child.” And Egg is like, “Fine. I won’t do that again.” (whisper) But she will, reader.

Sally: Consistently --

Emily: She’ll just get better at hiding it. (laugh)

Sally: Over and over again. For all of time. (laugh)

Emily: Um. But Amys wakes her up and is like, “Hey, we’re gonna go chill in our naked lady time. Y’know, our favorite group bonding activity, just hanging around naked, sweating.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Egg’s like, “Sounds super sexy.” So they go to the sweat tent, and everyone’s like, “Well, we obviously need to manipulate Rand,” and all the other women are like, “Yes, of course.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) So annoying.

Emily: And it’s like, “Ahhh! You’re all the worst!”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Everyone is the worst! (laugh) And they're like, "Egg, could you do it?" And she's like, "Probably not. Rand isn't really as naive and trusting as he used to be," and pointedly avoids looking at Moiraine --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But is like, "Because Moiraine lied to him for --"

Sally: Ever.

Emily: "Fucking months."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "So Moiraine, would you --" And Moiraine's like, "Nah, he fucking hates me." (laugh) And they're like, "OK, plan C: Aviendha. Super sexy. Great tits. Could just hang out with Rand and tell him what to do." And Aviendha's like, "I do not want to do that," and they're like, "Well, you're gonna do it anyway," and Aviendha's like, "Fine, but I will do the shittiest job possible." Which is literally what she then does --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For the next two books.

Sally: It's so good. (laugh)

Emily: It's kind of incredible, but it's also a little bit annoying, because it would be nice if Aviendha just, like, told Rand.

Sally: No, it's very -- it's, like, funny in, like, a "Avienda is hilarious" sort of way.

Emily: I know, you're like, "Aviendha? You absolute queen." But I do also want Rand to have the knowledge so he's not -- (laugh)

Sally: But it's -- yeah, it's, like, frustrating --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In the plot sense, where you're like, "Robert Jordan just invents these convoluted ways for Rand to have no idea what the fuck is going on at any given moment.

Emily: Yeah. It is the most annoying thing. If you, like, have to keep your protagonist in the dark about things -- if you have to, like, eke out --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The information that they gather in really convoluted ways, then that's not good writing. Like, you should be able to have a suspenseful --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And interesting plot without -- this is exactly why I hate "The Maze Runner," by the way. That book.

Sally: "Maze Runner" is the worst book in the world.

Emily: Yeah, "The Maze Runner" does that so much. People are just like, "I will refuse to answer your questions." And they're like, "Why?" And they're like, "Because the author told me to."

Sally: "Because I am simply a puppet for this bad story."

Emily: "Because I'm a puppet for this terrible plot." Whatever.

Sally: Annoying.

Emily: I want to watch that movie again. (laugh)

Sally: No.

Emily: It's super good.

Sally: Only 'cause Dylan O'Brien is in it.

Emily: Lots of hot boys are in it.

Sally: That's true, you're right. Lots of hot boys are in it.

Emily: (cough) Anyway, so they're like, "Aviendha, go watch Rand," and she's like, "Fine, I will." And they're like, "OK, meeting adjourned, ladies." And Egg, to Moiraine, is like, "So what happened in Rhuidean?" And Moiraine says some cryptic shit like she always does, but basically she's like, "I found out I'm gonna die." (laugh) And Egg is like, "Cool. Cool cool cool cool."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: End scene. And that's those two chapters.

Sally: That was a great summary.

Emily: Thanks.

Sally: I'm sorry I didn't read them again.

Emily: That's fine. I kind of forced you to record right away. You could've read them. Um. Yeah, sorry that was more summary than any actual analysis, but again, lots of plot, not a lot of things to say about it. Um. We could probably have talked a little more about the revealing of Rand's parentage, but that's, like, such trope material.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That it's like, I feel like I -- there's nothing I -- else I can contribute to that. Everyone's sick of it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: No one is like, "God, you know what I love? When the protagonist finds out who his long-lost parents are."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That's why half the world was like, "No, I don't fucking want Rey to be related to the Skywalkers."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I just want her to be a rando."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: 'Cause boring.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: If Luke has an illegitimate love child or something. Ahhh. So anyway. Um, do you have anything else to say?

