



Episode 101: **EARN THE EGG**

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Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books. So if you're anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

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

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Emily: Hi. (laugh)

Sally: Hello.

Emily: What's happening?

Sally: I'm very cranky, and I just want to eat my Skittles. (laugh)

Emily: I'm sorry. I'm pretty cranky too, and I want to eat my M&Ms, so this is gonna be a bad episode. (laugh)

Sally: It's just -- today has been so dumb.

Emily: Yeah. Mine too. It was pretty bad. I was trying to, like -- my voice has been cracking a lot this weekend, 'cause I've been sick, and that's what happens to me, and so on the way home I was trying to, like, practice my instrument -- you know, exercise my instrument by singing along to the radio, but I was cracking worse than One Direction, the early days, so.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: If I sound funny, that's why.

Sally: She's just sickie.

Emily: I'm just a sickie who wants to eat their M&Ms 'cause Sally got candy.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She's so nice.

Sally: It's a candy day.

Emily: It sure is a candy day. I guess last episode was so good that that sort of gives us, like, a -- a get-out-of-jail --

Sally: A buffer, yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Free card for this episode. (laugh) This is Everybody Has Trauma, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast -- credit to both Al and Matt --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Al for the phrase, Matt for the accompanying art.

Sally: "All those poor kids have PTSD."

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Frowny face. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Frowny face. Um, it's your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I am Sally Goodger.

Emily: As we mentioned, we had a really successful one hundredth episode, and we really liked it, and we're glad that you guys seemed to like it too.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: It made us really happy. And we're happy that you thought all of our contributors were really funny, 'cause they super are.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: They're such delights, and that's the reason we keep doing this, is 'cause most -- most of you are delightful. (laugh)

Sally: Most of you.

Emily: Should I edit that to say "all of you are delightful"?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Even though it would be a --

Sally: No, they know who they are.

Emily: It would be a lie. Some of you. Probably if you're listening to episode one hundred and one, you're not one of the non-delightful people.

Sally: Yeah. You probably aren't one of the people who's, like --

Emily: You probably wouldn't have got past the caveat at the beginning.

Sally: Yeah. Like, "You have vocal fry, and I hate you."

Emily: People haven't DMed us about hating Rand in a while --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So I feel like the caveat's working.

Sally: Me too. Now they just leave nasty things in other places.

Emily: Do they? No, I don't want to know. You told -- you told me last time, and it made me upset.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not, like, in an upset, like, vulnerable way. Upset in a, like, I want to go into these people's houses and smack them upside the head for just being like, "Mind your business."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If you don't like it, don't fuckin' tell someone.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Just don't listen to it.

Sally: It's so easy.

Emily: Do you know how many podcasts there are out there that I don't like and also don't listen to?

Sally: (laugh) Do you know how easy it is to just not listen to something?

Emily: I support men's rights -- men's rights to shut the fuck up.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Support Planned Parenthood! (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, seriously. I'm going to go give them, like, all of the money in my bank account.

Emily: Don't do that, 'cause we do have to get a house. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) OK, I won't give them --

Emily: All of the money.

Sally: You're right. I will give them eight dollars.

Emily: Just some of the money. If you have money -- HEY. If you, this week, were thinking of buying us a Kofi, instead send that money right on to Planned Parenthood.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I like the way you said that.

Emily: Pla-a-a-anned Parenthood.

Sally: Send that money right on to Pla-a-a-anned Parenthood.

Emily: Pla-a-a-a-n -- (laugh) pla-a-a-a-nned.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Do you -- what if Lan's name was pronounced that way?

Sally: La-a-a-an.

Emily: In the pronunciation guide, it says, "Lan, but you have to 'baah' like a sheep in the middle."

Sally: La-a-a-an. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Oh my God --

Sally: La-a-a-an. (laugh)

Emily: Ahh! Stop. It's so funny. (laugh) Oh my gosh. OK, we have to get through this, 'cause I have to FaceTime my sister.

Sally: Oh, I'm so sorry, I didn't know.

Emily: No, don't be sorry. I was like, "I don't really know when I'll be done recording my dumb podcast," and she was like, "Ha ha ha, your dumb podcast." And I was like, "I know. It is."

Sally: It's a -- sorry, Anne.

Emily: But it's also income.

Sally: Yeah. Please buy stickers.

Emily: Oh, yeah. Buy stickers. Our stickers are -- OK, back. We have to fucking talk about the Wheel of Time.

Sally: Also, donate to Planned Parenthood.

Emily: Uggghhh. OK, so our reprieve -- our brief reprieve from -- well, technically, we're not back with Perrin. But we are back with Nynaeve and Elayne and Egeanin.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The girl band that I never wanted.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're so bad. Which of the Spice Girls do you think they are? Egeanin's Sporty Spice.

Sally: First of all, there are five Spice Girls, so --

Emily: I know.

Sally: Thom and Juilin or Bayle Domon also have to be included.

Emily: (laugh) OK. Thom and Bayle Domon, obviously, 'cause --

Sally: OK.

Emily: Juilin shouldn't be there, as we all know.

Sally: OK. Yeah. Egeanin can be Sporty Spice, Elayne is Baby Spice --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Nynaeve is Scary Spice.

Emily: Oh my God, you're on a fucking roll.

Sally: Umm.

Emily: Who are the other two?

Sally: It's --

Emily: Posh Spice ...

Sally: Posh Spice and Ginger Spice. Thom would be Posh Spice, which means that Bayle Domon is Ginger Spice.

Emily: You're right, you're right.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Damn, that was so fast!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I thought that would be, like, a bit that would last for a while. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But no, Sally just knows the Spice Girls off the top of her head.

Sally: Of COURSE I know the Spice Girls. Who do you think I am? I could've just obliterated my brand in 30 seconds flat if I didn't know who the Spice Girls were. (laugh)

Emily: Shot in the head. (laugh)

Sally: I would have no -- yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Execution-style.

Sally: I would have no authority anymore.

