



Episode 102: **The Slayer Mythos**

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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: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Today I had to deliver the bad news to several people that a bird had a stroke.

(laugh) And if you --

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: And I was just --

Emily: Was the -- was the reaction better or worse, do you imagine, than Haley slash Bakugo's reaction to finding out that there's possible incest in City of Bones? (laugh)

Sally: Um. Probably a better reaction in that not as horrifying but more, like, traumatic for people. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Because there's a little more investment, you know? But I had to just be like, "Hey, did you hear about Bird?" And they're like, "No," and I'm like, "He had a stroke." (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This was how I found out that big birds like that can live as long as humans.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that really, like, fucked with me.

Sally: Yeah, 85 years in captivity.

Emily: In myriad ways. I was just like, "Oh my God."

Sally: Birds can live a long time. We had a bird pass away --

Emily: A bird could outlive me.

Sally: Yeah. We had a bird pass away --

Emily: I hope they do, honestly.

Sally: Couple months ago who was, like, 32? Which just seems like a crazy lifespan for a bird.

Emily: Like, you think of birds being born and then living three years --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And then dying because --

Sally: Just blissfully dying in their sleep.

Emily: Yeah. They're just -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're God's, like --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Puff of air out into the world.

Sally: I -- but, no -- we've got, like -- we have -- have a bird, um, uh, some type of hornbill -- I can't think of their name off the -- their species name off the top of my head -- but their name is Rafkik, and there's, like, a huge joke in the bird show, and everyone's like, "Oh, you named it after Lion King," and it's like, "No, this bird was born before the Lion King came out."

Emily: Like --

Sally: And was, like, named Rafiki before the --

Emily: My God.

Sally: Baboon was, like, a thing. (laugh) So there are birds significantly older than me.

Emily: Yeah, Lion King came out in '91.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Wow.

Sally: So. It's --

Emily: How do I know that?

Sally: I don't know. Anyway --

Emily: Maybe '92.

Sally: Birds are cool.

Emily: Birds are cool, Cassandra Clare is a con artist --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Et cetera. Devin won't watch volleyball anime --

Sally: I -- that is so offensive to me.

Emily: Peer pressure. I'm really just gonna put the peer pressure on him.

Sally: Like, Devin, I have watched Emily read upwards of, like, eighty thousand comics that you've given her -- (laugh)

Emily: I don't want him to feel bad, because I have --

Sally: No.

Emily: Genuinely enjoyed most of the comics.

Sally: Yeah. No, I'm --

Emily: Except the witches one I just read. I didn't like that one. It was very scary. I don't like horror comics.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You should've asked me first.

Sally: Ooh.

Emily: 'Kay, bye. Love you. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Because it's like, I -- like she said, she's gone to bat for you, and I feel like comics and anime would be, like --

Emily: That's what I thought too.

Sally: Adjacent mediums.

Emily: But I think about it and, like, I get it. Volleyball anime doesn't really have -- TYBALT! I swear to God.

Tybalt: (meows)

Sally: He's being really bad. (laugh)

Emily: He -- he's really mad because we came home and, like, immediately started recording.

Sally: Like, I'm not saying they're the same. I just feel like a love for one would lead to a love for the other.

Emily: That's what I thought too. And I do think that -- (clapping) Hey!

Tybalt: (meows)

Emily: I'm coming back to this, Devin. Tybalt!

Sally: I just think it's impossible -- I find it impossible to believe that there's a human being on this planet who wouldn't enjoy watching Haikyuu. Like, I know I'm disgustingly hyper-fixated on it right now, to the point of, like, it's the only thing that makes me happy -- (laugh)

Emily: She's texted me about it, like, every day.

Sally: Like, literally my screen-saver right now is this picture of Bokuto. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Number one.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: That's a very good screen-saver.

Sally: Yeah, it's -- 'cause it makes me happy every time I look at it. (laugh)

Emily: He's so delightful.

Sally: Yeah. It's just him and his little jersey saying he's going to be number one. So, like, I get it. I'm, like, obsessed with Haikyuu at, like, a gross level. But it's just so, like -- there's nothing about it that I don't think people would like.

Emily: Yeah. I don't know. I think I need to stop comparing anime to, um, I don't know. I just don't know. I feel like I enjoy comics more because I've watched a few very high-quality animes, so I kind of, like, get, um, the similar -- like, I -- I can sort of do a little brain analysis between Western animation and anime --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And just, like -- I don't know. I dunno.

Sally: I just, like -- I like comic books and anime. It's possible to do both. I like comic books, excuse me, and volleyball anime exclusively. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. It's like, I like

Sally: My only two genres.

Emily: Comic books and anime, 'cause I'm bisexual, so.

Sally: (laugh) What are the two genders? Comic books and anime.

Emily: Yeah. There's the two -- there's the two genders. Comic books and anime.

Sally: Yeah, of course. Which one are you?

Emily: Which one are you, or do you like both or are you neither, 'cause that's all possible.

Sally: Except for you have to like Haikyuu. (laugh)

Emily: Except for you have to like Haikyuu. It's mandated by law. Otherwise you'll be shot. (laugh)

Sally: On sight.

Emily: On sight. (laugh)

Sally: It's just so delightful --

Emily: WE'RE TEN -- we're in the double digits. We have to introduce the podcast.

Sally: But --

Emily: I know we don't want to talk about Perrin --

Sally: I was --

Emily: Fucking --

Sally: Bleh.

Emily: But we have to.

Sally: I would so much rather talk about this boy.

Emily: I know. He's perfect.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He's just so stupid.

Sally: I know. I love him. (laugh)

Emily: Just such a himbo.

Sally: He's so dumb. (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "Do you think volleyball's fun?" and the smart character is like, "No," and he's like, "Maybe that's 'cause you suck."

Sally: (laugh) And it's like the sickest burn.

Emily: (laugh) And I just think that's the perfect dialogue.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. (laugh) "It's because you suck."

Emily: "That's because you suck. When you start not sucking, maybe you'll like volleyball."

Sally: (laugh) And thus begins the smart character's journey to loving volleyball.

Emily: I know, that really does --

Sally: 'Cause he was insulted by a himbo.

Emily: By a himbo. (laugh) OK. Did you know I forgot the word "bimbo" the other day?

Sally: Did you call someone a himbo?

Emily: No, I just was, like, thinking, "Oh, she's a --" and then I was like, "What's the female for himbo?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then I was like, "It's something, but I can't remember --"

Sally: "What's the female version of himbo?"

