



Episode 104: I Wish You Had Not Done This

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

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

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Sally: Just lickin' his butt. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Whatever. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. It's also our season finale of --

Sally: Thank God. (laugh)

Emily: *The Shadow Rising*. Yeah, and I cannot emphasize enough how relieved we are.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: I mean, *The Fires of Heaven* is a thick boy, but. Way more palatable 'cause no Perrin.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Do you want to take *The Fires of Heaven* to Washington with you and make your siblings do a photo shoot?

Emily: Oh, yeah, I should. But that would -- that requires so many levels of --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Explanation. Like, one: I have a podcast. (laugh) Two: It's about this dumb series of books called the Wheel of Time. Three: Sometimes we take pictures of it so Sally has something to post on Instagram whenever we release an episode. So.

Sally: Also, I could just give it to Gethin and see what he does. (laugh)

Emily: I feel like Gethin would be -- I'd forget. You know how bad I am at taking pictures.

Sally: Yes. I do.

Emily: I know. I'm, like, seeing my sister for the first time in two months, and I guarantee -- guaranteed -- will forget to take any photo evidence. (laugh)

Sally: That's OK. You don't have to. It's all in your mind palace. (pause) OK.

Emily: Yeah, I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm the other one.

Emily: She's Sally Goodger.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: We're all grumpy and tired here.

Sally: Yeah, I'm sorry. I always feel like I'm disappointing someone when I bring low energy to EHR.

Emily: I don't think you're disappointing anyone.

Sally: It's just that today was real bad.

Emily: I just transcribed an episode where you were sick -- we said you were sick, but you're still very funny in it.

Sally: (laugh) Thank you.

Emily: And you don't come off as sounding sick or upset.

Sally: So I just -- I just want to give you guys my best, but there was a creepy stalker at my work today.

Emily: Yeah, gross. This is a podcast where we talk about the end of *The Shadow Rising*. Unfortunately, it's from Rand's point of view, and it's also weirdly biblical. Like, Book of Revelations biblical.

(thumping noise in background)

Emily: What the fuck?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Tybalt's finding a toy under our couch. I mean, it has everything. There's, like, a miracle performed by a --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Jesus-like figure involving the weather.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. There is a false Jesus.

Sally: Prophet.

Emily: Prophet? Isn't there a word for that in the -- Bible?

Sally: Time for me to Google it.

Emily: False Messiah, maybe? What a -- it's probably just false prophet.

Sally: I mean, you know more about those people than me.

Emily: I have not read the Book of Revelations, though. One time we were supposed to, in seminary, but did I do any homework for seminary? Absolutely not. I just lied and said I did. 'Cause that's how you really teach teens how to get closer to Jesus.

Sally: Yeah, warnings against false prophets and false Messiahs.

Emily: Ah, sweet.

Sally: According to Wikipedia.

Emily: Wikipedia.

Sally: Wikipedia. Encyclopedia.

Emily: Is there a Bible wikipedia? You know, like, how some fandoms have a wikipedia?
(laugh) Is there a Bible fandom wikipedia?

Sally: (laugh) Bible dot wiki.

Emily: Bible dot wiki. Only it'd have to be something cool from the Bible. Plague of locusts dot wiki.

Sally: Deuteronomy dot wiki.

Emily: Deuteronomy. Leviathan. Leviticus, I mean. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Leviticus. Um, yeah, so there's a false prophet, a miracle performed. There is, um ...

Emily: Oh, there's literally a line where Rhurc's like, "You should not have done that." And Rand's like, "I come not to bring peace but the sword," essentially. I'm paraphrasing. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I was like, what? I don't remember that.

Emily: I think he says, like, "I'm not here to bring peace. I'm here to bring change," or something like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Jesus is like, "I'm not here to make everything, like, swell again, motherfuckers, 'cause this is the real world. I'm here to fuck things up."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "And give you -- and set the stage for the papal schism." Y'know?

Sally: Many years later.

Emily: That's what Jesus said. (laugh) I bet.

Sally: He was like, "I want to watch all the popes fight."