Emily: Do you ever think about the zoo we went to in London that had, just, a video of, um, what's-his-name sleeping?

Sally: (laugh) Oh, yeah. David Beckham?

Emily: David Beckham.

Sally: Yeah, it was the National Portrait Gallery.

Emily: And it was like, “Here, just enjoy this weirdly erotic video of David Beckham sleeping.” And I was like, “I don’t like it.”

Sally: I literally had not thought about that since I saw it --

Emily: I think about it every day!

Sally: Until you just told me. Because it was so weird my brain was like, “Nope,” and, like, shut the iron curtain on it.

Emily: There are probably some things that you remember from our museum experience that I’ve shut down.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, yeah, the David Beckham sleeping one was --

Sally: It was weird.

Emily: Was mine.

Sally: it was -- and, like, people were like, “Oh my God, David Beckham.” And I was like, “This is disgusting.”

Emily: I was like, we’re watching a person sleep. I hate it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We’re -- we are all Edward in this moment.

Sally: Euuugghh. Ewwww.

Emily: Exactly. That’s what Edward was doing.

Sally: I don’t like inhabiting that space.

Emily: Also, that’s definitely someone’s fetish.

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Y’know?

Sally: Specifically watching David Beckham sleep?

Emily: Yeah. Specifically David Beckham. Someone is, like, fantasizing about that now, as we speak. Someone, when I said, "Remember that video about David Beckham sleeping?" was like, "Oooh." (laugh) "That got me."

Sally: (laugh) Google immediately. Pause.

Emily: "That got me."

Sally: "David Beckham sleeping."

Emily: So if that's you ... I mean, I guess it could be worse, so.

Sally: Not gonna yuck your yums, you know.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) Um. Whatever. Fucking Nynaeve and Elayne and Egeanin are sitting around trying to eat with chopsticks, but of course there's a different word. 'Cause this is Wheel of Time, and we can't call them chopsticks.

Sally: Yeah, we can't call them chopsticks. That would be ridiculous.

Emily: And they're like, "Oh, we're all using -- we're all eating Arad Doman food this week and using --"

Sally: (laugh) It's very weird.

Emily: "Using their instruments." Sidebar, remember how they cast Leane, and she's the most beautiful woman --

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: On the entire planet?

Sally: I can't talk about it. She's so hot. (laugh)

Emily: Do you -- I mean, we all knew she was gonna have to be hot.

Sally: I know.

Emily: But I was worried they'd be, like, MILF hot.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they were like, "No, we're just going full hot."

Sally: She's so hot. (laugh) Literally, the picture she posted where she's, like, biting her thumb, I was like, "I can't do this."

Emily: I know, I was like --

Sally: I was, like, weeping. It was, like, too much --

Emily: Girl.

Sally: For my little gay heart. (laugh)

Emily: I was like, “Giiiiirrll. What you do?”

Sally: She’s so hot. I’m sure she’s also very talented and kind, but she’s also so hot.

Emily: But she’s so beautiful, and she has such cool tattoos.

Sally: I know. I hope they let her keep her tattoos as Leane.

Emily: I want her to step on me. (laugh)

Sally: What if Leane just had tattoos? (laugh)

Emily: That would be really good.

Sally: I also want her to step on me.

Emily: Yeah, just step -- Leane. Step on me. Me, being the collective -- the collective me. Um, so they’re eating chopsticks, and there’s some, like, stuff about gossip and apparently there’s been lots of riots but, like, what else is new? This is Tarabon.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Fucking -- everyone’s rioting, and there’s numerous references in this chapter to various non-livestock animals being eaten because people are starving.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And that’s upsetting to think about.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, um, then Bayle Domon comes in and is like, “What the fuck? You guys are dining with a fucking Seanchan.” And he and Egeanin have a little mini fist-fight.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which I imagine would be very alarming.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: But also erotically charged -- (laugh) to watch.

Sally: Yeah. Very erotic.

Emily: I guess. Uh, but then they're like, "Oh my God, Egeanin's Seanchan? But we like her." 'Cause apparently they've been hanging out with her for a week.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, listen. It's actually not hard to stop liking people.

Sally: I know. There was, like, this really weird discourse running through this entire chapter, like, especially when it's in Elayne's point of view, where she's like -- like, "Of course I'm upset," or whatever, but she's like, "Nynaeve seems to have legitimately turned on her in like a minute," which, to Elayne -- she says something I like, "It seems odd because it's not like Nynaeve was the one that they captured." Like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "That was Egwene," and it's like, bitch.

Emily: Empathy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: First of all.

Sally: Like, if somebody had one of my good friends in chains --

Emily: Yeah, I'd fuckin' turn on them.

Sally: It would, like, be an issue for me. (laugh)

Emily: And also, like, Nynaeve does say, later in her point of view, she's like, "I -- I'm angry, I'm directing my anger at Egeanin, but I'm also angry because I like her."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And I can't stop liking her," and it's just -- I've been thinking a lot about what Peter said about the Seanchan having Texan accents and therefore being parallels to the South during the Civil War --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And about how Robert Jordan is himself from the South and seems to be a Civil War apologist --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Because of how he is obsessed with creating this, like, weird storyline in which the people who enslave other people are somehow, like, fine.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "It's just a different culture than yours. Don't worry about it."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, what the fuck? What are we doing?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What's happening?

Sally: No, it's very -- it's very interesting to -- again, the layer that Peter brought up, them having Texan accents, is the, like, really interesting --

Emily: Thanks, Peter. You're so smart.

Sally: I know. You're so smart. We're so lucky that we know you.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um. I lost my train of thought.

Emily: Sorry. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's OK. I just got so emotional about how much I love Peter.

Emily: About Peter. "I love Peter." (laugh)

Sally: Um.

Emily: He's gonna be so embarrassed when he hears this. (laugh)

Sally: Um. (laugh) What the fuck was I saying?

Emily: A weird layer about them having Texan accents.

Sally: Um. There's a weird layer about them having Texan or Southern accents, generally speaking. Um. Pfffffft. Nope, it's gone.