Emily: Agggghhh.

Sally: Herbo? (laugh)

Emily: Herbo? This is Everybody fucking Hates Rand --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Your not-so-friendly Wheel of Time podcast.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Nailed it.

Emily: Right now, anyway. Oh my God. Just get off my back. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I am Sally Goodger, Haikyuu fan number one.

Emily: That's probably true.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Haikyuu's biggest fan. Uh, we're here today to talk to you about the last two Perrin chapters in the Shadow Rising and, God bless us all, the last two Perrin chapters for an entire book because Robert Jordan looked into the future, saw this moment but only this moment -- he didn't see us, y'know, like --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Railing against him for his toxic masculinity and things like that. He just saw us talking -- Robert, I don't want to be with Perrin anymore. He's done too much to make me hate him in this book.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't find his romance at all compelling.

Sally: No.

Emily: And also, I just think I'd rather have a book that's about Mat -- (laugh)

Sally: I can't -- yeah.

Emily: Learning how to be a good military boy.

Sally: That is --

Emily: Please and thank you, your loving fans.

Sally: Your ... fans.

Emily: Your ... fans.

Sally: (laugh) Um, your loving fans and your hating fans. A little bit both. But it's just nice to know that Robert Jordan had, like, a modicum of mercy. And he's like --

Emily: I know.

Sally: "No Perrin in the Fires of Heaven."

Emily: But then he did take out Mat in the eighth book and was like, "Here, I'm gonna give you anything that could've made this book interesting and just, y'know, punt it out the window. See ya, Mat."

Sally: That's why it is impossible for me to start book eight.

Emily: "Just drop a building on it." I know. It's terrible.

Sally: You told me that, and I was like -- it's been like a year, and I'm like -- (noises of disbelief)

Emily: It's the worst. 'Cause you have to, like, be with Elayne and Nynaeve --

Sally: Nope. Mm-mm.

Emily: And all the fucking people as they get away from ... Ebou Dar -- I forgot what the fucking city is called for a second -- to use the Bowl of the Winds, and they, like, are on a hill and see the city being attacked by Seanchan, and they're like, "Oh my God, Mat's in there," and Nynaeve's like, "We have to go back for him," and Elayne's like "We can't," and you're like, but COULD YOU?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But please, could you?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then they just abandon him. It's very upsetting.

Sally: God. (sigh)

Emily: Nynaeve's real upset about it, though. So.

Sally: Yeah. (sigh) Elayne, I hate you. OK, but we're not there yet. Unfortunately, we have to go to -- through these chapters where Perrin gets married.



Emily: Where Perrin gets married and fucks and --

Sally: It's pretty gross.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: I mean, sex isn't gross.

Emily: Sex is great. Between two consensual adult partners, it's lovely.

Sally: Yeah. Between people who don't annoy me, it's fine. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) When I don't have to read about it, it's delightful.

Sally: I just find -- Perrin and Faile, like, everything I hate about their relationship, like, really comes to a head in these final two chapters. Sorry, I've caught whatever cold Emily had last week, and I'm very snotty. So I apologize if I sound snotty. (sniff)

Emily: You don't so far.

Sally: But, um, yeah. Everything about their relationship that is, like, insufferable is, like, laid out on a beautiful red carpet leading to their marriage.

Emily: Tell me more.

Sally: .... OK?

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I was planning on it.

Emily: (laugh) I was trying to have an interjection that wasn't "yeah" or "mm."

Sally: Oh, yeah. (pause) AH, DAMNIT! (laugh)

Emily: We've been doing a lot of transcripts lately.

Sally: And it's making me very hyper-conscious of our verbal tics.

Emily: (weird noise) See, I'm never gonna be able to transcribe that noise.

Sally: I know, sometimes I'm just like, "noise."

Emily: Parentheses: weird noise. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Or sometimes --

Emily: "Emily does a dumb voice."

Sally: Yeah. When we were living in New York, particularly, there's, like, always shit in the background --

Emily: So bad.

Sally: So I'll just be like, "Parentheses: I'm sorry about New York," or something like that. But anyways, I will prove my thesis -- (laugh) like a good English major. Um. Uhh. But there's a lot of fighting between the two of them in these chapters, obviously. Particularly about what Faile can and cannot do. Like, Perrin's constantly trying to dictate her levels of safety that he feels comfortable with. Um, and then, of course, you have Faile being, like, very physical with him. There's a moment wherein he's, like, about to go find Loial and Gaul coming back where she's just, like, pulling on his arm as hard as she can.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And of course Perrin is, like, a big boy, so she's not, like --

Emily: Yeah, I've just been, uh, transcribing the episode where we looked at their heights and weights in the Wheel of Time companion --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: He's six-one and weighs, like, upwards of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Two bucks and thirty pound -- y'know.

Sally: Yeah, like, he's a beefy boy.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So tiny little Faile isn't, like, moving him. So she just, like, gives up and refuses to, like, have any humility, and it's just like, "Oh, I was just planning to walk along with you the entire time." Which is just, like, completely immature and also just, like -- I just -- don't be physical with your -- I mean, don't be violently physical with your partner. Stop trying to, like, move him around and shove him around. Dah dah dah dah dah. And, like, she's always expressing concern for him in a way that's like, "Perrin, you're doing something wrong." And as a person who's gotten a lot of that in my life, as someone who's, like, struggled with insomnia and, like, depression, which leads to, like, bad eating habits, and just, like, struggling with these things, where people are just, like, "Well, you just need to fucking sleep." It's like, it isn't always that easy. So instead of just being like, "I'm worried that you're not sleeping enough. How can I help you?" Faile's like, "Fuck off and go to sleep." Which is, like, not very supportive.

Emily: (laugh, cough)

Sally: And then when she finally does get him up to bed, she just, like, starts taking his clothes off. And I know there's this whole thing in this world about, like, you need to, like, sleep in your underclothes or whatever, but it's like, maybe don't just start taking his clothes off.

Emily: Yeah, it's not great.

Sally: Um, and then, of course, there is the classic "Perrin is going to send Faile away on a errand to Andor --"

Emily: To get her out of harm's way.

Sally: Yeah. Which is just, like -- so it's like -- he agrees to marry her on the pretext of her going on this errand, basically.

Emily: Yeah. She's like, "I'll do it, but we have to bargain first over our marriage --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Which is a great way to start a marriage."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "We have to get married." And he's like, "Well, it hasn't been, like -- like, we can say our engagement vows, but in the Two Rivers --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You're supposed to then wait a year," and she's like, "Well, I've been talking to the ladies, and they say it's cool." And then he's, like, fine with it. But, you know, it is not great that that is how their marriage starts.

