



Episode 82 – “Elayne? Total Wifey”

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

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

[Theme song by Glynn Mackenzie plays]

EMILY: Don't reference it. I'm just gonna edit all of it out and it will be a total mystery. Something traumatic happened to us before this episode started, and you'll never fucking know.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Because I don't want to talk about it.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Ever again.

SALLY: [laughs] Oh, bud.

EMILY: [groans] It really set the mood.

SALLY: Do you know it's Friday the Thirteenth tonight *and* there's a full moon?

EMILY: Yeah, because my coworker, who's very one of those, you know, Halloween spooky people, would, like, not stop talking about it. And I was like, "Okay, that's fine. I'm glad you have your enthusiasms" [laughs].

SALLY: I know. I don't get Halloween.

EMILY: I personally, yeah, don't really get the Friday the Thirteenth *thing*. I guess I should recognize that if my birthday falls on a Friday, then Friday the Thirteenth of September will also fall on a Friday, but I didn't do that math until this morning in the shower, so. These things happen I guess.

SALLY: I just. I really don't get the concept of enjoying being scared.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, listen bitch. I've got enough anxiety to deal with.

EMILY: It's kind of like, uh, heroin. I – don't [laughs].

SALLY: Okay. Emily elaborate [laughing] on this simile that you just proposed.

EMILY: I think people like being scared because they like the chemical rush of adrenaline.

SALLY: Mmm.

EMILY: I think it's an adrenaline junkie thing. And there are people who like things for the aesthetic. And I'm like, "What aesthetic? The jigsaw aesthetic? The human centipede aesthetic?"

SALLY: [gags] Please never – ah! Do you – that's like literally one of my worst triggers.

EMILY: Oh, is it? Sorry.

SALLY: For anxiety.

EMILY: I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

SALLY: No, it's so bad. Oh my god.

EMILY: We'll stop talking about.

SALLY: Oh my god. I'm, like, gonna have hives. Okay.

EMILY: Oh! I didn't know! I've veered into that territory, unknowing!

SALLY: Ahh!

EMILY: Stumbling blindly! [laughs]

SALLY: No, ah. Ah. Agh. Agh.

EMILY: Okay. We *won't* talk about it.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: But it will be in the episode [laughing], so you're gonna hear about it.

SALLY: Yeah. I don't –

EMILY: Anyway, yeah. I think it's the adrenaline rush. So I think it's – it's just like a different form of drugs.

SALLY: I guess that makes sense.

EMILY: To me, as someone who, um, um, like Mat Cauthon, dumb enough things happen to me while I'm completely sober so I'm just, I stay away from mind altering substances. Because it's, like, homie. It's buckwild enough up in here.

SALLY: Yeah. It's. Yeah.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like I have enough nightmares to sustain my...

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Fears.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And I have to be alive in the year 2019. Like, I don't get why you would want to be any more scared than that, you know? Yeah, I just don't get it. And Gethin was like, "Do you want to go to a haunted house?" And I was like, "*Fuck no.*"

EMILY: No! Haunted houses are literally, like, why? I just don't get it!

SALLY: I don't either. I hate them.

EMILY: I don't understand.

SALLY: Like Happy Halloween or whatever.

EMILY: It's not even! – it's fucking mid-September!

SALLY: Apparently that's Halloween season these days, so Happy Halloween or whatever the shit. I don't love the holiday. I don't love the concept of giving candy to children. It's kind of creepy if you really think about it.

EMILY: I don't – yeah, there's nothing about Halloween that excites me. Either you're in it for the horror elements or you're in it for the aesthetic autumn elements – autumnal? And it's like, I can get that at any time from September until mid-November. I don't need to invest in Halloween.

SALLY: I know. And I also don't really get dressing up. Having, like, minorly dressed up for Birdlesque – which went fine, by the way. It could have been better, um, for me personally on a personal level. I was feeling very sick.

EMILY: You had a rough week that week, too.

SALLY: Yeah. I had a bad headache. It was a shitty week. I'm in the midst of a really intense depressive episode and everyone was like, "Ah! Oh my god I'm so drunk!" And I was like, "Why don't you fucking die?"

EMILY: But she looked fab as hell.

SALLY: Thank you. I didn't feel like I looked fab as hell so I appreciate that.

EMILY: Oh, well I thought you did.

SALLY: Thank you. Um, what else? What other shenanigans can we talk about?

EMILY: I guess we have to talk about *Wheel of Time* at some point, because we did spend quite a lot of time there bashing on Halloween. Which I –

SALLY: It's only September 16<sup>th</sup>? When this comes out?

EMILY: Yeah, woof. Fourteen, fifteen, sixteen. Yeah, is there anything else to say? We're recording very late in the week, which is odd for us.

SALLY: Yeah, I kind of feel a little loopy.

EMILY: Yeah, and so we're both kind of low energy. We're higher energy than we would have been if we'd recorded on our initial date.

SALLY: Oh my god [laughs].

EMILY: Which was Tuesday, which is when we usually record, but you had a huge headache, right?

SALLY: Yeah, I was not feeling well.

EMILY: I'd been medically traumatized earlier in the day. Both my arms were numb. It was bad.

SALLY: If we would have recorded on Tuesday we probably would have had to record again [laughs]. So.

EMILY: It would have been gnarly. The good news is I got my flu shot.

SALLY: [softly] I have to get my flu shot.

[Tybalt meows]

EMILY: I'll come with you. I love flu shots. Not like I –

SALLY: My mom will just give it to me at the kitchen table.

EMILY: Yeah – oh! Your mom gave me my flu shot last year! [laughs] I forgot about that.

SALLY: She's good at it.

EMILY: She was really good about it.

SALLY: She's a really good nurse.

EMILY: Very, um, very easy procedure. I only got it this time – I hope I don't offend your mom that I got it at the actual doctor's office.

SALLY: Oh my god. You are not going to offend my mom that you got your shot at an actual –

EMILY: Can I get two flu shots? [laughs]

SALLY: I think that you might die.

EMILY: [laughing] Is that true?

SALLY: [laughing] I don't know – I don't think – I think it might do some real weird shit to your body [laughing] if you got two flu shots.

EMILY: [laughing] Okay.

SALLY: [laughing] I'll have to ask my mom.

EMILY: No don't!

SALLY: What will happen if you get two flu shots?

EMILY: I hate hypothetical medical questions!

SALLY: Hypothetical medical.

EMILY: Hypothetical medical. That's my new podcast.

SALLY: Welcome to hypothetical medical, it's where our anxiety –

EMILY: It's just me screaming.