Emily: I'm sorry.

Sally: It's OK. But, I mean, generally, like you said, there's this weird -- there's, like, this apologist --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Narrative and, like, sorry to go from the Civil War immediately to the Holocaust, but as I've said many times, that's my point of reference.

Emily: And those are parallel events.

Sally: Yeah, they're definitely parallel, um -- I mean, they're genocides, basically.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, we don't -- it's not put in that context in American history but, like, the African slave trade was a genocide, so.

Emily: So fuck you.

Sally: Um ... OK. But when I was reading a lot of particularly, like, um, young adult fantasy novels, which is what I did my thesis on, in young adult fantasy novels that engaged with the Holocaust, there was always, always a Nazi figure who was, like, humanized through the idea that they just, like, are a good person in a bad situation and in a bad culture. And it's just -- there's this, like, constant need across, like, literature that deals with -- or media that deals with, basically, empires and, um, all that is involved with empires and enslaving and colonialism, to, like, have this apologist narrative for people who are in there and trying to be like, "It's OK. Like, it's fine." And it's just like, why? Why why why why why are we so uncomfortable with just, across the board, villainizing? Like, if you are complicit, then you are a perpetrator.

Emily: Like --

Sally: That's a hard line.

Emily: Yeah. We, as a modern society, are so afraid of hard lines.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And we also are obsessed with the Romeo Nazi figure.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I don't get what's going on there. But it's like -- like -- rrrghh. In modern society, like, things can turn on you so quickly.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because of the way we're positioned in technology and, like, our sudden, very sudden capacity to interact with people and viewpoints on the other side of the world, it's like, you five years ago -- like, I don't want any of you to ever meet five-years-ago Emily. She was a dick.

Sally: I mean -- yeah.

Emily: Y'know? She had horrible beliefs, I'm sure. I don't really remember most of them off the top of my head, but she -- y'know, wasn't as good of a person as I hope I am now.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And in five years, I hope I'll look back at me now and be like, "Oh, God."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause people grow and change, and so we all like and embrace the idea of people growing and changing, and I agree with the idea that people can grow and change, but I also think it's a really dangerous line to walk in fiction --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When we are saying -- (laugh) "But you can change in the course of this 300-page novel."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's an easy arc to unpack.

Sally: Yeah. Like -- kind of slightly off-topic, but obviously the huge, like, redemption arc that's been in the zeitgeist lately is Kylo Ren slash Ben Solo.

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: And I think Emily talked about this on the podcast --

Emily: I deleted it.

Sally: Oh, if -- OK, well, Emily and I have had a lot of conversations about it. But Emily said something that I've been thinking about a lot lately, where it's, like, very frustrating when people think redemption can happen in one action. It's like, redemption is not something you can achieve by doing one thing. It's not just like Kylo Ren, spoiler alert, being, like, throwing his red lightsaber into the ocean and then going to help Rey fight Emperor Palpatine -- (laugh) I can't believe that was a real sentence --

Emily: I know. Palpatine fucked, you guys.

Sally: I said. (laugh)

Emily: Spoiler alert, if you have -- for some reason, haven't seen that movie.

Sally: Um. Yeah. And so it's like -- Emily's right. And there's been -- I'm all over the place today -- but especially in the, um, the media this week, as we are recording -- this past Sunday -- um, Kobe Bryant passed away and, um, eight other people, um, in a helicopter crash in Los Angeles -- or flying somewhere to or from Los Angeles -- which is very sad. But there's been a lot of stuff on the internet about Kobe Bryant as this, like, figure of, like, this -- very respected

and inspired figure in the sports world and particularly for the Black community, and there's also meeting up with discourse the fact that, like, Kobe Bryant was an accused rapist and, like, what it means to, like, hold the legacy and memory of those two things at the same time, and that's been bringing up a lot of conversations, at least in, like, my internet sphere, about, like, drawing hard lines on people. Like, people you can't just, like -- to have memory you need to, like -- to have a productive cultural memory, you need to be able to hold two things in the same space. Which --

Emily: It's like cancel culture.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, I think mostly we've been -- all been saying, "Well, cancel culture is bad --" that's such a hard thing to say out loud, when you guys are --

Sally: I know, "cancel culture," when you're not reading it.

Emily: Yeah. Um, it's bad because it doesn't last --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is what, uh, I've mostly heard in the zeitgeist, is 'cause we kind of, like, forget about people we've cancelled after a couple of years --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then they just are, like, able to do the same old shit. But it's also bad because, yeah, people do change. When we dig up Tweets from five years ago, there is a --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Certain level to which it's like, perhaps this person has changed and we aren't able to make that judgment, but also, those Tweets, whether or not a person is seeing them five years ago or now, definitely have the capacity to hurt people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So.

Sally: So --

Emily: I think we just want to be comfortable too much.

Sally: Yeah, I think that really is it. Like, I -- I completely stand by what I said, like, especially in the context of genocide and enslaving people -- if you are complicit, then you are a perpetrator, like, that is perhaps, like, an extreme example of what it means to be a perpetrator, um, or to be

complicit, but, like, there's that kind of idea floating around in Robert Jordan's writing of the Seanchan in particular that it's just, like, they can be good and evil at the same time.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And it's like, sure. I guess. If you're exploring that in this, like, crazy epic exploration of good versus evil in an extremely, like, dichotomous way, whatever. Like, I can get the project. But at the end of the day, you are still apologizing for a culture that's fine with keeping slaves. Like, Egeanin, literally last chapter of her point of view, was like, "Oh, should I murder this woman or sell her to sex, like, traffickers?"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, she did not think of that woman as a person. So it's like, you have to -- like, if you want to have those people in the story and talk about, like, the humanity that gets bungled when you're dealing with, like, horrible cultures, like, you need to put in the work to make that person come back from that. You can't just be like, "Oh, but I like her. She's nice."