Sally: Yeah. I just, like, don't love the idea of your marriage just, like, starting on a bargain. Like, your ...

Emily: Especially because Perrin is fully, like, "And then I'll die."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Faile will go away and be free, and I'll just be dead." And so it's like, your romance -- you're idealizing this version of your marriage in which you are not a participant.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's so odd.

Sally: Yeah. And I just hate when people, like, use matrimony as a bargaining chip. Like, so much, when I -- when I was growing up, um, I just, like, remember from, like, older women in

my life about -- like, cousins and family friends or whatever -- this idea that it's, like, you need to give him an ultimatum or, like, trade marriage for this. Like, I remember that, like, idea being, like, a -- floating around the feminine circles that I moved through, that there was something you had -- you had to either, like, trick a man into marrying you or, like, use marriage as, like, a -- like, a thing to be negotiated over.

Emily: Yeah, like, "If he won't marry you, then don't fuck him," y'know, because --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That just shows he's -- not a quality man. And it's like, "No, it shows that there's some badness in the relationship.

Sally: Yeah. there's just -- I don't know what I'm -- I don't know -- think I'm saying it correctly, but it's just very frustrating. So you've got all these, like, physical things, Perrin not believing Faile is competent, Perrin trying to make decisions for her, Faile being very abusive, Faile being very abrasive, and then there's just, like, weird bargainings. Like, I feel like they're always, like, bargaining in their relationship.

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: Which is fine, like, you should compromise, but your relationship isn't a business deal, y'know?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or a political deal.

Emily: She also -- it's just, like, so much of their relationship is built on them not being communicative with each other --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In that Perrin's whole -- his central martyrdom here is that he's like, "I'm going to get Faile to leave, but I'm not going to do it by being like, 'Faile, I would like you to leave --'"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, genuinely, "This is something that needs to be done." It's, um -- it -- like, there's no honest conversation --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause he knows she's not going to agree to it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so he's like, "I have to, quote unquote, 'trick' her," and Faile fully knows what he's doing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "Hi, I'm not fucking stupid." Like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, "I get what you're doing." But she can't say that to him and be like, "OK, I'm agreeing to do this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also then -- like, there's this whole little convo, you know, when the whole big battle's over and the Two Rivers is safe and the Whitecloaks are gone -- Perrin's like, "I promise I'll never be angry with you," and Faile says -- which is actually probably good relationship advice -- "No, I want you to tell me if you're ever angry."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Don't say you're not gonna be angry, because people get angry."

Sally: Yeah. It's not a promise you can keep.

Emily: Yeah. "Just talk to me when you're angry so then I can deal with it."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he's like, "OK, yeah. Deal." But he, like, in his head, is like, "But she's never gonna tell me when she's angry."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm gonna have to work it out on my own."

Sally: Which is definitely a problem that this text has and is, like, a trope for women. Because I think -- I think we've talked about this before; I'm having déjà vu -- because, like, society conditions women to, like, not say what they're actually feeling --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: That, like, anger is not an emotion you are allowed to express, and therefore the only way you have to express it is through these, like, passive-aggressive ways. And so this text very much, like, props up that social conditioning. Where, like, the women are always -- in regards to where men are -- they have no problem being angry with each other -- but in regards to, like, letting a man know that they're angry, it always has to be some roundabout way. Like, the --

again, the relationship is -- their relationship is a game. Which is very -- just, like, so tired. I'm so tired of that narrative.

Emily: Yeah. It's upsetting.

Sally: Like, I know we've said a thousand times that Perrin and Faile are just, like, so immature because they're getting married when they're, like, nineteen or whatever --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But, like, the immaturity between the two of them is truly astounding.

Emily: Or, like, jumps out in these two scenes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, we did -- I don't know if this is clear -- we did, like, do a chapter --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Skip because it's, like, Perrin chapter where he marries Faile, and then we do the, like, climax of Nynaeve and Elayne's plot, and then it goes back to Perrin, and so we just grouped the two Perrin chapters.

Sally: Yeah, so we're doing 53 and 56 today, I believe.

Emily: Yes. So the -- we find out that it's been, like, a week or whatever since the last time we were with Perrin and that the Two Rivers has been attacked frequently and that they're kind of like, "Oh, we're barely holding them off now." Um. And Perrin's not sleeping, and the women are only on half-rations and won't tell the men because --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The men have to stay strong and fight. Um, blabbity blah blah blah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, uh, everyone's calling Perrin "Lord," and he doesn't like that, but no one will stop. And he's like, um -- I can't even fucking remember what happens in this chapter.

Sally: Um.

Emily: I know, uh -- God -- Loial and Gaul get back from closing the Waygate. Loial, carrying Gaul.

Sally: I know. Bridal style, no less. (laugh)

Emily: Bridal style. And Gaul's like, "He's been carrying me for three days. It's been the most -- best three days of my life."

Sally: He's like, "I love it. I feel so refreshed."

Emily: He literally -- I know. (laugh) He literally outran --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Myrddraal and shit.

Sally: Gaul's like, "I'm in love with him."

Emily: Gaul's like, "I would die for Loial."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "He's the only man in the world who's taller than me. Look at me. I'm perfect." (laugh)

Sally: I know, and then we have to get into Gaul's weird heterosexual nonsense. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, yeah, with Chiad and Bain. Which, I was, like -- I felt like it ended here?

Sally: I know.

Emily: Like, OK, Gaul and Chiad are now a couple. Because, uh, Bain goes off with Faile when they're quote unquote going to carry a message to Andor, but really they're going to the other villages in the Two Rivers to --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Get some reinforcements.

Sally: Rally.

Emily: Um, and Chiad stays with -- stays with Gaul because he is wounded.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And has to stay with Perrin and the Two Rivers. So it kind of was like, "OK, so that's that, right?"

Sally: Resolution.

Emily: But no, the rest of the series is, like, what is happening? You just have no idea what's fucking going on. 'Cause you're never in any of their heads.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So you're just like, hello?

Sally: What is this confusing Aiel thing?

Emily: Why -- whyyyy? What's happening?

Sally: Nonsense.

Emily: I know. Just, like, Gaul should be gay.

Sally: Gaul should be dating ME.

Emily: (laugh) Yeah. Or dating me.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Rrrggghh. Perfect boy.

Sally: I know. Or Mat.

Emily: Or Mat!