SALLY: Comes onto the screen.

EMILY: Yeah [screams]. Okay [claps a few times].

SALLY: Podcast. Intro [claps]. Intro [claps]. Intro [claps]. Intro [claps].

EMILY: Yeah. That's some fun clapping. Here we are. This is *Wheel of Time* [laughs].

SALLY: This is – this *is* [laughing] *Wheel of Time*. Is this a stethoscope?

EMILY: Do you ever, like, you know in high fantasy – oh my god. You know how in this book Rand is fighting his mirror reflection? Are you ever sometimes just like, “Oh my god, my mirror reflection just, like, stepped out and slapped me full across the face [laughing] with the idiocy of whatever just happened?”

SALLY: That was me, like, all day today.

EMILY: I'm so sorry.

SALLY: Like, I kept saying [laughs]. I kept saying the bad shit shittiest weird shit and everyone would be like...and I'd be like, “I can't talk.” My mirror self was just like [farting noises].

EMILY: My mirror self is just, like, bitch slapping me left and right.

SALLY: Yeah [laughing]. I, like, can't speak.

EMILY: Okay. This is, in fact, [laughing] Everybody Hates Rand. We are not *Wheel of Time*. We are *Wheel of Time* adjacent.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] Friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. Dear Christ.

SALLY: [laughs] This is *Wheel of Time*.

EMILY: This is *Wheel of Time*. [softly] We're your hosts. I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: And I'm Sally Goodger.

EMILY: Oh good. You said your name that time.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Wow, she did that just for me I bet.

SALLY: That joke's only funny if I do it every couple of months [laughs]. When you forget about it.

EMILY: You did it for a long time, my boy.

SALLY: I know, but then you, then you let it go and you feel safe again [laughs].

EMILY: That was a horrifying, truly horrifying – first of all, she was taking advantage of my goldfish brain.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Which is the first element of horror. Second of all, it sounded eerily like something my mom would say [laughs].

SALLY: [whispers] When you forget. When you feel safe.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Gotta channel my inner Becky Juchau this Halloween season.

EMILY: My mom's one of those people who likes hiding around corners and jumping out and scaring people. She fucking loves it.

SALLY: Stop! I could have dropped my croissant.

EMILY: Yeah, she's that person.

SALLY: Look at Tybalt in his little box.

EMILY: I know. Look at him.

SALLY: [laughs] Staring majestically.

EMILY: After the least dignified thing that could possibly have happened.

SALLY: Yeah, that was pretty, pretty horrifying.

EMILY: Recover...recover privately, Tybalt. Okay. We have to talk about, um, well, a few things. But let's just acknowledge right up, right out that gate, that hentai is coming back in these chapters.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. Making a comeback, baby.

EMILY: So, let's just have a moment of silence for the, for the, uh, length of time we went without having to suffer through Rand's perspective being horny for Lanfear and torturing himself about it.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: So, just be quiet for a moment.

[silence]

EMILY: [sighs]

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's pretty bad. It's pretty bad. Robert Jordan, this was a crime that you committed.

SALLY: Talking about war crimes.

EMILY: Speaking of war crimes, Lanfear is a war crime.

SALLY: Yeah. She in herself, but especially listening to Rand talk about being around her.

EMILY: How much he wants to fuck her, but he hates himself for wanting to fuck her. But actually that's him around every woman, so it's really not that different.

SALLY: That's true.

EMILY: But, oh my god, she's brunette, so.

SALLY: [laughing] Whoooooa.

EMILY: It's different. Black hair, or whatever. I guess Min's brunette. Ugh, I can't keep track.

SALLY: There's so many colors of hair for women to have.

EMILY: I know. So many women Rand wants to fuck, personally.

SALLY: How does this chapter start? Isn't he, like, threatening to hang people?



EMILY: Well, no, that's the next chapter. The first chapter actually starts with a very confusing montage.

SALLY: That's right. That's right. That's right.

EMILY: It is, I believe, the, like, only actual instance of montage in *The Wheel of Time* universe.

SALLY: I think he's threatening to hang people before Lanfear comes in. The next chapter starts with him running out and jumping over dead Aiel.

EMILY: Yeah, but first there's a montage.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: I got confused.

SALLY: You said that's how the next chapter starts.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: And that's not right.

EMILY: Yeah, you're right. That's how – I get confused. I feel like the montage is its own chapter. It's not. You're right.

SALLY: I really don't like montages in literature.

EMILY: I don't, either, and this one is particularly jarring, because it's just, like, not a thing that usually happens in *Wheel of Time*. Usually you commit to a character point of view for that chapter, or until the three star line break or whatever.

SALLY: Page break.

EMILY: But here it's just like we start in this kind of, um, ambiguous place where we're just talking about the weather. The way *Wheel of Time* often does. Like, "Ah, it's fucking hot! Everyone's, like, super sweaty. Dang!" And I'm like, "[laughs] Great, this is gonna be the next seven books. Delightful." Um, and then it's, like, okay here's Mat. But wait. Now we're done with Mat. Here's Perrin. Oh wait, now we're done with Perrin. And so on, until we've gone through every character, every major character. And it's, like, what? What just happened?

SALLY: Yeah. Did you guys know that montage, the actual film theory of montage, was actually a Russian propaganda technique?

EMILY: What?

SALLY: It was developed by a man named Sergei Eisenstein. I think that's the right one. And the concept of actual montage is that – it comes from the idea of Japanese characters, kanji? Is what I think they're called? Where you'll put the kanji for one thing and combine it with another one and it makes a completely different word.

EMILY: Uh-uh.

SALLY: And that's how film montage is supposed to work. You put one image against, like, an opposing image, and put together they create a third meaning that you wouldn't have gotten from either of those images together.

EMILY: Whoa. Like the scene in *500 Days of Summer*?

SALLY: I can't remember that movie.

EMILY: There's a scene where he – it, like, splits the expectations versus reality, and they're just, like, side by side. And then watching them together it's, like, whoa. It's a whole other meaning.

SALLY: Yeah. And I'm, like, trying to remember...there's, like, a really famous movie that uses it...um, but I can't remember the exact example.

EMILY: I'm fucking stunned you remembered the Russian guy who invented it. That was just – you just whipped that out. That was so cool.

SALLY: Thank you. I'm very pedantic about weird details like that, I know.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: At work someone will be like, "What's the name of this foundation?" And I'll be like, "Here's the whole seven word name," and they're like [unintelligible whispers]. But, yeah. I just, and I just think montage is really interesting. And so, yeah, I don't know if it was quite developed as a Russian propaganda technique. It might have been. It was developed around Communism.