Emily: Yeah. Like, if Robert Jordan had put in an ounce of the work he did in, I don't know, rounding out the goddamn Cairhienin court --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or the fucking number of Aes Sedai that exist into, like, I don't know, looking a little closer at the issues that the Seanchan bring up, then maybe we'd have less to complain about.

Sally: Yeah, it's just truly -- it's just disgusting. And I think we've said this before, but it's irresponsible. Like, taking -- like, taking the real world aside, whatever. If you are writing fiction, you have a responsibility to do so ethically, and to be like, "These slavers are people too," it's like, you stupid fucking idiot. I'm not interested in the slavers. I'm interested in the fact that human beings are enslaved, and I want to hear from those people.

Emily: Yeah, also, slave -- yeah, slavers aren't the ones whose humanity I have been taught to question.

Sally: Yeah. Exactly. Like, the rhetoric is not about -- there's no dehuman -- I mean, perhaps nowadays there's more dehumanizing rhetoric towards enslavers, but if we read anything, even textbooks, really, sometimes, it's like --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: Yeah, you would know.

Emily: I would know.

Sally: Anyway, it just grosses me out. I really like the phrase you used -- the, like, Romeo Nazi figure.

Emily: I know, because we all just want to be romanced, apparently, by a man who's done bad shit, and that means --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's how he's on the opposite, you know --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The opposing house from us --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But we meet in the middle somehow? And that's disgusting.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, don't change yourself for men, first of all.

Sally: Yeahhhhh.

Emily: Don't compromise your ethics and belief systems for men.

Sally: Yeah. Oh my God --

Emily: But also, like -- (sigh) I don't -- it's so dumb.

Sally: It's just weird.

Emily: Ahhhh!

Sally: Like, I -- I don't -- I don't know. I wish, if I were to ever go back into an academic setting, I would love to, like, study this further. But, um --

Emily: It would make me so angry. It always makes me so angry. 'Cause I get so frustrated with the people who are like, "But Kylo Ren's just a sad baby boy."

Sally: Ugh, I can't even deal with that shit.

Emily: And I'm like, "What the fuck are you talking about?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's also ugly. (laugh) Sorry, Adam Driver. I do think Adam Driver's attractive in other settings, but in the Star Wars --

Sally: Kylo Ren --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He's always wet.

Emily: He is.

Sally: And greasy.

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: It's really weird.

Emily: Like, Adam Driver's attractiveness is, like, in he's kind of got nice hair --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Kylo Ren is always greasy. It's stuck to his goddamn pasty skin.

Sally: Yeah, and he's always just, like, in not-flattering clothing. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, black is not Adam Driver's color.

Sally: He's too white.

Emily: He's too white. (clears throat)

Sally: Yeah, no, the Kylo Ren thing drives me up the fuckin' wall. I don't even -- it's like I live on a different planet than human beings who are like, "Kylo Ren's just sad." And I'm like, what the fuck? He's literally, like, killing children.

Emily: I knooooow!

Sally: How is that, like, not --

Emily: He's done war crimes on-screen multiple times!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What are we talking about?

Sally: It's so weird. Um, this, uh, newsletter, uh, slash media publication that I love, Salty, which I think I've talked about on here before -- one of their contributors wrote an essay about how, um, they moved to, like, a deeply conservative area.

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: And so they basically are like, “I can’t have sex with any of these Republicans because they don’t believe in the basic humanity of people,” so it was basically just, like, her commitment to celibacy ‘cause she refuses to have sex with -- or, they, I shouldn’t assume their pronouns ‘cause I can’t remember -- but they, like, refuse to have sex with anybody. It’s like, “I would rather be celibate than, y’know, sacrifice an ounce of my humanity for the pleasure of some cis white man who doesn’t believe in the rights of others.” So anyway, be more like that person.

Emily: Yeah, that was -- that’s cool.

Sally: Yeah, it was really --

Emily: That’s a hard line I can get behind.

Sally: Fuckin’ rad, yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Yeah. Damn.

Sally: It’s awesome.

Emily: OK, well, we’ve perhaps harped on -- (laugh)

Sally: It’s just frustrating. These chapters were so upsetting for that reason. ‘Cause Elayne -- I mean, Elayne is just, like --

Emily: Elayne’s white feminist™.

Sally: No, this chapter in particular was, like --

Emily: They haven’t announced Elayne’s casting yet because it’s Taylor Swift and so --

Sally: (laugh) Could you imagine?!

Emily: (laugh) They don’t want to, like, cause too much uproar, but honestly? Same person.

Sally: Yeah. Um --

Emily: Always the victim. Ugh.

Sally: Yeah. This chapter really, like, hit home to me, like, Elayne’s horrible privilege. Like, if I were to write an essay about Elayne’s privilege, this would be one of the main chapters I drew quotes from ‘cause she’s just like, “Egeanin never did anything to me personally.”

Emily: Yeah. “So why should I worry about --” it’s just bad.

Sally: It’s just like, put yourself in a fucking political context, you dumb idiot.

Emily: And it's like, like -- I don't -- I hate saying -- I hate complaining about things and then not presenting solutions, and, um, it's -- 'cause we're talking about people are complicated, and I continue to believe that Egeanin, as a single character --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If you can manage to do something about the mass of horrific-ness that is immediately behind her --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In the Seanchan -- but Egeanin, as a singular character, is an interesting enough character.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And her interactions with people, I think, is an interesting way of -- Egeanin comes to the conclusion that she was wrong.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's really good.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She -- as she says, she's like, "I immediately released -- as soon as I got to know you guys, I released the woman who I've been --"

Sally: "In my basement."

Emily: "Keeping locked in my basement." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) They're like, "Oh, great."

Emily: "Which could get me killed if anyone ever finds out about it."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I can't even go to the characterization of Egeanin in later books 'cause it pretty much fucks itself up, but, like, as it is now, this isn't a bad thing --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To present people meeting people of different cultures and muddling a way to find a relationship, because that is, eventually, how many problems are solved. Um. But, yeah, the -- the way the rhetoric is structured here, with Elayne's overwhelming privilege --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Nynaeve just being unable to emotionally process anything because she's Nynaeve -
-

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is just, like, so unproductive.