Sally: About the chapters?

Emily: Or anything.

Sally: Um. Yes. As of yesterday in this timeline where we are now speaking, Emily and I are officially on vacation, which means we are out of the office until Friday or Saturday, depending on how things go.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, so, um, we won't be responding to any messages on social media or any emails or anything 'cause we will not have wifi. Um, but remember that we love you and that you have still about two weeks to submit your sticker designs for our merchandise.

Emily: Whoooo.

Sally: If you haven't seen that on social media, we are asking all of the wonderful artists in our community to design an EHR sticker that is not Wheel of Time-related because we want to avoid copyright issues. Um, so things that are, uh, EHR-related but not Wheel of Time related. Like, we got some great Tybalt stickers. We got a submission of covert sexism juice, which I love, I'll have to show it to you --

Emily: Oh my God. I really love that.

Sally: It's so funny. (laugh) Um.

Emily: Yeah. If you need inspiration, just go through the episode titles --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's some pretty fucking good ones.

Sally: Um, but you -- all the details for that is on our website, but really the gist of it is just send your sticker in an image format to us at [everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com](mailto:everybodyhatesrand@gmail.com). And please include your name in the, um, email somewhere just so we can keep track of it.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Um. Thank you, as always, to Glynna MacKenzie, for the use of our theme song. Not titled "Tubthumping."

Emily: As of yet.

Sally: (laugh) Um, and thank you to everybody who has supported the podcast in any way that you do, whether that's monetarily through Patreon or donations or buying us a coffee on that site I can't pronounce. Or just Tweeting about the podcast, messaging us --

Emily: Kofi?

Sally: Kofi. Koffee.

Emily: Who knows.

Sally: Kofé.

Emily: Kofé.

Sally: Kofé-é-é.

Emily: Koffee.

Sally: Um. Yeah, or just messaging us, leaving us reviews on iTunes, telling your friends and family, anything that you do to support the podcast, we really really appreciate --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: And we love you.

Emily: Yes. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Does -- has anything bad happened to you? Bad things happen to me all the time.

Emily: Oh, I'm sorry.

Sally: It's just 'cause I live in a farce.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: I -- legitimately, my life is so stupid.

Emily: Umm.

Sally: (laugh) I don't --

Emily: Oh, I do have one.

Sally: 'Kay, go ahead.

Emily: So I got an email a couple weeks ago at work that was like, "Are you gonna be coming to the company Thanksgiving lunch? It will be at this scary Chinese buffet in Orem." And I was like, oh, I don't really -- I do not want to go to this because I -- there's nothing in me that wants to go to any type of buffet. Also, I'm about to be on a cruise with all of these people --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Eating the same, about, level of food.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So none of that sounds interesting to me. Uh, but I kind of waited a couple days to see if anyone would, like, bring it up and be like, "Yeah, come to this meeting, it's super important -- come to this, like, party, it's super important." But no one did, so I just responded "No. I will not be coming." Um, and again, no one, like, came to me and was like, "Why aren't you coming to the dang Thanksgiving thing?" So that day comes around, and I'm like, "Ah, well, OK, I guess everybody's going to lunch." Uh, but I was on the phone with the bank to make sure they didn't cancel my credit card while I was in --

Sally: Oh, yeah, I need to do that.

Emily: Out of the country. Which took, like, a really fucking long time. They were like, “What was your dad’s job when you got this?” (laugh)

Sally: What?

Emily: They asked a lot of identifying questions.

Sally: Mine, you can just go online and just beep beep beep.

Emily: I dunno how to do it online. Maybe there’s a way, but also I have a really small -- it’s really small.

Sally: Yeah, you do. Mine’s a bigger bank, so.