Sally: The only three things I'd accept.

Emily: Have we talked about Gaul and Mat before?

Sally: I just feel like it'd be very wholesome and funny.

Emily: It would be.

Sally: Like, could you imagine how mean they'd be to each other? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Like, one of those relationships built on bickering.

Emily: Yeah, but, like, in a good way. Not in the Perrin-Faile way.

Sally: Not, in like -- but in, like, a silly way. Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. Teasing.

Sally: Yeah. And then very good sex afterwards.

Emily: I still -- I think I'm still in the Mat and Galad camp --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: 'Cause I just think it would be so perfect.



Sally: There's just -- yeah, it's the, like, yin and yang thing going on there.

Emily: Yeah, it's the opposites attract thing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But we do have similar, like, moral codes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, honor systems.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So we can actually build a healthy relationship together.

Sally: Plus there's just the hilarious aesthetic composition of Galad being, like, perfect and beautiful --

Emily: While Mat being --

Sally: And Mat being, like, the weirdest-looking dirty boy you've ever seen. (laugh)

Emily: Dirty. Lanky. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Eating a full turkey leg. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) And Galad just being like, "So beautiful."

Emily: (laugh) "He's my perfect boyfriend."

Sally: And everyone's like, "Oh my God?"

Emily: Everyone's like, "Oh my -- he's a rat."

Sally: "When has he showered?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: It is very good, you're right. It's --

Emily: "He slept in his clothes?"

Sally: Yeah, it is truly, like, peak romance comedy.

Emily: I know. Where is the fan fiction? Come on, people.

Sally: I'm sure it's out there.

Emily: The Wheel of Time fandom is expanding, it feels like. Or, at least, more people are adding us on Twitter.

Sally: That's true. We have gotten a decent amount of follows. Thank you for following us on Twitter and Instagram.

Emily: (sigh) Why haven't they announced the casting for Gawyn, Elayne, and Galad? I was thinking about that last night.

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: 'Cause they've already announced, like, Suan -- or they picked a lady who I assume is Suan --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause they have Leane.

Sally: Yeah. I dunno.

Emily: So it's like, do you think they're just cutting out that part of the plot? Maybe they were like, "None of these three characters are worth anything."

Sally: I doubt it

Emily: The way the text writes it. (sigh)

Sally: I bet that'll be our next big casting. I bet we'll get Elayne, Gawyn, Galad, Morgase.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Gareth Bryne.

Emily: Gareth Bryne.

Sally: I bet we'll get those five-os.

Emily: All the white-os. (laugh)

Sally: (sniff) Ugh.

Emily: Rrrrgghh.

Sally: I don't know, though. That is interesting, that they've announced some Aes Sedai and Warders and not, like, Elayne.

Emily: I just think that they're going to probably take the text and focus -- like, I think this is the way they're going to do this adaptation, is they're going to focus on the things they think are interesting, which are the Aes Sedai --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And not necessarily the, uh, royal gossip girls happening over in --

Sally: I mean, we already got --

Emily: Fucking fantasy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Andor. Fantasy England.

Sally: We already got royal gossip girls in Game of Thrones.

Emily: Exactly! We don't need it. And it's like, you can't live up to Game of Thrones. Like, I'll say this for Game of Thrones: like, the political shit is interesting.

Sally: Yeah. It is interesting. It's very well-thought-out.

Emily: The -- and, like, the Wheel of Time political shit is just nothing compared to that.

Sally: It's very confusing.

Emily: It's not Wheel of Time's strength.

Sally: No.

Emily: Because there's too many countries. No one makes sense.

Sally: (laugh) "There are countries?"

Emily: Yeah. "There are countries?"

Sally: God bless you, Nathan.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um. Yeah, no, I agree. But I do want to see who they cast as Galad.

Emily: I know, because they are basically saying, "This is the perfect man."

Sally: "This is the hot --" Maybe that's why they can't -- they can't decide.

Emily: (laugh) "We can't find him!"

Sally: They're like, "Who is the hottest man?"

Emily: Someone -- you have to pull a sword from the stone --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: To be Galad.

Sally: (laugh) Amazing.

Emily: Or whatever. Aw. Wish I could make that joke in fucking Wheel of Time. Sword in the stone.

Sally: Yeah, because Rand has to pull a sword from a stone --

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK, so whatever! Perrin goes to bed, and he's like, in this dream, and he's like, "I'm just gonna try and fight Slayer. 'Cause I fight Slayer in every single -- (noise of something hitting the table) sorry -- one of my climaxes. Not in a sexual way --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "But maybe in a sexual way?"

Sally: I just -- sorry, I shouldn't be so immature. It's just because these are Perrin's sex chapters that I'm --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Just like, "Ewww."

Emily: I know. These are, like, the sexiest that Perrin's chapters get, is when Faile's like, "Should we maybe fuck?" And Perrin's like, "Hell yes, we should."

Sally: "Yeah." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And that's like, Oh. That's --

Sally: It's as charming as their relationship gets.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: That's it.

Emily: Um, but yeah. Why does -- Perrin is constantly fighting Slayer, and I know I've said this to you before, but it goes on forever, until the fourteenth book. And you're just like, this is not a protag -- an antagonist you should introduce --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In fucking book four --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then have him continue to be an -- like, the way these long-term fantasy series have to work, and for the most part they work -- it works in other aspects of Wheel of Time -- is that, like, you have to level up from --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The foes you're facing. Like, in book nine, Mat's not fucking worried about Trollocs and Myrddraal. He's got a creepy, like, assassin that --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Can slide under doors and is hunting him personally. You know? Like, we go up.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's growth.

Sally: Gotta get the final boss, y'know?

Emily: Yeah. Rand, unfortunately, fights Ishamael three times.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But after that, it's like, OK, now you're gonna fight a different Forsaken and possibly two at a time.

Sally: Ooh, shit.

Emily: For the rest of, like --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Your chapters. And Perrin is just, like, you just have this one guy. And the temptation of Berelain's vagina.

Sally: (laugh) I mean, it is very tempting.

Emily: Ahhh! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) She's a very pretty lady.

Emily: She is.

Sally: But any -- also --

Emily: We would all fuck Berelain.

Sally: I know. It's just, like --

Emily: We all know this. Stop lying to ourselves.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's beautiful and powerful.

Sally: Yeah. So powerful.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So smart. So pretty.

Emily: But she's also ethically unsound.