Sally: Yeah. And it -- particularly, like -- yeah. I think Egeanin is -- while this is exemplary of, like, what happens throughout the text -- like, Egeanin is probably not the best example of where this bad stuff happens because, yeah, objectively she's, like, doing the work and her part--

Emily: Yeah, Tuon is the example where it's the worst.

Sally: Yes. That's where I was gonna go. 'Cause it's like, and also Egeanin is not a -- like, she's got relative power in her society as, like, a captain of a ship, but, like, she's definitely not nobility. She's definitely not, like -- she is a victim of the system to a degree --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Of course. Like, it's not like she is Bethamin, who was fucking chained in a basement for however long, but --

Emily: Although Bethamin was herself a sul'dam.

Sally: Oh, that's true.

Emily: So.

Sally: I forgot about that. So, yeah, we've got all these degrees of, like --

Emily: Perpetrators.

Sally: Perpetrating and being a victim and how those lines apparently interact, but, yeah, it's when you get to people like Tuon and all the other Seanchan nobility, and the fact that Mat is just, like, folded into that society, and it's just --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, weird. It's just bad.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: I dunno. And then, yeah, it's like, "One of my main characters is going to marry the big bad enslaving Empress."

Emily: "Who's also one of my only canonically Black characters."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, what are we doing?

Sally: Yeah. The more you talk about it in the context of, like, Civil War apology --

Emily: I know, don't -- I've been thinking about it for, like, the last four days and now I've been like, "Oh, shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause, like, Peter's answer interacted with Devin being like, "Where's he from?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To figure out whether a love interest cousin was appropriate, which, it was a joke, but also, I was like --

Sally: Yeah, but also --

Emily: Oh, yeah, he is from the South.

Sally: Yeah, and he was --

Emily: And he is -- he does draw a lot on the Civil War in his writing, just in terms of, like, some of his characterizations of, uh, kind of deified general figures -- that's a very American Southern thing to do.

Sally: Oh, yeah, um -- yeah, one of -- um, our amazing listeners and Patreon supporters, Sam, pointed out to me that, um, one of them is based, like, pretty much on Robert Lee.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which one? I can't fucking remember.

Emily: Uhh.

Sally: Is it Gareth?

Emily: I don't --

Sally: Sam, what did you say? Hold on, I'm pulling it up. Oh, yeah, Sam's making the same argument here that --

Emily: Oh my God. We just need to listen to our listeners more.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: They fucking know more than we do. Sorry, Sam.

Sally: Sorry, Sam.

Emily: For -- you were probably like, "What the fuck? Did they even read my comment?"

Sally: "What the fuck are they talking about?" And I promise that I did, I just got so caught up on this last sentence that I was like, um -- uh, Sam: "If --" I'm gonna read this whole thing, I hope that's OK. But, um, uh, Sam said: "Also, I've had -- I have recently come to a horrifying revelation, a factor that I don't know if you've mentioned in Robert Jordan's really weird relation to slavery and enslavement in the Wheel of Time and why the world is OK with letting the Seanchan just kind of do their own horrible thing, and that factor is Jordan's Southern-ness. He was born and lived much of his life in Charleston, i.e., the city where the Civil War began and fired the first shots for the Confederacy. I feel my main evidence for this is his 'well, the slavery is just part of their culture' attitude the series seems to take towards the Seanchan and how the solution to dealing with them is how the Founding Fathers chose to deal with slavery: 'Let's wait it out, not do anything, and hope they just grow out of it.' Also, my other evidence is the fact Gareth Bryne is heavily based on Robert E. Lee, right down to having a beloved war horse named Traveler. I'm not calling Robert Jordan out as a -- I'm not outright calling Robert Jordan a Confederate sympathizer, but I'm saying maybe living in the South definitely seeped into his view of the world and morality." So yes, Sam, I promise I did read that, but I got so caught up on Robert E. Lee having the same horse name as Gareth Bryne --

Emily: Yeah, that's pretty wild. But yeah, Gareth Bryne and Robert E. Lee were -- ugh. Ugh.

Sally: Uh, so like Emily said, we should just listen to you guys. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: And not take eight --

Emily: Lesson learned. (laugh)

Sally: Eighteen weeks to get to the same conclusion. (laugh) But, um --

Emily: You guys are so smart.

Sally: I know. We're so lucky.

Emily: Um --

Sally: OK. OK.

Emily: Yeah, whatever. What the fuck ever. Who needs the plot?

Sally: Plot. (laugh) I don't know. I just got so mad reading these chapters last night.

Emily: Ugh. So blah blah blah blah blah, Civil War sympathizer -- (laugh) Um, then all the men come in, one right after another --

Sally: I know. Tybalt, what's happening?

Emily: It's like some kind of comedy farce. They're all --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Fucking Three Stooges.

Emily: They're all like, "Oh, hey, we found the Black Ajah. They're in the Panarch's palace." And everyone's like, "OK, fuck. We get it already. Three of you have said this in exact -- at exactly the same time, 'cause Robert Jordan doesn't know how to structure a goddamn plot." Um --

Sally: It's like, why do the three of them have to come in? For some dumb comedic value, and it's like --

Emily: I know.

Sally: I don't want comedic value.

Emily: It's 'cause Robert Jordan cares more about, like, show -- giving us this little in-joke about how they're all competing with each other --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Than about, I don't know, writing ethically. Ha ha ha! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So they go off again to try and figure out what the fuck's going on, and, long story short, they don't really know, but the ladies decide to go to sleep. Egeanin is staying with them because they're like, "We don't fucking trust you to go off on your own." Um, and Nynaeve's like, "OK, I've gotta go meet Egg."

Sally: Egg!

Emily: So Nynaeve meets Egg in the Stone of Tear with two Wise Ones accompanying her. I can't remember if this is new to them.