EMILY: Sure.

SALLY: But it was used in Russian in propaganda a lot. To have, like, an enemy soldier and then you see you a dead child.

EMILY: Ah, okay.

SALLY: And the implication is that the enemy soldier obviously murdered the dead child.

EMILY: Right.

SALLY: You know, and then you see a dictator and then people prospering, and the idea is that the dictator is – stuff like that. Like why they're prospering.

EMILY: Huh. Well.

SALLY: So, when people say montage in movies. Yes, there are various images put together, but I don't know if it's as often used as to the same effect. Of, like, various images are put together to form a third meaning.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: In this one. I don't know. Let's think about that. Do you think a third meaning is formed by putting all our characters in these little vignettes, as it were?

EMILY: If the meaning is that I'm very bored, then yes. Absolutely.

SALLY: Mat doesn't gamble and Perrin is heterosexual equals Emily is bored.

EMILY: Yeah, exactly. It's just, like, ooooo-kay.

SALLY: Especially – well, there is one pretty legendary one where Egwene is in the bath.

EMILY: Oh yeah.

SALLY: And Aviendha comes in and is like, "You're uncomfortable. I should be naked, too."  
[laughs]

EMILY: And Egwene is like, "Oh god."

SALLY: And then she talks about murdering Berelain. [laughing] Which is, like, I wish that we got that whole entire conversation.

EMILY: I know. It's just, like, come on. I just want to see all of it. Just show how that whole social faux pas played out.

SALLY: Like Egwene, naked, listening to another naked person talk about murder.

EMILY: Egwene's like, "I'm uncomfortable," and Aviendha's like, "I have misinterpreted this completely and will hereby make you more uncomfortable," [laughs]. And Egwene's like, "[chuckles] God, hope this doesn't awaken something in me."

SALLY: I know, but honestly the energy between Egg and Aviendha in this chapter is very sapphic.

EMILY: I know. It's, like, girls just chilling, naked. One of them in the bath. The other one –

SALLY: Just gals being pals!

EMILY: Kind of aquaphobic [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah, aquaphobic is a good word.

EMILY: Is it aquaphobic or hydrophobic?

SALLY: I don't know. Both, probably.

EMILY: I don't know words.

SALLY: A word? What the fuck is a word?

EMILY: Today I found a random ladder in our office building, and I was like, "I really want to climb that ladder." And my coworker was like, "What's wrong with you?" And I was like, "[laughs] I don't know. I'm just really horny for ladders." And she was like, "I'm afraid of heights," but she used the accurate phobia thing, and I was like, "What? You're afraid of ladders?" And she was like, "No, Emily, you dingus."

SALLY: [laughs] You're like, "Listen, my lizard brain has been activated. You can't pull out big words."

EMILY: "I just wanna climb!! Because I'm a *nutcase!*"

SALLY: It happens sometimes.

EMILY: It was just, like, going up to somewhere. And I was like, "I wanna go there."

SALLY: No there was this ladder that went [BLEEP], oh, I shouldn't say the name. The glassblowing studio [laughs], bleep it out.

EMILY: Beeeep!

SALLY: [laughs] Beep it out!

EMILY: There was a ladder at your former place of work.

SALLY: Yeah, and I was always like, "Oh my god. I wanna climb it." Because I think it went into the ducts and stuff above the studio. And I was like, "Oh my god. I wanna climb it."

EMILY: At my former workplace, the clothing store – I’m sure I’ve said it was UNIQLO.

SALLY: The clothing store.

EMILY: The clothing store [laughs].

SALLY: *The* clothing store.

EMILY: Whenever they were like, “Here’s our three-story tall ladder. Does anyone want to climb it?” And everyone was like, “I’m afraid of death.” And I was like, [laughing] “I really wanna climb it. I just wanna climb. It.”

SALLY: And that’s how you ended up in charge of the stockroom, I imagine.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: That’s the test they put you under.

EMILY: They were like, “Can she manage a rowdy group of boys? Yes, she’ll just climb this ladder, no question.”

SALLY: And establish her dominance.

EMILY: Yeah. I was just like, “But the ladder! I love ladders!” Okay, that was a fun sidebar about ladders. Took us away from –

SALLY: Yeah, but anyway Egg at one point is like, “It’s so nice that Aviendha is here to fill the gaps in my busy schedule.” And I’m like, “They fuckin’.”

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Obviously. Or, I wish they were.

EMILY: Yeah, I really wish they were. What’s confusing about this sequence is apparently it’s only three days, and it feels like three weeks.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like.

SALLY: Yeah, it feels really long. When Egg is – especially when people are like, “Time is going by so quickly.” And I’m like, “Three days count for time going by quickly. You just had a weird three days.”

EMILY: Yeah. It’s just three days.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I have three days in a row all the time.

SALLY: It happens every three days [laughs].

EMILY: Like, whoa. Big shocker.

SALLY: That's how the fucking calendar works.

EMILY: And especially because they're like, "Look at these relationships we're establishing." And I'm like, "Aviendha and Egwene make sense." I mean in the canonical terms of –

SALLY: Yeah, them just being friends.

EMILY: Yeah, it's – three days of kind of hanging out a little bit non-stop is a good way to, like, establish a good friendship foundation the way that they do. Rand and Elayne being, like, we're just making out constantly for three days and occasionally smattering in some political advice? And now we're – the next time we see each other I'm gonna impregnate her.

SALLY: Ew! Is that the next time they see each other?

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: Ewwww. Oh my god I hate this! I didn't know that was the timeline!

EMILY: I think in a recent blog I was like, "It's really annoying that..." I said something about timing between Rand and his fucking of women. And I was like, "It feels like he doesn't know Aviendha or," I don't remember what I said. But at least, like, he and Elayne had that time in the Stone of Tear to establish their relationship. And then I read this, and it was literally three days.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And I was like, "Okay, well fuck me for thinking it was like three weeks, because that's how it is written to feel. But, three days? My guys?"

SALLY: Yeah...[laughs].

EMILY: Jesus.

SALLY: Oh my god. I'm not gonna be able to talk for the rest of the episode if they make out for three days, and then the next time they see each other Rand – [gags].

EMILY: Okay, I'll just monologue for the next twenty minutes.

SALLY: Oh my god that's so gross! Imagine, like, knowing a guy for three days and the next time you see him he's just like all up in you. [laughing] Oh my god I hate this. BLEH. Especially Rand. He's gross.

EMILY: Yeah, I know. As someone who's horrified by the idea of sex with men I don't, yeah. Not really.