Sally: Yeah. That's true. My, like, idealized version of Berelain, which I know is a troublesome sentence --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But the one where she, like, has ethics -- (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And isn't, like --

Emily: Oh, God. Can you imagine?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where Berelain's just like, "I respect the marital -- I respect that even though your marriage is clearly not a great one --"

Sally: Toxic as fuck.

Emily: "Toxic as fuck, I'm not going to interfere with that. I'm going to let you come to that realization on your own."

Sally: Yeah. "I'm also going to stop touching you."

Emily: “Meanwhile I’m going to fuck --” Who could she fuck?

Sally: Gaul. (laugh)

Emily: Gaul -- yeah, Gaul’s the only one who’s there. Gaul’s the only fuckable -- (laugh)

Sally: The only -- there’s -- Gaul and Mat are, like, the only fuckable boys in all of Wheel of Time.

Emily: (scream) No, I was just trying to think of who’s in Perrin’s group --

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Who she could fuck. Yeah, it’s pretty much just Gaul. Yeah.

Sally: Just Gaul. Definitely not Perrin.

Emily: But then also, like, why would you fuck Perrin if Gaul is standing right there, you know?

Sally: I know. I don’t understand --

Emily: What is the deal?

Sally: Like, proof -- more proof that Robert Jordan was straight, because it’s just, like --

Emily: Robert Jordan, yeah.

Sally: Perrin is not interesting.

Emily: Didn’t understand that he created Gaul, the perfect boy.

Sally: Gaul. I know. Um, I remember when I first read Perrin’s wedding chapters, I thought it was, like, really sweet, and I texted Emily, and I’m like, “Meeehhhh, so sweet,” and then I just realized that there’s, like -- Emily helped me identify the primal part of my brain that just, like, wants a big strong himbo to be my friend. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And now I’m like, no, I have Bokuto to fulfill this need for me. (laugh) I don’t need Perrin’s wedding anymore. So I rescind everything I said in the past.

Emily: I like the idea of Perrin’s wedding in terms of, like -- I -- I like to see the culture mix, although it doesn’t, really -- but I like to see, like, this, like, idea of these little wedding traditions --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That we, on the eve of some big disaster, are, like, still going through because that's how communities work.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Y'know? That's how communities support each other is by, like, continuing to uphold our traditions that we --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cherish. But, um -- like, that's the only part of it I like.

Sally: Yeah, no --

Emily: Like, I like that they're wearing their little ribbons.

Sally: Yeah. And that he, like, wears it to battle.

Emily: Yeah. It's cute.

Sally: No, I agree. I really like fantasies and, like, secondary worlds that, like, put effort into, like, wedding traditions. 'Cause it's, like, always a very strong part of any culture, is, like, what you do at, like, births, weddings, and deaths --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Of course. Um, so, like, yeah. The Two -- the concept of the Two Rivers weddings is very cute, where they have the ribbons, and they have their witnesses.

Emily: And it's just, like, a very cutely written little scene --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where Perrin's, like, nervous, so his hands are shaking --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Faile is just, like, calm and steady 'cause she's like, "I know what I want, and it's this dick." And so she's just, like, as they're saying their vows -- y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, the concept of it is all very nice. It's literally like, if you deleted the rest of Perrin and Faile's relationship and just had this one --

Sally: Yeah.



Emily: Little marriage scene that's like three paragraphs long, you'd be like, "Aw, that's a cute couple."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: But unfortunately, we have the background of spanking --

Sally: Ohhhh.

Emily: And the silent treatment and the fucking verbal and emotional abuse and the lack of communication skills, and so we're just like, "Oh, great. No."

Sally: Yeah, it's very toxic.

Emily: It's terrible.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Yeah. Anyway, they're married or whatever.

Emily: Yeah, they're married or whatever, and then there's, like, a big battle -- oh. (laugh) Perrin also, like, fucking, you know, shot Slayer --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And then wakes up, and everyone's like, "Ah, Lord Luc just ran away with, like -- fucking clutching his chest as though wounded."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Perrin's like, "What? Those two guys don't even look the same."

Sally: "That seems wrong." Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "What the heck?" Perrin hasn't figured out yet that you can change what you look like in the World of Dreams. Not that that's relevant in this case.

Sally: (laugh) Because they're literally two different people.

Emily: I didn't even finish my rant about how it's so annoying --

Sally: Oh, yeah. (laugh)

Emily: That Perrin just keeps fighting Slayer --

Sally: I know.

Emily: For ten more books.

Sally: I'm sorry, I got distracted talking about himbos.

Emily: It's also annoying because, like, we don't even get, like -- fuck -- what -- any -- any expansion of the Slayer mythos.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Isam slash Luc thing is all implied. It's all marginal. It's never like Perrin's like, "Hey, who the fuck are you?" And Slayer's like, "Well, let me tell you my name and also my OTHER name."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "There's a reason I look like both Lan and Rand, the most horrific combo of all time."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's just -- "Listen to me. Like, here's what happened." Like, he just doesn't say any of that. You know?

Sally: Yeah, 'cause I feel like Luc slash Isam, like, provides the opportunity to have, like, these interesting marginal, like, Tom Bombadil figures --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where, like, it alludes to, like, a deeper mythos than the characters need to interact with, so there's, like, this deeper world permeating the -- the Wheel of Time world, as opposed to just, like, we know the Dark One, we know the Forsaken, just like you know Sauron and all of his orcs or whatever, but then there's, like, this weird Tom Bombadil dude and, like, all these other wizards who are just, like, doing their thing. And, like, Slayer -- whatever. The combo Luc-Isam-Slayer personage -- triad -- (laugh) like, could provide that really cool, odd -- and, like, give Perrin that, like, liminality that his, like, wolf side would suggest.

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like -- it's so -- it comes from such contemporary history --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we're told that in these super roundabout ways --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That you're like, "Oh, cool, maybe Slayer's, like, this archetypal figure," but it's, like, no --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just two separate dudes from two separate countries who went to the same place and had some encounter that's never explained to us.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, we just don't ever --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Know, and that's so frustrating --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not in a good way.

Sally: Yeah. Not in a good way. Not in, like, an interesting -- like, I don't think it's ever good to be, like, frustrated about, like, a point of plot confusion --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You can be frustrated about a plot. I don't think writers should ever, like, be content that they've confused their readers.

Emily: Yeah, that's not, like, good writing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You should -- maybe, if you've mystified your readers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's different than befuddling them.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Y'know? And also, it's just -- just doesn't follow the video game logic that my heart desires, which is that --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If Slayer is the boss here, and Perrin can more or less take him out -- not kill him, but injure him and send him running --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then he should be able to handily beat him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Two books from now.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know?