Sally: Yeah, I -- I think it is.

Emily: It's a little odd. And they're all kind of faint, and Nynaeve's like, "What's the deal?" And they're like, "Oh, we're half-asleep in our saddles, 'cause apparently we can do that."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and they sort of are like, “Here’s the situation with us. We’re on a breakneck pace to, uh, go to this place where Rand’s going to announce himself and get all the Aiel behind him, um, against all custom.” And Nynaeve’s like, “OK, well, we are super close -- super duper close to --”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: “Getting the Black Ajah and figuring out, y’know, what they’re here for. But I need some help.” And after some classic Nynaeve interacting with other authority figures --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Shenanigans, uh, they’re like, “OK, here’s a thing you can do, is you can focus on a need and sort of hop towards it, sort of, like, focusing in like a camera zooming in on something.”

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Um, “But the problem is, you’ll be kind of going blind every time you jump.” So they leave, and Nynaeve does this. Her first jump takes her immediately into the Panarch’s bedroom - - Amathera. Amathera will, of course, also for some reason be a character. But don’t worry. Her love interest? Juilin. (laugh)

Sally: What? I thought Juilin had a wife.

Emily: No.

Sally: Did -- was that just a joke we made?

Emily: It might’ve been.

Sally: Why?

Emily: Because they’re both two characters that do not need to be in the narrative.

Sally: (laugh) So Robert Jordan was like --

Emily: And so Robert Jordan was like, “Pair ‘em up. Because also, heterosexuality is compulsory in the Wheel of Time.” I know. Just think about it.

Sally: I don’t want to. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Anyway, she’s being tormented in some way by some Black Ajah lady, which is unpleasant to think about but does answer the question of whether she is -- to the ladies, anyway --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of whether she knows this is Black Ajah or if she's been captured.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, and it's this whole thing where they're like, "She's in the Panarch's palace," and we, the readers, I think, are supposed to know why because we were with Liandrin and --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Carridin nineteen chapters ago when they were putting this plan together, but fuck me if I can remember -- or if I cared at the time --

Sally: Yeah, I was like, "Whatever, I don't care what the fuck -- why they're there."

Emily: I know, they, for some reason, went to the Panarch's palace. I don't -- I don't remember.

Sally: Machinations.

Emily: Machinations. It's enough for me to know that bad guys are there. Consider that. I'd rather just know what the fucking characters know. What a revelation. Um. But, uh, before the Black Ajah lady can see her, Nynaeve hops away again, right into the same museum that we've been to before, but she sees Moghedien walking around, only she doesn't know it's Moghedien except that she keeps tugging on her hair real angry. And she's like, "What the fuck is happening? Why am -- I can't control my hands!"

Sally: (slipping into a British accent) "Why am I so angry?"

Emily: (faux British accent) "Why am I so angry?" (laugh) "Don't hang yourself, Jane."

Sally: "Don't hang yourself, Jane."

Emily: "Just think of how many people hang themselves and then wake up the next morning wishing they hadn't."

Sally: (laugh, simultaneously) "Wishing they hadn't." (separately) "Bloody Americans."

Emily: Rrrggghh.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Oh, I love stealing stuff from her!" (laugh)

Sally: OK.

Emily: Everyone watch "Austenland."

Sally: It's -- I was literally going to say, stop this podcast. Haven't done that in a bit, so you have to listen to us.

Emily: It's so funny.

Sally: And go watch *Austenland* because it's so charming.

Emily: It's legitimately the most hilarious movie of all time.

Sally: Yeah. The guy from *American Gods* is in it, right?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Is it Ricky Lake playing one of the hot --

Emily: Ricky Whittle.

Sally: Yeah, Ricky Whittle, sorry. (laugh) Ricky Lake. What a day!

Emily: (sing-song) What a day, what a day. (normal voice) Um. So she's, like, having -- her body's having this reaction to *Moghedien*, which, kind of, as she sits with it, she suddenly remembers.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is interesting. We don't typically see characters just break through their Compulsion --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In this way. And it's kind of, like, not lingered on. Never again does it come up that Nynaeve's like, "Oh, well, I just, with the power of my anger, obliterated --" (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "The, uh, Compulsion that she put on me." Like, it never comes up again, even though I think it's either, a) a super power ..

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I guess, since it never comes up again, Robert Jordan thought better of it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And was like, "Maybe i'll make my bad characters actually do bad things --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That can't be undone."

Sally: Nynaeve can't just be like --

Emily: "By passion."

Sally: Furious and be like, "Wait, I remember."

Emily: Although, I mean, Nynaeve's fury is generally her --

Sally: (laugh) It is sort of a supernova of its own.

Emily: Her ace in the hole.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but also, Birgitte shows up and is like, "Shh, please." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Please don't alert the scary lady that we are here." Um, and they chat. Nynaeve's like, "What the fuck are you doing? Why can't I go fuckin' fight that woman?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Birgitte's like, "That's Moghedien." And Nynaeve's like, "WHO?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Birgitte's like, "One of the Forsaken, Moghedien. And the dude, the homeboy you saw in the desert last time, that was definitely Asmodean."

Sally: Asmodean!

Emily: And Nynaeve's like, "Well, fuck it -- I don't care. I'll fight any of the Forsaken."

Sally: "By myself."

Emily: "Name a place."

Sally: "I'll kick my OWN ass." (laugh)

Emily: "Yeah, I'll -- rrrggghhh. I'll throw down any time, any place." And Birgitte's like, "You're insane, and I love you." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. She's like, "Let's get married immediately."

Emily: Birgitte's like, "Why couldn't you -- I be your Warder?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Consider this."

Sally: (laugh) "Let's go get married and make out."

Emily: Oh, and then also Gaidal Cain is there.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Sadly they're one of the only heterosexual romances I'm kind of like, "Huh. cute." But of course, we have to mess with it in dumb ways.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They can never really be together on screen.

Sally: No, but, as I've said before, one of my many favorite things about Birgitte is that she just loves an ugly man. (laugh)

Emily: I know. It's so iconic.