Emily: Anyway. Um, and my one coworker who I share an office with, I was like, “Are you going to the party?” and she never checks her emails or does any sort of thing, so she was like, “Yeah, I guess I will,” and, like, 11:30 rolls around, at the time when it’s supposed to start, and I was like, “Are you going?” and she’s like, “Yeah, I’ll head out,” and I was like, “OK.” Then she leaves and comes back five minutes later and is like, “No one’s in the building,” and I’m like, “What building?” and she’s like, “The other building.” And I’m like, “... The lunch isn’t at the building, it’s at this buffet.” And she’s like, “Oh. Well, I don’t want to go to that,” and I’m like, “Yeah, I don’t want to go to that either, that’s why I was a little surprised. I don’t know why anyone wants to go to that.”

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: But she’s like, “OK, well, I don’t feel great, so I’m gonna go home.” So she leaves. Then, like, half an hour passes, and I get, suddenly, all these instant messages that are like, “Why aren’t you guys here?” and I’m like, “I didn’t really know it was a thing we had to go to. No one really told us.” They’re like, “Yeah, you should be here.” So then I had to go to this --

Sally: Oh, no! I didn’t know that!

Emily: I had to get in the car and go to the dang buffet. Luckily I didn’t have to eat anything. Everyone was done eating, they were just having a Powerpoint presentation about our accomplishments of the year.

Sally: (whisper) Why did you have to go to that?

Emily: I don’t KNOW! I still don’t know! But I found my friend, and I was like, “I didn’t really know this was, like, an obligatory thing,” and she’s like, “Yeah, my bad, I should’ve communicated that better.” (laugh) But that was super awkward, because then I walked in super late and everyone was like, “Oh, what’s this dingus?” And everyone’s like, “Where’s your coworker?” and I’m like, “She went home sick, ‘cause she’s smart, I guess.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I should've also gone home sick. Smelling this place makes me sick." (sigh) Anyway, that's what happens when you're literally in an office by yourself seeing no other person eight hours a day.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So fucking bad.

Sally: I'm sorry.

Emily: It's OK. Then they're like, "We're giving out bonuses and also some packets of chili."

Sally: Gross.

Emily: And I was like, "Is this an inside joke? From past years?" And someone was like, "Yeah," and I was like, "I DON'T GET IT, THOUGH. WHY AM I HERE?"

Sally: (laugh) Did you get a bonus, though?

Emily: I wasn't supposed to get a bonus!

Sally: Mm.

Emily: They gave me one, and I was like, "I don't -- I feel like I'm supposed to give this back." I still don't know what to do with it. Now I just have it in my room.

Sally: How much did you get?

Emily: I'm not telling you on the air. (laugh)

Sally: We can delete it.

Emily: I'll tell you later. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) OK.

Emily: So anyway, that was my day before Thanksgiving break.

Sally: I did not know that happened.

Emily: Yeah, I didn't really see you.

Sally: Yeah. This week has sucked full ass --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: O'clock, dot com.



Emily: So anyway, that was the day before Thanksgiving, and that's us, and now we're going on a cruise --

Sally: Yeet.

Emily: With these same people who could not communicate to me -- (laugh)

Sally: I cannot wait to conduct, like, an anthropological study of your coworkers.

Emily: Oh yeah, they're wild.

Sally: (laugh) The other day, Emily was like, "If we went on a cruise with your coworkers," and I was like, "Don't even speak that into existence."

Emily: I was like, "I'd murder most of them, so."

Sally: Yeah, but it would also be super fun, 'cause then we'd be on a cruise with Gethin and Julie. (laugh) Which would be lit.

Emily: Yeah. OK, thanks for listening. We will talk to you, uh -- be back online in about a week.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We will not be dropping an episode next week, just because we won't have time to record one.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, and we kind of need a vacay, obviously. But, uh, we will definitely back -- be back on social media.

Sally: Correct.

Emily: And then back to the normal schedule after that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Thank you! Don't do war crimes.

Sally: Don't do them. They're bad.

Emily: Bye.