Emily: Jesus was like, "I am creating my own personal HBO show --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Called 'Popes.'" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I mean, they are the most dramatic in history. It's true.

Emily: I know. What -- HBO, get on it. There's, like --

Sally: Isn't there a Young Pope on HBO?

Emily: Yeah, there's the Young Pope and --

Sally: With Jude Law.

Emily: And then there's the New Pope. Which I think is the sequel to the young pope? I'm very confused. I feel like he's still young, right?

Sally: Yeah, who'd they replace him with? Tom Holland? (laugh)

Emily: Ahhh! (laugh) Yeah, you can't get younger than -- I mean, when it comes to popes. There have been, like, NINE MILLION popes. Because they're all appointed when they're, like, 78 years old.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) They die, like, three years later.

Emily: This was the Middle Ages, so they died three months later. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Of syphilis or whatever the fuck. Blood-letting.

Sally: Yeah. Leeches.

Emily: A single boil.

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: I know. I heard the most disgusting thing about boils in the last episode of Sawbones. I shan't repeat it. It was too disturbing.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: You're welcome. You'll just have to live with the knowledge that I know something. (laugh) Um.

Sally: (laugh) OK. What other biblical stuff do we have, Emily Juchau?

Emily: That's pretty much all I clocked. There's probably more, 'cause I imagine Robert Jordan, South Carolinian, knew more about the Bible than I did, but who's to say? Um. The plot that happens is that Rand and co. arrive in Alcair Dal ...?

Sally: Mm. Sure.

Emily: I -- the Golden Bowl is what I actually remember it being.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, they arrive, pretty much just as the, like, Shaido are also arriving. There's only a few other, um, clans present. I get so confused on the difference between clans and sept -- septs.

Sally: Yeah, it's like, clan, sept, society.

Emily: Yeah. So ...

Sally: It's like, what?

Emily: Yeah, like, there's like a whole thing where Rand's like, "Here are all the societies that are around." Like, and it's just -- I can't keep track. I don't know how anyone keeps track of things like that. But basically, the people in attendance are going to be, more or less, important because they're going to be, like, Rand's main Aiel chief allies.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So there's Bael, the super tall guy. Is he the super tall guy?

Sally: I thought -- yes. Bael's the super tall one. And then there's, like, Herne or whatever, who's, like, ancient.

Emily: Yeah, there's Herne.

Sally: Herne.

Emily: Herne --

Sally: Herne.

Emily: And then there's also Han.

Sally: (laugh) Solo.

Emily: Yeah, Solo. As it were.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Han Seoul-oh from Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. (laugh) His name is also Han Solo.

Sally: (laugh) Is it?

Emily: (laugh) Yeah, "Seoul" spelled like the city in Korea, then hyphen --

Sally: Oh, no.

Emily: Then O-H. Yeah.

Sally: That's dumb.

Emily: Eh, it's the Fast and the Furious franchise, my friend.

Sally: I know, but they gotta have, like, some standards, y'know?

Emily: No, they were just like, “We’re going to have this character who --”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “We kill off, then we go back in time so you can see him alive, and then we’re gonna make you repeat his death, but this time with Jason Statham. But then in the next movie, oh, spoilers if you haven’t seen the next Fast and the Furious trailer, we are going to bring him back to life. Because there are no laws in Fast and the Furious.”

Sally: Sure.

Emily: “We’re too fast and too furious for this.”

Sally: John Cena’s in it.

Emily: I know. What the fuck. Do they just have, like, the whole WWE, like, roster on --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is that how John Cena started?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: OK, thank you.

Sally: So did the Rock.

Emily: Yeah. And so was -- Ronda Rousey was in --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: A couple movies ago.

Sally: Also, they did, like, an absolute crime against Charlize Theron in the movie -- next movie.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Her hair --

Emily: Looks like some of the Haikyuu volley-boys.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Fuck, you’re so right.

Emily: I’m serious, though. Whoever designs the hair in Haikyuu also got a hold of Charlize hair -- Theron’s head.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And was like --

Sally: And was like, "I can do this."