Sally: She's so funny.

Emily: All of her interactions with Mat --

Sally: I know.

Emily: About ugly men are hilarious.

Sally: Mat's like, "I'm glad she doesn't find me attractive, 'cause that would mean I was butt fucking ugly." (laugh)

Emily: "That'd be horrifying."

Sally: Mat, my little vain boy.

Emily: Birgitte's like, "Look at --" They're both just such bisexual heroes, y'know?

Sally: I know. (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Birgitte's like, "Look at that very hot woman over there."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "Thank you."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Look at that incredibly ugly man."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Birgitte's like, "Yes. I'm so horny."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God, I love them.

Sally: I know. They're such bros.

Emily: Bros being bros.

Sally: (sing-song) Two bros, chilling in a hot tub.

Emily: Oh my God, I was talking to, um, Janet the other day, and she was like, "Sometimes when Devin's texting you, I'll ask, 'Oh, how is Emily?' and he'll be like, 'I dunno.'" (laugh) "We don't fuckin' talk about that."

Sally: (laugh) Oh my hell.

Emily: And I was like, yeah, that's true, it doesn't really come up. (laugh) It's just whatever we're chatting about.

Sally: Your hair is very bush-rooty again right now, and I love it. No, don't fix it. How is Devin?

Emily: (laugh) I dunno.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Fine, I assume. I'll see him on Thursday.

Sally: I have his number. Now I can text him. "How are you?"

Emily: That's true. I shouldn't have given you guys your numbers. (laugh) Too much power wielded against me. OK, um, anyway, Birgitte's like, "I shouldn't even be talking to you, blah blah blah, lore about Heroes of the Horn being connected to the World of Dreams, blabbity blah blah blah," which we all fuckin' know already. So why are we -- yeah.

Sally: Yeah, it's like, Birgitte I'm pretty sure we had this, like, same fucking conversation two minutes ago, it feels like.

Emily: At least in the podcast, we did. (laugh) Um, but then she leaves and Nynaeve goes to look at what Moghedien was looking at and sees a) a seal to the Dark One's prison, and b) the male a'dam, which she is like, "Ha, what's this weird thing?"

Sally: Yeah. But then it's like, "Pain, suffering."

Emily: "Pain, suffering, torment." And then she wakes up. Elayne wakes her up and is like, "Bitch, I want to sleep." And they're chatting about it, and Nynaeve's like, "It kind of looked like an a'dam, but I've never heard of that being a thing for men," and they're like, "But it kind of has to be, y'know?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, what else could be a threat to the quote unquote Dragon Reborn. So they're like, "OK, we gotta go in there and get that." Just then, Thom hollers outside the door, and they go out, and the creepy blond Seanchan dude who's been tailing Egeanin is there, and Egeanin's like, "Well, we should probably just slit his throat," and I'm like, Egeanin, you -- you continue to make a case for yourself.

Sally: Yeah. Seriously. (laugh)

Emily: And everyone's like, "No, we'll just dump him out in the alley, where he'll be scavenged, essentially. Potentially brutally murdered."

Sally: Yeah. I'm like, it would be kinder to just kill him now --

Emily: I know, honestly.

Sally: Than just, like, leave his unconscious body in the middle of the street -- city in distress.

Emily: Yes. Um -- also, I think he comes back into the narrative. A lot of people who are in this narrative, I feel like, come back in the Ebou Dar narrative.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: If that makes sense?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Carridin.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: Moghedien.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: Um, this guy.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: I think. Egeanin, obviously --

Sally: (scream)

Emily: Oh, you're fine. Um.

Sally: Egg-eanin.

Emily: Egg-eanin.

Sally: No, she's not worthy of the egg title.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: I'm sorry.

Emily: You have to earn the egg.

Sally: You have to -- (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Earn the egg!

Sally: Earn it.

Emily: (chanting) Earn the egg! Earn the egg!

Sally: Earn the egg ...

Emily: So ... oh, and then there's this whole thing about the ladies being in their shifts --

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: Which, when I read it when I was 12, really made me feel like I had misunderstood what a shift was.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But no, they just don't want to be seen without bras on or something.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I don't know what the deal is.

Sally: It's very weird. Yeah, they're, like, in long -- a), it's like another weird Wheel of Time modestly culture that I'm just over.

Emily: Don't feel ashamed about your body.

Sally: The body is not an apology.

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: Sonya Renee Taylor.

Emily: But Egeanin is also like, “Hmm. Bayle Domon might be sexy.” But it’s only after he’s seen her in her nightgown and been like, “Maybe she’s sexy.” That -- it’s like -- I don’t know.

Sally: It’s bad.

Emily: Don’t have a woman be uncomfortable about a man looking at her but then also be like, “Ah, maybe that man, because he finds me attractive, is also attractive.”

Sally: I know.

Emily: That’s not what happens.

Sally: It’s also, like, the pinnacle of, like, covert rape culture. (laugh)

Emily: Yes!

Sally: It’s like, I -- ugh, whatever.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: I can’t.

Emily: Covert sexism juice: don’t drink it.

Sally: Don’t drink it. (laugh)

Emily: God. Um, but they’re like, “OK, let’s get the plan together.” And that’s that.

Sally: Yeah, well, the ladies have to, like, make a plan before they reunite with the men because God forsake -- God forbid they all make a plan together.

Emily: I know. So -- ding --

Sally: It’s dumb.

Emily: Such dinguses.

Sally: But anyway, that’s those chapters.

Emily: They finally know what they want to do. They know, um, y’know. You know.

Sally: Hi, Tybalt.

(Tybalt meows)

Emily: In the next chapter, Perrin will, in fact, get married --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: If you were wondering when that was going to happen.

Sally: Oh my gosh. I'm gonna plan the perfect wedding for Faile and Perrin.

Emily: Actually, now that I think about it, I might have mixed it up so that next episode we just skip a chapter and then go --

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Straight to the conclusion of Nynaeve and Elayne?