Sally: I know. It applies this, like, weird "Perrin can't beat this level" logic. (laugh)

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Which is, like, very frustrating.

Emily: And also is exactly what Perrin's entire character is --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On a philosophical level.

Sally: (laugh) "I can't beat this level."

Emily: Perrin's brain cannot beat the level of "Wolf-Man: Am I a furry?" He just, like, can't get past that.

Sally: (laugh) Level three.

Emily: Level three.

Sally: He's tapped out.

Emily: He's stuck, constantly. And he tries to do all his leveling up in the last two books, when Brandon Sanderson finally gets a hold of him and is like, "WHY?"

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, God bless you, Brandon Sanderson. Branderson, as it were.

Emily: Branderson saw Perrin's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Potential.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And was like, "Aw, dream shit. This could be fucking cool --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And cinematic as hell. Too bad Robert Jordan’s just been fucking around over in ‘Faile’s been kidnapped’ land.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What are you doing?!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So anyway, Robert Jordan, I thank you -- I mean, Brandon Sanderson. B. Sands, you did a good with a Perrin. You did assassinate Mat’s character, though. (laugh) And so we’re sort of still on neutral.

Sally: (laugh) Maybe he had to sacrifice Mat for Perrin’s sake, which isn’t a sacrifice I’d accept.

Emily: Like -- yeah, laid Mat on the altar of good --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Character writing.

Sally: And Mat was like, “It’s okay, I’ve had ten books.” (laugh)

Emily: Mat was like, “I’ve been the best character for fucking ten book -- eleven books.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: ‘Cause even in the one I was absent from --

Sally: Oh, that’s right.

Emily: I was the best character.

Sally: (laugh) “Go ahead, Branderson.”

Emily: “Go ahead. I’ll die so Perrin can live.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Oh, Perrin, you’re so boring.

Emily: And then Perrin lives and is like, “Hello? Brandon?” And Brandon’s like, “Ahh! It’s hideous.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Just like Frankenstein. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) “Papa?”

Emily: “Papa?! Papa!”

Sally: (gagging noise, laugh)

Emily: Ahhh! That’s the sound I imagine Victor making.

Sally: Oh, one hundred percent.

Emily: Ahh!

Sally: What a Victorian dandy. Surprised he didn’t faint. Did he faint?

Emily: We were also talking about -- I think he does.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: We were talking about Frankenstein today, and Ashley was like, “I love Frankenstein, ‘cause I’ve studied it like four times,” and Haley was like, “yeah, I don’t know anyone who’s more obsessed with Frankenstein than you are.” And I was like, (whisper) “Do I say anything?”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Well, I know someone!”

Sally: “As a matter of fact.”

Emily: I was like, I’ll just keep my --

Sally: Yeah. I feel like if I were to go --

Emily: My confusing relationship to myself.

Sally: I know. I feel like if I were to go head to head with Ashley, though, like, I don’t have the ability to, like, draw out enough enthusiasm for people to, like, believe I love something --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: As much as I do.

Emily: I would just have to, like, clip together all the times you’ve ranted about Frankenstein --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On this podcast, and ...

Sally: People would be like, “You like this thing?” and I’m like, “Sure.”

Emily: Yes.

Sally: "But I don't trust you enough to be vulnerable enough about how much I love Frankenstein because you're a stranger."

Emily: (laugh) Big fuckin' mood.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) So I'm just like, "Mm-hmm."

Emily: Except I do that with non-strangers. My family's like, "Are you excited for Disneyland?" and I'm like, "Yes. Can't you tell?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Look at my face. It's so excited." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) You're like Captain Holt from Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

Emily: Yes. I am Captain Holt. Ohhhkay. What are we -- what the fuck are we talking about? Slayer's DUMB. And he runs off --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: With a fucking arrow in him, and then Perrin's like, "Faile, will you maybe take a message to Morgase?" and Faile's like, "That'll take me two months."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Perrin's like, "It's fine. We can hold out till then." And Faile's like, "I'm not stupid. I know that you guys don't have rations left."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And also there are so many Trollocs." 'Cause Gaul and Loial are like, "There are at least 2,000 Trollocs out there." And Luc's like, "Meeehhhh. Maybe a thousand --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "At the most. Loial, you've never -- you've never done battle." And Gaul's like, "What about me, then, fucko?"

Sally: (laugh) I know, it's so classy.

Emily: "Have I never done battle?"

Sally: Yeah. It's so good.

Emily: "I can count." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "We both can."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "You can't count." But oh, Luc's evil. So then -- (laugh) So then Perrin and Faile get married. Whatever. Then Perrin writes, like, a sad letter to Faile --

Sally: (laugh) He's like, "When you see the sun shining, know that --"

Emily: "It's me."

Sally: "It's my love for you."

Emily: (singing) "Every step you take --"

Sally: (laugh, simultaneously) "I'll be watching you." Like that swan vine.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or goose.

Emily: I think it's a goose.

Sally: Probably. Geese are the fucking worst.

Emily: It has big geese vibes. I love that vine, though. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Rest in peace, Vine.

Emily: I think that was the vine I showed to my dad to explain what vines are.

Sally: Did he love it?

Emily: I think he kinda liked it 'cause he at least understood --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What was happening.

Sally: One of my favorite stories is when you showed Chris the "Look at this graph" vine -- (laugh) and he's like --

Emily: He watched it, like, six times.

Sally: Both parts amused and confused.

Emily: He didn't know what to do. He was, like, laughing, but --

Sally: "Look at this graph." (laugh)



Emily: Because were laughing. (laugh) Um.

Sally: Uh.

Emily: But whatever. The Trollocs are coming, so they get all ready. Perrin takes a little mini tour of the village. All the, like, kids and Trollocs are in the center so they can make a break for it --

Sally: Kids and Trollocs?

Emily: Kids and Trollocs! Kids and Tinkers, oh my God. Oh, I haven't even talked about Aram.

Sally: Oh, yeah. Fuckin' Aram is there.

Emily: He's there, being annoying.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Fucking stalking Perrin. Aram's one of the, like, witnesses for Perrin's wedding.

Sally: Oh, yeah. It's like Aram and Loial.

Emily: 'Cause Gaul's unconscious.

Sally: Yeah, Gaul's like, literally, unconscious.

Emily: Gaul's literally unconscious in the same room, and Perrin's like, "Great time to get married. While my boyfriend is unconscious."