SALLY: [shudders] I just UGH.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [groaning]

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: I am also just horrified by the fact that Rand does so much impregnating in this series.

EMILY: I know, it's really upsetting.

SALLY: There's – listen, I'm not going to pretend that *Sex and the City* is anybody's pinnacle for gathering feminist theories.

EMILY: Yeah, it's got some troubling things.

SALLY: Or what have you. It's obviously very bad in terms of politics and stuff. But there was this episode the other day that I watched yesterday. In my, like, migraine coma, where I just watch *Sex and the City* now.

EMILY: Sure.

SALLY: Who knows why. It doesn't make me feel any better, physically or mentally.

EMILY: I don't know. It's kind of nice when Samantha's like, "And I'm gonna masturbate on screen for, like, twenty minutes."

SALLY: Yeah, I do love Samantha.

EMILY: Yeah, that's kind of soothing in a weird way [laughs].

SALLY: Samnatha's the best. But there's this whole episode about, like, the relationship between men and their sperm.

EMILY: Oh no.

SALLY: And it's like a source of power.

EMILY: Oh no!

SALLY: Yeah, and all the women are like, “This is ridiculous.” And I’m like, “yes.”

EMILY: That is ridiculous.

SALLY: Why do we have to have Rand spreading his sperm across the continent?

EMILY: It’s especially wild when you consider he impregnates the two women that he A) spends the least amount of time actually having sex with.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So it’s, like, Elayne? One and done.

SALLY: Oh my god. [gags]

EMILY: Aviendha? Literally the second time they fuck.

SALLY: I hate this.

EMILY: Pregnant. And it’s, like, girls what? And then it’s also just, like, they’re the – it feels like a weird genetic thing. Like, they’re the channelers so he’s getting them pregnant and their offspring – of which there are many.

SALLY: Six, right?

EMILY: Yeah, six total, I guess. If Aviendha’s future quest vision is correct. She doesn’t have quadruplets on screen. We just know about it because she has a dumb – she goes through Rhuidean – I don’t want to spoil it for you. It’s very dumb.

SALLY: She’s got a mother vision?

EMILY: Uh, no. It’s not a mother vision. She goes to Rhuidean to become a Wise One, you know Wise Ones go twice and she, instead of seeing the past, sees, like, a version of the future.

SALLY: Huh.

EMILY: In which she has four kids.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: Four quadruplets, and it’s pretty buck wild. Anyway, so it’s, like, why isn’t Min, the one he’s frequently having sex with, I am giving to understand, and also Min is – I don’t – it never really says anything about birth control, which is no reason to believe she’s not using it, but.



SALLY: It's just one of those things that, like, whatever. Continue your point, and then I'll...

EMILY: Oh, just that Min's not one of the, like, channelers.

SALLY: Yeah, it feels like a weird –

EMILY: So why would she have children, you know?

SALLY: Um, a weird form of...I don't want to say eugenics, because isn't that...?

EMILY: It's like the opposite.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's this weird form of establishing the divine right to rule, in a way.

SALLY: Yeah, there you go.

EMILY: Like Avienhda and Elayne's kids are gonna be super powered channelers, and their parents are going to be, like, rulers, so. I don't know. And Min just kind of has this whoooo weird ambiguous relationship to power.

SALLY: Yeah, it's also, this is kind of roundabout. But I don't know if you remember this conversation in our werewolf class [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: About how, um, female werewolves, somehow they always are, in these narratives, they are always – why did I just mime that I was ripping out my womb? But that's what's happened – that's what's done to them narratively. Like, they quote unquote lose the ability to have children or become pregnant. And that somehow, like, justifies or makes it okay for them to have this wanton sexuality, because, like, the quote unquote danger of it, or, like, the – because it's apparently more irresponsible for women to fuck without concern, you know? And in a way, if you have a uterus and can become impregnated, like, yes there's a little bit more danger, but there's somehow, someone in the narrative to just justify that women can do whatever they want without the worrisome...challenge of having children. And it's just, like, this really weird way, because then of course you have the famous Joss Whedon, "I'm a monster because I can't have children," narrative that's, like, laid upon that. So there's just these weird layers of fertility that make women or break women, and I hate it.

EMILY: Yeah, like, it's like Min can't have kids because she's otherwise masculated by the narrative.

SALLY: Yeah, that's a good point.

EMILY: It's so odd. It's also just so, like, the am – the preg – the impregnation narratives in this series are buckwild in terms of, like, how he just throws them in when it's convenient. Like, Perrin and Faile? Nothing.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: Which, I mean, sort of goes back to your werewolf point.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But then, sorry I'm about to break something to you that is really upsetting.

SALLY: Okay. Go ahead.

EMILY: And this is a spoiler for Book 14, y'all, so skip the next twelve seconds if you don't want to hear it. Uh, but the time Book 14 ends, Tuon is pregnant.

SALLY: Ohhhh.

EMILY: And she and Mat fucked once, I think.

SALLY: I hate that!

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: Oh my god I hate that.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Ugh. Tuon is not – I haven't met her officially on screen, but she's not [laughing] building up a good case for herself in my liking of her.

EMILY: I used to really like her, and in many ways I still think she's a fascinating character, but she has too much forced upon her by the narrative. There's too much work she has to do as a character as, like, the one representative of a lot of things. That it's just, like, she's sort of in an impossible position.

SALLY: Yeah, and you're right I shouldn't – it's not...

EMILY: No, I mean, hate her if you want to. That's totally fine. She's –

SALLY: I mean, I haven't even met her on screen. I just – it's gonna be a lot for me to feel like I'm gonna allow myself to like a Seanchan character, but we can talk about *that* –

EMILY: When we get there?

SALLY: When we get there, because everyone knows that I loathe the Seanchan, and can't get over that. Um, but I just...[sighs] I hate that Tuon gets pregnant. Like why? Why does she need to get pregnant? Oh, right. Because she's an empress and whatever and you have to have an heir blah.

EMILY: Yeah, and to, like, establish her and Mat's weird relationship in terms of, like, their marriage and weird Seanchan rules of we just assassinate each other willy nilly in Seanchan land, or whatever.

SALLY: [laughs] Seanchan land.

EMILY: [using a Texan accent] Seanchan land, where everyone talks with a Texan accent.

SALLY: [Texan accent] Oh Seanchan.

EMILY: Um.

SALLY: [Texan accent] Oh, George.

EMILY: [Texan accent] Not the livestock.

SALLY: [Texan accent] Not the livestock [laughs].

EMILY: So I'm sorry to have broken that to you.