Sally: (inaudible)

Emily: I can't remember. So don't -- don't be, like, holding out for Perrin's wedding or something.

Sally: I'm gonna fix it.

Emily: Oh -- what?

Sally: I'm gonna plan the perfect wedding for --

Emily: Oh, that'd be nice.

Sally: I'm gonna make a Pinterest board.

Emily: Oh my God!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's like the same energy as when we make a Spotify playlist for Mat. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, it's gonna be --

Emily: Perrin's Pinterest board.

Sally: Yeah, exactly. Look out for the new --

Emily: With some lingerie that says "Wifey" on it.

Sally: Ugh. Yeah.

Emily: Exactly. You'll have to make it cringey.

Sally: ... OK, we'll see if I'm strong enough actually. Emily really hit to my deepest weakness, which is anything that says "wifey" on it. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That's your Achilles heel.

Sally: (laugh) It is my Achilles heel. Um.

Emily: It's your instant kill.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "Wifey."

Sally: Blaaaagghh. There you go.

Emily: Sally can't be killed by normal bullets --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Only bullets that have "wifey" engraved on them. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, so in the narrative where you have to kill me, the town monster, you have to go to, like, some --

Emily: OK, but imagine the CSI episode following the discovery of your body, when they dig out the bullet that says "wifey" and they're like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: (laugh) "What is happening?"

Emily: (laugh) And then the Who starts playing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (singing) Out here in the fields --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God. Hey, this episode turned out alright after all.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Despite the ranting in the middle.

Sally: In the beginning.

Emily: Or perhaps because of it.

Sally: In the end. (laugh)

Emily: See, ranting usually gives way to hysteria when it comes to us. OK. Thank you for listening. Thanks again for sticking with us for over 100 episodes. That's crazy.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Um.

Sally: It bangs.

Emily: Thank you to Sam. I hope it's OK we read your comment out loud, but you really were galaxy braining, and we did not appreciate you enough for that. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, I got so distracted by horses -- (laugh)

Emily: That's -- horses, they are my weakness.

Sally: They are. Horses and wifey.

Emily: Ugh. Uhh. Anyway. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Oh. We have a listener-submitted one.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: I think I did enough of my own bullshit. Nobody wants to hear anymore of that. Ever since you roasted me, I've been trying to organize the EHR email a little better. (laugh)

Emily: I didn't roast you! (laugh)

Sally: You did, and that's fine.

Emily: I was roasting myself 'cause I never go in there. I'm, like, afraid of it.

Sally: This one's gonna be fun.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: Um, this comes from Jessie, who's been a long-time listener since, like, the very beginning. I think they're one of our first Tumblr follows. And Jessie writes -- (clears throat) "There's some context here. Read it or don't, but I feel like I need to defend myself here. Way back in high school, one of my friends said that terrible pick-up line, 'You know the walrus has the second-largest penis in the animal kingdom?' line to me. And both of us being bound to biological studies, we immediately started learning and sharing facts about animal penises and later just animal reproduction in general. Now, I'm teaching bio -- teaching for the first time -- I teach ninth grade biology." Very brave of you. "And one of the things --"

Emily: Honestly.

Sally: (laugh) "I do is write a fun fact, generally about something related to what we're learning, on the board every day." That's adorable.

Emily: Awww.

Sally: "But I work at a boarding school, so I have to work in the dorms one night a week, which means I lose, like, two hours of sleep that night."

Emily: Ohhh.

Sally: That's a fucking bummer.

Emily: Gosh.

Sally: "So the next morning, I totally forgot to change the fact on the board. If you've ever talked with 14-year-olds, they -- um, they hate to change their routine. So one of my classes immediately starts badgering me for a fact, and suddenly the only facts I can remember are very inappropriate for me, a teacher, to tell ninth graders."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "So I tried to dissuade them, but if you've ever met 14-year-olds, they are impossible to move off-course. In a very vain attempt to get an idea that is appropriate, I asked them to give me something to think of a fact for, and someone says, 'Elephants,' which is in no way helpful. So finally, tired and just done with everything, I relent and tell them the first elephant fact that comes to mind, which is, of course, something about their dicks."

Emily: Oh. My God.

Sally: "In case you are curious, elephant --"

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "Dicks are semi-prehensile, so they can --"

Emily: I was curious!

Sally: "So they can use it to help balance on uneven ground and even move --"

Emily: NOOO!

Sally: "Out of the way."

Emily: WHAT?!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They have -- not only do they have a trunk, a fifth limb, but male elephants have a SIXTH LIMB? What?!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God. Jessie!

Sally: "I thought that was the end of it, but yesterday during our review, a couple of students stopped by to say hi, which is normally whatever, and the kids in my class immediately and excitedly tell them their fun new fact about elephants. And worse, today, on the test, I offered bonus points for 'What's a Mrs. Teacher's fun fact that has been written on the board?' and far too many put something about elephant dicks, including: 'Elephants use their penis as a fifth leg,' and 'Elephant penises are huge.'"

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "So anyway, I'm waiting for an email from the head of school." (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Can you imagine? Like, I'm sure that was traumatizing, but it's also so ballsy to get up --

Emily: I know.

Sally: In front of a room of fourteen-year-olds --

Emily: BALLSY.

Sally: Ha ha. And be like, "Elephants have semi-prehensile dicks."

Emily: It'd be like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: "Whaaaat?"

Emily: 'Kay, well, I'm gonna be thinking about that for the rest of my life, I guess. It's like that meme.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, the -- (laugh) "Was I supposed to know that elephants have semi-prehensile dicks, or was I just supposed --

Sally: "Supposed to learn about it on my own?"

Emily: "To learn about it in a listener sign-off by myself?"

Sally: (laugh) Well, there you go.

Emily: Thank you, Jessie. You're a brave, brave soul.

Sally: You are a brave, brave, brave, brave soul.

Emily: Thank you all. Don't do a war crime.

Sally: (sing-song) Don't do a war crime!