Sally: (laugh) Could you imagine? "Sorry, bro. You missed my wedding. You were unconscious."

Emily: Gaul's like, "What?! I would've been awake in, like, an hour."

Sally: Yeah. "If you could've just let me, like, slept -- sleep off my sleeping pill."

Emily: Yeah. Come on.

Sally: (laugh) And Perrin's like, "No. Too horny."

Emily: Perrin's like, "No, I gotta fuck." Gaul's like, "I don't get it."

Sally: Do you think they had sex that night?

Emily: Yes. It's like the whole point.

Sally: ... Yeah, I guess it makes sense. I just, like -- obviously they, like, cut to black, but I'm just like, did they? Or did they have time? Would it happen for the first time after the battle?

Emily: No, I feel like it was right then, y'know?

Sally: Okay. Gross.

Emily: I mean, he doesn't talk about it. He just talks about his wedding ribbon. You'd think he'd be like, "Ah, damn. That sex was ..."

Sally: "Mediocre."

Emily: "Mediocre."

Sally: "And stressful."

Emily: "Mediocre and stressful for Faile. Great for me, because I'm a man." (laugh) Sorry, men. But am I?

Sally: No.

Emily: Depends. Does your lady partner orgasm on a regular basis?

Sally: Do you pay attention to her needs?

Emily: Yeah. Talk to her. And that will affect whether or not I'm disappointed in you.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Report back to me. PLEASE DON'T.

Sally: No -- no, don't. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Don't! I take it back immediately.

Emily: I don't want to know. (laugh) Ahhhh! What have I done?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: If ANY of you fucking DM me, I'll kill you. Oh, yeah, then there's a battle, I guess.

Sally: Yeah, which is boring. It's like, Trolloc, Trolloc.

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, a boring battle. I like --

Sally: Blah blah blah.

Emily: The only fun part is when the women join the battle and it's like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egg's mom, being a fucking badass.

Sally: Yeah. I bet Egg's mom --

Emily: And Mat's sisters just, like, tag-teaming a Trolloc together. Just, like, stabbing repeatedly. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. So good.

Emily: Umm. So that's good. But then, Egg's reinforcements -- not Egg's, Faile's -- reinforcements -- reinforcements arrive and it's like, "Ah, hey, day is saved," and there's this, like -- it's very liminal. Perrin's, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sees Faile and then just, like, the battle isn't happening, and I'm like, "Aren't there --"

Sally: I know.

Emily: "Aren't there still, like, Trollocs to, like, kill?"

Sally: I was thinking that. They're, like, having this whole fucking conversation, and I'm like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Are you gonna die?

Emily: It's, like, the way I visualize it is, like, Perrin's in the middle of this fuckin' battle, and then he sees, like, Faile over on a hill with her reinforcements and, like, the reinforcements don't even join the battle. Perrin just, like, goes to Faile --

Sally: Uh-huh.

Emily: And then it's like, the battle's over.

Sally: Yeah. It's very, like --

Emily: At some point. It doesn't make sense. Robert Jordan, you did a bad. It's not well-written. Um. But whatever. I guess the reinforcements work, but of course, the Whitecloaks did not join the fight because they're a bunch of lunatics. Um. And they're like, "We would like to arrest you now." And Perrin's like, "Nooo. I made a deal with you that you could arrest me if you actually participated in the fucking fight."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Which you did not. Therefore, get out of my town."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh, cowboy accent) "This town ain't big enough for the both of us."

Emily: Yeah. (imitates a Western movie musical sting)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And they're like, "Fine, we will, but we'll be back, ten books from now." (laugh) "To --"

Sally: Hold a trial at an inconvenient time.

Emily: "To draw this plot out longer."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. Fucking hell. Blegghh.

Sally: Blegghh.

Emily: Um, and then Faile's like, "Hey, you wanna fuck?" and Perrin's like, "Fuck yeah, I do," and then they leave to fuck. And then it flashes over to Padan Fain, who's like, "Ha ha ha, just so you know, I've been orchestrating some of this? But Luc has also been orchestrating some of it. And it's unclear which of us is, like, working on the orders of a higher power, or if maybe we're just two chaos boys."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "With separate but equally malicious vendettas."

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: It's -- so, like, why are you gonna give us points of view from villains if you're not going to be fucking clear about it, you know?

Sally: I was literally -- the transcript I finished yesterday, it was us in season one talking about how Padan Fain keeps popping up with points of view that mean nothing. (laugh)

Emily: Meaningless!

Sally: And so here we are, three seasons later, with the same problem.

Emily: It's so ridiculous.

Sally: He's just like, "Ba ha ha."

Emily: Yeah, he just evil laughs into the sunset.

Sally: Like, literally, just cackles into a flashlight. Chapter ends.

Emily: And you're like, "Why?!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It's not ominous. It's just him doing his thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: OK. Anything else to say?

Sally: No.

Emily: No, yeah.

Sally: We'll be free of him for a season now.

Emily: Yeah. Weddings usually -- fantasy weddings usually are the culmination of a plot.

Sally: Shit, I forgot to make my Pinterest board for Perrin and Faile!

Emily: Oh, you --

Sally: It's OK, I have until Monday, when the episode releases.

Emily: That's true.

Sally: Phew. Don't let me forget I have to make a Pinterest board.

Emily: I shan't. Um. Like, usually a wedding is how it ends.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know? And it's kinda nice because in this day and age, it's usually a lesbian wedding.

Sally: Unbury your gays.

Emily: That's where we're at. Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But I do appreciate -- I just want to say, I do appreciate that the wedding happens, like, with more of the story to go. Because that's real life.

Sally: Yeha.

Emily: When I was growing up -- and I'm only now really unpacking how damaging my childhood was for me in regards to my relationship with marriage -- but when I grew up, it was kind of, like, marriage is the end.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's like, you get married and then that's the end of your goal list.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Maybe you have kids.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that's, like, part of it. But it's just like, that's the end of your life. And that's not fucking how it is.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Whether or not you get married or you're just in a relationship with someone or you don't get married or be in a relationship with anyone at all, like, life goes on. For --

Sally: And, yeah, marriages end.

Emily: Fifteen more books, it feels like.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You might get kidnapped. Your partner might get kidnapped. (laugh)

Sally: You truly never know what's gonna happen.

Emily: You just never -- you might talk to -- you might talk to wolves.

Sally: Your friend might marry a fascist.

Emily: Yeah, your friend might marry a fascist and then come back with one eye and be like, "Oh, hey," and then get snatched by a mist -- a mist monster, and that's the extent of your conversation.