SALLY: That makes me so upset.

EMILY: But it's relevant in our –

SALLY: No it is relevant.

EMILY: Conversation about pregnant people.

SALLY: Just one more instance of this really shitty narrative that Robert Jordan – it also bothers me that Min is the only one of Rand's wives that doesn't get pregnant. Where it's, like, she's not – it's not acceptable enough for her to be wife material and mother of his children material.

EMILY: Yeah, she's literally just, like, mistress. Constantly.

SALLY: Yeah, I really hate that.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Min deserves so much better.

EMILY: Like Elayne? Total wifey in terms of –

SALLY: [laughs] You're so right.

EMILY: Everything. Like, Elayne would get lingerie that says "wifey."

SALLY: And have like, "live laugh love" hanging above their bed.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Always kiss me goodnight.

EMILY: Like, white lingerie, which is like –

SALLY: [shuddering noises]

EMILY: I know that's your thing.

SALLY: You've heard my rant about white lingerie [laughs].

EMILY: There's a lot going on in the way women feel they should wear white lingerie on their wedding night, etc.

SALLY: Yeah, there's a lot there.

EMILY: [sighs] Anyway, sorry for that fifteen minute rant about something that isn't relevant in the plot yet

SALLY: I mean, kind of.

EMILY: But this is what we're doing on EHR now. You can take it or leave it.

SALLY: Yeah, we're going away from the chapter by chapter synopsis.

EMILY: Just talking about whatever strikes our fucking fancy.

SALLY: Yeah, this is what we did for four years in college.

EMILY: Well, it's what men in my English classes did in college.

SALLY: Yeah, you're right.

EMILY: And I just sort of zoned out, because.

SALLY: I was like, "I don't care about your opinion, Bradthony."

EMILY: I was like, [laughing] “One day I’ll have my own platform where I’ll have a captive audience.”

SALLY: Heh-heh!

EMILY: Heh!

SALLY: But I mean, it is relevant, because, like, a large part of this – these two chapters is based on Rand’s relationship to women, which is in large part formed on his weird shame around his own sexuality.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: Like, his entire relationship to, like, protecting women comes from this, like, weird chivalrous ideal that’s somehow also supposed to be chaste in nature.

EMILY: Yes, Rand’s ideal version of himself is just this, oh god, I hate to use this analogy, but it’s so accurate. Rand has this very, um, Mormon teen boy idealized view of himself, which is someone who never has sex, never has any sort of sexual feelings, is totally sexless until the point of marriage, and at that point we can begin having a very vanilla sex life.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Not to pin that on all Mormons because I know that’s not the case, but that’s fed into by the culture of the Church, and many other religions I’m sure. But that’s the one I have experience with. So, it’s sort of like, “If I look at a woman sexually until then, or after then who’s not my wife, then that’s all on me.”

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And of course, it’s not a woman, you know, it’s not a woman’s fault if you think of her sexually, but it’s, like, I have to flagellate myself for that, because I’m committing some sort of sin by having a sexual idea. And also, then women are to be preserved, put on pedestals. So, chastity and chivalry really do just go super hand in fucking hand. And it’s really problematic.

SALLY: Yeah, I like the idea – the wording that you used. Women are to be ‘preserved.’

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Because then, yeah, that also strips women of any of their inherent sexuality, which somehow, despite all these conversations that Rand’s having with himself around sex and chastity, like, a woman’s sexual agency never seems to, like, cross his mind?

EMILY: Yeah, never does he consider, “Well Elayne sure does seem to like kissing me, so maybe that’s relevant.”

SALLY: “We’re good.” Yeah.

EMILY: Or “Lanfear’s really coming on to me strong, so maybe the idea that I am having sort of sexual reactions to that isn’t totally out of the norm.”

SALLY: Yeah, this beautiful woman is like, “I want to fuck you.” All of us would be –

EMILY: Of course your dick would kind of stand at attention to that, you know? Like, it’s totally, normally biological.

SALLY: Yeah, it’s – yeah. And so, [whispers] ugh, Rand. But yeah, then he has to be like [softly], “Lanfear, I don’t want to have sex with you. I don’t want you to get the wrong impression.”

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: “Of me wanting to have sex with you, even though I totally do” [laughs].

EMILY: [softly] “Listen, you’re a beautiful woman and I’m sure [laughing] you’ll make some man very happy.”

SALLY: “I’m sure you’ll be the mother of some great babies.”

EMILY: “Some very handsome boys.”

SALLY: “But they’re not going to be my babies. You’re going to give some man the *best* sons, to carry on – ”

BOTH: His family name [both laugh].

SALLY: “But they’re not going to be my sons. I have promised my dick to another.”

EMILY: “To another three, actually.”

SALLY: “To another three. And I will feel bad about that forever.” [laughs]

EMILY: And it’s just, like, credit where credit’s due, all three women that Rand’s actually romantically involved with are, like, “We’re sexually active. We’re taking a part in our own sexuality. We are pursuing our desires.” And then – but then it’s relentlessly Rand unable to see that, and some of the blame for that definitely lands on Robert Jordan being unwilling to change Rand’s perspective.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's like he, at some point, realized, "Well I really – the narrative won't allow for Rand to change his whole chivalry thing, so I can't ever have him put that in danger by changing his chastity thing."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's the – the two are too intertwined. And so it just becomes this monstrosity of a thing where Rand, in, like, Book 13, is still treating sex like it's a terrible thing that he's inflicting upon women. And also is, like, "But I can't hurt women!" [groans]

SALLY: It's, like, all so gross, especially when you like – ugh. And going back to the idea that women have to be preserved and they cannot be touched sexually and cannot be killed?

EMILY: Uh-huh.

SALLY: Like both of those concepts, intertwined.

EMILY: Yes. Women are musem pieces.

SALLY: Yeah, put on a pedestal.

EMILY: Literally, yeah.

SALLY: It's just, ugh.

EMILY: It's the same. Yeah. Yeah.

SALLY: It's just gross. Rand – I know we've talked about this at length – but it really is, sometimes Robert Jordan's mirror self is stepping out to slap me across the face with how disgusting Rand's relationship to women is.

EMILY: I've never linked them in my head before, until now, though. Like, it hadn't occurred to me until now that those two were so completely intertwined. But you're right. The same instinct that is, like, "Can't kill women," is the same like, "Can't touch women, either."

SALLY: Yeah, which is like – I don't think I linked it until I was having, like, a weird self-monologue about sex positivity and shame. I don't know. That's my weird journey, my weird thought journey that I'm on these days. I'm like really interested in that whole thing. And so I was thinking about it as I was driving to work, as one does.