Sally: Yeah. And then your other friend has THREE wives?! (laugh)

Emily: Yep. And is dead, perhaps?!

Sally: What?!

Emily: Who's to say? He's fighting Satan.

Sally: It's all very confusing after you get married.

Emily: It's all very confusing, yeah. It's just what happens, though.

Sally: Yeah. But, like, from the, like, literary perspective, of course the king of this was Shakespeare, who at the end just loved to -- much like Robert Jordan --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Pair off all of his couples, no matter how nonsensical it might be.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And that, like, represents --

Emily: And sometimes ominously imply that it won't work out, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Merchant of Venice, y'know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When it's like, they get married, but you're like, aw, this is gonna fall apart.

Sally: They shouldn't have done that. Yeah.

Emily: Eww.

Sally: Um, but there's always also, like, once everyone's been married, there's, like, a healing of the land, like, literally, it's like, a sacred marriage, is, I think --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Is what it's called in, like, Arthurian studies or whatever. Or just, like, myth studies, like, a sacred marriage is supposed to heal things, like you think Aragorn and Arwen at the end of Return of the King.

Emily: Yeah, I was literally thinking about them.

Sally: It is very much --

Emily: I know it doesn't even present their wedding, technically, but it feels like their wedding.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I know they -- it's, like, their coronation or whatever --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But, like, you have that idea of, like, them getting married is, like, the last thing the land needs to, like, bring it back to a place of, like, prosperity. So it's very interesting to get -- it's -- 'cause Perrin in particular has the most, like, pastoral sort of narrative. Um, so, like, of -- it seems very much like his narrative would end with this, like, sacred wedding. But it happens more or less at the beginning. So yeah. Just reiterating --

Emily: Interesting.

Sally: What you said with two examples.

Emily: You did good, though, 'cause you actually had examples. I was just like, "Aww, childhood trauma."

Sally: Childhood trauma's a big deal.

Emily: That's true.

Sally: I've been thinking a lot about my childhood relationship to weddings too, 'cause I have a very good friend who just got engaged, which I'm very excited about because I love weddings, but then I'm also like, why is that, like, a weird part of, like, misogyny that I've -- like, patriarchy that I've bought into? That I, like, really like wedding stuff. Y'know? Like, it feels like a trick has been played on -- (laugh)

Emily: Right.

Sally: Whatever.

Emily: OK. That little wedding aside is over. So thank you for listening to Everybody Hates Rand. Um, thanks to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Thanks to all of you. We have some announcements. One is that the five dollar tier on Patreon is back up. We came up with a thing that we can do for our five dollar patrons and, um, upper tiers. You know, if you're above five dollars, you'll also get this. And it's that every month, we're going to try and release a video where we unpack in greater detail and with more academic sources --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And research some of the concepts we talk about in this podcast. I think our first one will be talking about Joseph Campbell's monomyth, so perhaps I will be talking about how Star Wars is the classic example of that, but also I'll probably try and do something different, because it's boring, and then you can never watch Star Wars again without thinking of the monomyth.

Sally: Yeah, without being, like, bur bur bur bur, Hero's Journey, blahh.

Emily: Yeah, it's really upsetting. But that is our plan.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So if that interests you at all, five dollars on Patreon.

Sally: Hell yeah.

Emily: Our --

Sally: You can see our faces.



Emily: Yeah. Unfortunately. Gotta get into the realm of video editing. Uhh. Also, uh, we have updated, 'cause we did get -- reach our goal of making enough, uh, monthly money to make sticker merch, which we have now done -- buy your stickers; they're very delightful -- uh, but our new goal is to -- correct me if I'm wrong -- is to make enough income for us to add it to our own incomes and, um, be able to afford a place -- an apartment or a -- or a house or whatever with another bedroom or another room that we can turn into a recording studio.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: We've been recording next to a fridge --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: For two and a half years. Two years. I don't know why I just added a half-year on.

Sally: It feels like a long time.

Emily: Those extra two weeks.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just felt like --

Sally: Half a year, I don't know.

Emily: For two years, we've been recording next to a fridge, and it really reflects in the audio quality, and for that, I apologize. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) We're just -- it's all we have.

Emily: It's all we have, unless we wanted to record in Sally's closet.

Sally: Which, I mean, we can try out.

Emily: No.

Sally: It just means I have to clean my closet. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um, but yeah, EHR has -- long ago -- outpaced our ability to run this, uh, show from our kitchen table. So we're hoping to, uh, get enough money -- I believe we settled on 600 dollars as our next --

Emily: I think so, yeah.

Sally: Goal. Which is about 200 and twenty or thirty dollars more than we have currently. Which will be enough to cover expenses and keep producing merchandise and help us get that um --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Additional bedroom, where we can also, like, run our Patreon book -- like, have storage space for all our craft supplies, and we'll put a special couch in there for Tybalt so he stops fucking scratching our couch. (laugh) So --

Emily: Ugghhh! No, we're just gonna put that couch in there. Then we can get a new couch.

Sally: Oh, yeah. That's right. We were gonna put our old couch and get a new one. So if you want to help Tybalt get his very own bedroom -- (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Forgetting all the EHR stuff, if you want Tybalt to have his own room -- we'll put a little sign on it that says "Tybalt's bedroom --"

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Support us on Patreon at any level, um, that is comfortable for you.

Emily: Tell your friends.

Sally: Tell your friends. Tell your grandma?

Emily: No, don't. I don't want to hear -- I don't want your grandma to hear me say "fuck" as much as I do.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I mean, if she's into that, I guess.

Sally: Tell your cool grandma.

Emily: Yeah, like, your cool grandma.

Sally: Like, grandma who was, like, into it.

Emily: Heeey, you cool grandma.

Sally: No.

Emily: Oh, now I feel like I'm, y'know --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I've taken the MBMBAM thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cool babies. Cool -- OK. OK, God. This episode has gone on so fucking long, and I'm gonna have to edit out the entire beginning.

Sally: You can edit out the whole beginning where I'm like, "Volleyball anime." (laugh)

Emily: Volleyball anime.

Sally: (inaudible, laugh)

Emily: Where we yell at Devin? I have to leave that in there. Thank you again for listening. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Yeah, but I feel like I, like, blew my shot really early, 'cause I had to tell multiple people that a bird had a stroke.

Emily: (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh) Like, what is my job?

Emily: That's it. Don't do a war crime.

Sally: Jesus Christ. (laugh)