EMILY: Sure.

SALLY: Drinking my Diet Coke. And, yeah, for some reason I was like, "Oh, yeah. This is interesting to think about in terms of Rand," which is the character I see as having, like, the most shame. So, yeah. Anyway, where was I going with that? I got distracted by the Instagram notification.

EMILY: Yeah, sorry me too. We got an Instagram notification that was like, “Nynaeve al’Meara started following you on Twitter,” and I was like...

SALLY: Mom???

EMILY: “Okay.”

SALLY: Beyoncé?

EMILY: [laughs] Beyoncé? It was Instagram actually, not Twitter. Um.

SALLY: Um. But, yeah, it’s – that linking is really upsetting.

EMILY: Yeah, and then it just further is like – like, it’s so typical that the dead body that Rand tries to resurrect at the end of this sequence after the Stone of Tear has been attacked, um, is a little girl.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, okay. You’re a little on the nose there, Robert. We all saw that one coming.

SALLY: Yeah, of course. I don’t think, I really don’t believe he would have had the same reaction if it was a little boy.

EMILY: Yeah, it’s just like little boys die in battle all the time.

SALLY: He’d be like, “Little boys die.” Yeah.

EMILY: What the fuck?

SALLY: First of all, no they don’t?

EMILY: He was old enough to carry a sword, therefore he was old enough to die.

SALLY: But a little girl? God fucking forbid.

EMILY: Yeah. And blood’s on the bosom of her dress and it’s just a very weirdly worded paragraph or two.

SALLY: Yeah, that paragraph is nasty.

EMILY: Yeah, where he’s like, “She’s not quite a child, but she’s also not a teenager yet, either.” And it’s like, “Oooh, gross. Gross, gross, gross, gross, gross.”

SALLY: Yeah those are words you should not say, ever.



EMILY: Like apply to a girl. Children!

SALLY: Children are children.

EMILY: They're children.

SALLY: Period. Teenagers are children.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: They can have their own sexuality, [laughs] but not from an adult perspective.

EMILY: Ugh!

SALLY: Do not sexualize teenagers. Jesus Christ.

EMILY: I was watching Billy Elliot last night with friends of the podcast [laughs] Devin and Janet. And it was so hilarious, because Devin's reflex whenever anything gets emotional is to make a joke.

SALLY: Oh my god.

EMILY: And Janet was like fucking, [laughing] "Shh!"

SALLY: Be quiet!

EMILY: Whenever – she was like, "Devin, I love you, but you need..."

SALLY: To feel this feeling.

EMILY: And then after a scene was over she was like, "Okay, Devin." And he would run through a list of jokes he'd just been holding on the inside. Anyway, at one point in the movie I was like, "One of the things I really like about this movie is how Billy's sexuality is ambiguous. It's never canonized in either – in any direction." And Devin was like, "Yeah, he's like 11." And I was like, "Yeah, that's the point. He's like 11. But all of the adults in the movie are, like, forcing, like, this conversation about sexuality onto him. When he's 11. And he can do whatever the fuck he wants. He can have a sexuality if he wants. He can not have a sexuality."

SALLY: Not think about it.

EMILY: Yeah. He can just love fucking dancing.

SALLY: Yeah! All he wants to do is dance!

EMILY: Ugh!

SALLY: That was, like, the most stressed I've ever gotten watching a movie. I didn't know if Billy was gonna get into –

EMILY: I know. We got to that scene and I was like, "Sally had to hold my hand for, like, 10 minutes at this point and it was really funny."

SALLY: I was so stressed. And they were like, "Sally's an idiot. Why do you hang out with her?"

EMILY: No Janet was like, "[gasps] That's so cute!"

SALLY: I was so stressed that Billy wasn't going to get into the Royal Ballet.

EMILY: Yeah, listen to our most recent We Don't Watch Outlander.

SALLY: It's very good. It's just us screaming for 30 minutes.

EMILY: About how cute Billy Elliot is.

SALLY: Yeah, he's just a little boy who loves to dance!

EMILY: So good. Okay.

SALLY: What else is there to say? But anyway, Lanfear is like, "You're mine!" And Rand's like, [laughs], "What the fuck's happening?"

EMILY: This is the hilarious scene where Rand finds out she is Lanfear, and what's hilarious about it is that he never does figure it out. She just has to tell him.

SALLY: She's like, "I'm not Selene. You're so stupid."

EMILY: "Like, oh my Christ you're still on that? I've literally, literally could not have done a worse performance as 'Selene,' the ingenue."

SALLY: Dion [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, my heart will go on. "Like, I was literally just appearing in places. I was teleporting. I was leaving cryptic notes in the dead of night. What more could you have possibly wanted from me to clue you into the fact that I was not this woman?"

SALLY: And Rand's like, "Oh my god. We'll make sure you get back to Cairhien and your land so you can get married, or whatever."

EMILY: She's like, "I'm Lanfear." And he's like, "Oh, I need to get her to the insane asylum."

SALLY: “She’s crazy. I need to have her committed.”

EMILY: “It’s one flew over the cuckoo’s nest. Oh my god.”

SALLY: “She’s hysterical.”

EMILY: “She’s *hysterical!!*”

SALLY: “Hysterical!!”

EMILY: “Her womb is wandering!”

SALLY: [laughs] “Her dress is white! Is it safe?!”

EMILY: [ghost noises]

SALLY: [laughing] “I’m gonna have to see period blood!”

EMILY: “Ahhh!

SALLY: [laughing] “That’s my worst nightmare!”

EMILY: Oh my goooooood.

SALLY: “It’s the scariest thing of all!”

EMILY: Ugh.

SALLY: That’s the Dark One’s taint [laughs].

EMILY: Rand is totally the type of man who would be like, “I don’t care what you want. I’m not having sex with you on your period, because that grosses me out.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it’s, like, well okay, homie. It’s a conversation. All sex is a conversation. We should be having.

SALLY: Yeah. It’s a dialogue, fuckers.

EMILY: Ahhhgh. Sex ed, with us. Hello.

SALLY: It’s been like this whole fucking episode.

EMILY: Yeah. Which, strangely is like last episode. I don’t know.

SALLY: There's just, like, the Stone of Tear is like a weirdly sexually charged sequence.

EMILY: Yeah, for Rand who – I mean Rand and Elayne. Perrin and Faile, who are also having their own issues. Perrin's whole thing is, "I have to get Faile out of here." But then very cutely, I want to say, Rand has this, like, moment where he's wandering around the Stone of Tear and he sees Perrin and Faile literally fighting back to back.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which is just, like, what more do you need in terms of your guys', like, staying together? Like, Perrin, she's *literally* guarding your back. Because she's a competent woman. I mean, I have my issues with their relationship.

SALLY: My issues with their relationship is not anything, like, inherent with Perrin and Faile. It's just the way they treat their relationship.

EMILY: Yeah, it's their relationship with the relationship [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah, exactly. It's not – if you take all that bullshit out they're just like a cute couple.

EMILY: Yeah, I actually had the realization that the only positive sex – you know, fade to black sex scene that I could think of in *Wheel of Time* is at the very end of this book, when, right after they've fought off the Two Rivers, and Faile's like [laughing], "Okay, I don't want to be too forward, but I kind of want to fuck right now." And Perrin's like, "Sweet!"

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: And they, like, run off. And it's just, like, an enthusiastic newly married couple who are like, "Yeah, we are gonna fuck. Because we are on adrenaline right now, and we are *into it*. Into each other." And I'm like, "Oh, finally. Some people having sex and enjoying it." Unlike Rand, who's like [laughing], "I'm terrified of this entire experience."

SALLY: That scene is really cute. I forgot about that. Where they're, like, on his horse and he's like, "Time to go!" [laughs]

EMILY: He's like, "I've gotta have sex right now!" And Faile's like, "whee!"

SALLY: [laughing] It's a really cute scene.

EMILY: I know. It's adorable.

SALLY: It's really precious. I'd forgotten about that one. Well see, there is some positive things happening in *The Shadow Rising*.

EMILY: Yeah, it's just, like, come on, guys. And then there's Mat...well, [laughs] there's always Mat.

SALLY: There's always Mat.

EMILY: Mat's like, "Yeah, ever since the card incident" [laughs].

SALLY: "Nobody will fuck me."

EMILY: "Nobody will fuck me and nobody will gamble with me."

SALLY: And he's like, "And those are the two things I love the most."

EMILY: "Those are literally my only two hobbies right now. Reading? No."

SALLY: "Oh no. I don't know how to read."

EMILY: "I'm gonna wander down to the basement occasionally and be like, 'hmm? Should I? Should I? No.'"

SALLY: "And have my Hamlet monologues in the basement."

EMILY: Yeah. Like, "Okay, I'd have to be an idiot." Three days later.

SALLY: "Wait, I am an idiot."

EMILY: "Wait, I am that idiot."

SALLY: "God who am I kidding?"

EMILY: "I'm exactly that level of stupid to pull this off."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Come on.

SALLY: Oh, he's so dumb.

EMILY: Yeah, and then Nynaeve and Elayne are just like, "Hmm hmm hmm. Spending time with our boos."

SALLY: [vocalizing]

EMILY: Nynaeve's like, "I'm literally cooking for Lan. I'm terrible at cooking, but that's what ladies do."

SALLY: I must have, like, blocked that out of my memory.

EMILY: Yeah, it's kind of in the middle of a fun Egwene paragraph and she's like...

SALLY: [laughing] It's like a fucking cactus. Tybalt has fully pretzeled himself into a box that is too small for him, and it's really funny.

EMILY: Like, I think he's asleep. Oh boy. How'd he get comfortable?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: He's so stupid.

SALLY: He's so funny.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: But. Yeah. I guess, there's not really anything – Rand has, like, makes some weird lightning storm. Rand uses *callandor*.

EMILY: Yeah, Rand becomes afeard. I mean, Lanfear is always like, “Fuck me. Use your power.” Et cetera, et cetera. And Rand is like, “No, no, no, no, no.” But he does occasionally use his power kind of in the way she's directed him to, I guess.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: There's also just the whole, “Who the fuck is sending Trollocs into the Stone of Tear?” And I'm also like – oh yeah, I remember now. I was like, “Why don't these people just teleport them?” But it's, like, because you can't have Trollocs – you can't have Shadowspawn cross through Traveling gates.

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: Which is sure a convenient rule, you know?

SALLY: [clicks tongue]

EMILY: [laughs] But also it's just, like, oo-kay. So they have to have this convoluted plan about, like, sending –

SALLY: Like grain barges?

EMILY: Yeah, like grain barges and Lan's like, “Literally the detective work in Tear is subpart to not realize that this was an issue, but sure.”

SALLY: Why not? I figured it out in four seconds.

EMILY: While I was fully fighting. Like, Rand's like, "How'd they'd get in?" And Lan just, like, has this – he's got his police sketch ready to go. And I'm like, "What? What have you been?"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: You saw Trollocs and have just been, like, dodging.

SALLY: Yeah, like Sherlocking your way through.

EMILY: Yeah, John Wick-ing your way through the halls, protecting Moiraine and doing your killing stuff, and then you're also like, "And how did they get in? I wonder. I'll question this guy!" How could that possibly –

SALLY: "Excuse me! Mr. Trolloc! How did you get in here?"

EMILY: "Mr. Trolloc."

SALLY: And the Trolloc's like, "Beh! Barge!" [laughs]

EMILY: Oh my god there's a scene where Rand's like, "Oh, no, a Trolloc's going to kill me!" And then another Trolloc kills him and I was like, "That's Larry!"

SALLY: Yeah, me too! I was like, "This would be Larry's entrance! This would be Larry's entrance!" [laughs]

EMILY: And Rand's like, "What the fuck?" And then Larry's just like, "Peace! I'm in the middle of it here. Where's Jeremy?"

SALLY: Larry – yeah, and then Jeremy rolls in with, like, torches in his teeth.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: [laughs] Stephanie –

SALLY: Stephanie the butch wolf is ripping out throats. It would be so good.

EMILY: Ah! The power trio we all need.

SALLY: I know. God. Yeah, Larry just, like, fucking [sighs]. So good.

EMILY: Yeah. But actually, Trollocs are fighting each other I think because two different Forsaken are doing shit. It's very oblique and it's just hilarious how these things keep happening.

And everyone at the time is like, “I wonder how and why this is happening?” And then two pages later they’re like, “I’ve forgotten about it.”

SALLY: “Oh, you remember the huge mass attack on the Stone of Tear? Nbd, we’re going to the Aiel Waste” [laughs].

EMILY: And it’s like, I can see that from Mat. Mat who’s like, “Fucking this is just every – this is just another day in the office, baby. I just walk out my front door and someone’s attacking me.”

SALLY: Mm-mm. God, I would have loved to see Mat in this scene.

EMILY: Yeah, I was a little bit upset. Rand has these moments where he sees Perrin and Faile, and he sees Moiraine and Lan, and I’m like, “I want to see Mat’s fighting style from outside of himself.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Especially when he doesn’t have his big spear thing.

SALLY: Yeah. Would Rand just be like, “I couldn’t even see Mat. [laughing] His staff was going so fast.”

EMILY: [sounds mimicking a staff whipping around]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But it’s like, yeah, Mat has never had reasons presented to him for why people are attacking him, [laughs] so why fucking question it now?

SALLY: Yeah, why start now? Waste of brain power.

EMILY: He’s just like, “Rand.”

SALLY: He’s like, “*Ta’veren*.”

EMILY: “*Ta’veren*. Don’t say it, Thom.”

SALLY: “Thom, I’ll kill you.”

EMILY: “I’ll fucking murder you. I will leave right now, Thom.”

SALLY: “Thom, it’s not a fucking joke.” Okay, I feel like we should talk about hot Lan for just, like, a second.



EMILY: Huh? Oh! Yeah. Ah, why didn't we talk about that at the beginning? It's because I forgot that it happened.

SALLY: It's because we were talking about – I don't even know. Halloween?

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, we did go on a rampage –

SALLY: Anyway, the cactor – the cactor [laughs].

EMILY: [snorts]

SALLY: [laughs]. The actor cast to play Lan in the show is really hot [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, I don't know what else there is to say about it. It's just kind of, like, upsetting.

SALLY: Yeah, it just kind of pissed me off, because I was like, "Goddamit, now I have to like this motherfucker. Because he's so *pretty!*"

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I'm also very happy that it's an Asian man.

EMILY: Yeah, that's great.

SALLY: Good job, *Wheel of Time*, on Amazon Prime.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Heh! That's fun to say.

EMILY: *Wheel of Time* on Amazon Prime.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Yep. Okay, anyway. We have talked long enough. I feel like weird not doing any summary really, but it's okay. I'm trying to ease myself into that zone.

SALLY: So, let us know how you liked it. If we should do more summary, or if that was, like, a good tackle at some overarching *Wheel of Time* themes?

EMILY: Where we just kind of, yeah, detour to any points of interest along the way.

SALLY: Yeah, um, because it's one of those chapters that isn't super plot heavy, except for Lanfear being like, "We'll get Asmodean to teach you how to Channel."

EMILY: Yeah, there are some things. There are some little throwaways. Lanfear at one point mentions that *callandor* is the, like, third most powerful *s'angreal* available for men, referencing the – what are those called? The Choedan Kal, and another one that does not make an appearance until the last book in the series. And, of course, everyone at that point had forgotten this throwaway line. But then, hey, Demandred is like, "Hello, I'm here."

SALLY: "I'm here. Guess what I've been doing this whole time?"

EMILY: [laughing] "So much, you guys. So much."

SALLY: Kinda horny for Demandred.

EMILY: I know. He's just the only competent one.

SALLY: I just love a competent man.

EMILY: Yeah, he's just like, "I've stayed on task."

SALLY: "Listen, nah. I followed the assignment."

EMILY: Yeah. "I filled out – the rubric? The Dark One's rubric that he gave me?"

SALLY: "Fucking checkmarks, all the way down."

EMILY: "All the way down, baby."

SALLY: "I lead this group project to success."

EMILY: "I'm an A+ student."

SALLY: "I have a 4.5 GPA."

EMILY: God, Demandred.

SALLY: "I'm getting into Harvard."

EMILY: [snorts] What, like it's hard?

SALLY: What, like it's hard?

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] Oh my god. Cast Reese Witherspoon to play Demandred [laughs].

EMILY: God, she'd pull it off with such panache.

SALLY: I know. Specifically, Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods as Demandred.

EMILY: Exactly [laughs].

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Counterpoint: Reese Witherspoon as Asmodean.

SALLY: [laughs] Yes. Perfect.

EMILY: Anyway, yeah. So that sort of set up some plot stuff for later in the book, but that's pretty much it.

SALLY: I'm sorry that I always call him Asmo-deen.

EMILY: It's fine.

SALLY: I just can't –

EMILY: Maybe that's his real pronunciation. I don't know. Should we check the pronunciation guide?

SALLY: No. You know that that is against the rules!

EMILY: [choppy laugh]

SALLY: Of this podcast! That we established.

EMILY: He's like the first one, though. Is he?

SALLY: No, I think we referenced it once before.

EMILY: No, he's like way into the...

SALLY: Because you are un criminalas.

EMILY: Oh my god. He's not even in here, yet.

SALLY: Ha-ha. Sucks to be you, Asmo-deen.

EMILY: Fuck!

SALLY: Where did this sign-off go? Bleck.

EMILY: Oh, do you have a sign off for us? Thank you for listening! Please check us out on all our social medias. Thank you to Glynna Mackenzie for the use of our theme song, that she made and has no title. Yet. Maybe we should title it for her.

SALLY: The best song of all time by Glynna Mackenzie?

EMILY: Yeah, that's pretty much it. Thank you.

SALLY: [laughs] The most bitchin' song of all time by Glynna Mackenzie?

EMILY: So beautiful.

SALLY: The raddest song of all thing. The wokest song – not the wokest. Maybe the most yoked song of all time.

EMILY: Do you have a sign off?

SALLY: I do.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: This comes [laughs] – this is a listener sign-off. Finally, you're not gonna have to listen to my bullshit today. Um, so this sign-off. [whispers] Emily, I'm sorry but you're not gonna like this one.

EMILY: Is it spiders?

SALLY: [whispers] Yeah.

EMILY: [yells]

SALLY: Um, so. [clears throat] The – they submitted two sign-offs. The second happened while I was working, driving a bus. I was driving through a very narrow stretch of my route and happened to be wearing a baseball cap when an, admittedly small, spider repelled down in front of my face from the bill of my hat. And I nearly drove off the road. Could you imagine if you were wearing your Mariner's hat and a little baby spider was like [vocalizing], "Breaking news. I'm here."

EMILY: Well now I can.

SALLY: [laughs] Um, and that comes from, um, Sarah Widhalm. Am I saying that right, Sarah? Or am I just slaughtering your name? Either way, we love you. Thank you for being the coolest.

EMILY: Now both of our nightmare subjects have been brought to center stage.

SALLY: [shuddering noises] God, you're right.

EMILY: Happy Halloween! Heh-heh.

SALLY: [singing] The itsy-bitsy spider –

EMILY: I fucking –

SALLY: [singing] came down my baseball cap!

EMILY: I'm fucking going to kill you. Goodbye.

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