Emily: "I can make it perfect."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I know how to make someone look like a villain. A bad haircut."

Sally: (laugh) Um --

Emily: What if your moral compass was determined by the quality of your haircut? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I, who have been cutting my own hair for years, would be significantly more evil than I am now. I imagine. Who's to say?

Sally: I think your hair looks nice, though. You don't have a bad haircut.

Emily: Thanks. It's just, like, not a good haircut either.

Sally: I think it's a good haircut.

Emily: It's a true neutral haircut.

Sally: OK.

Emily: Um. They get to the Bowl. The Shaido are there ...

Sally: Oh, there's, like, this weird battle between, um ... not battle. This, like, stand-off between the Taardad and the Shaido.

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: Where they're like, just running and chanting, and it's very alarming. (laugh)

Emily: It's very odd.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because you're like, "I don't really understand what's happen --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, they get there, and Rand's like, "Aw, it's the Shaido." And Rhuarc's like, "Well, no worries, boo, 'cause we've got, like, a million Taardad."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "Behind us." Literally, I think he says, like, fifteen thousand or some --

Sally: Yeah, there's so many.

Emily: Ridiculous number like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's so many boys and girls.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I was about to say "boys," but hey, them Maidens, y'know? Um. And Rhuarc's like, "We've just gotta go down to, like, the little talking point where, y'know, laws of physics --" Oh, dear. Tybalt's under your blanket and he just, like, lurched out. You know in horror movies when there's, like, a screen of something and people, like, press against it?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That's what's happening here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But at my feet. (laugh)

Sally: OK. (laugh) Weird energy.

Emily: I know. Sorry. Um. There's, like, a brief discussion where Rand's like, "OK, we've gotta get to the talking point," and Moiraine's like, "Well, let me come with you to be your protection."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he's like, "That's cool -- that's fine, but I've got this girl gang who have my back already, so I should be good, and also I don't trust you." (laugh) Um, and she's like, "Fine. At least take Lan." And he's like, "Again: girl gang. Far superior to Lan."

Sally: Yeah. Obviously.

Emily: "In sheer numbers alone --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "For one thing, but also just in personality."

Sally: "Style."

Emily: "Style, yeah. Grace."

Sally: "Charisma, uniqueness, nerve, and talent."

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And the Maidens are all like, "Fuck yeah. Fucking --" Rand, like, recaps how he suddenly now has all the --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, Maidens as his personal bodyguard. Essentially -- I can't really remember how it goes, but they got drunk --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: That was involved.

Sally: And then they, like, took his clothes off.

Emily: And put him to bed.

Sally: 'Cause the Aiel are weird.

Emily: 'Cause the Aiel are weird, and Aviendha and the Aiel and the Maidens have some weird tension that involves -- revolves around the fact that the Maidens think Rand is courting Aviendha, and Aviendha knows that the Maidens think that Rand is courting Aviendha -- (deep breath) But he's not.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's all super confusing, and honestly I don't really know why we include these weird subplots. Maybe we should not, y'know? Anyway, Mat's like, "Can I also come?" and Rand's like, "I thought you'd want to stay here where it is slightly more safe," and Mat's like, "Here's the thing: My safety is determined by your safety, hombre --" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "So, best way to insure that is to make sure I am there to prevent you from being stabbed."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I trust myself."

Sally: "No one else."

Emily: "Your girl gang? Great. But me: also good."

Sally: (laugh) "Perfect."

Emily: "I am part of the girl gang in spirit." Um.

Sally: Oh my God. He would be.

Emily: Yeah. So they all start charging into the canyon singing their, like, battle song about washing the spears --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: With blood? Is that what that means?

Sally: Probably.

Emily: I don't know.

Sally: Disgusting, though.

Emily: Disgusting. And then they're all, like, getting ready to veil themselves and fucking fight the Shaido, and Rand's like, "Hey, maybe we should not," and Rhuarc's like, "You're right. They're not even worthy of being murdered by us." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. "No honor to the Shaido."

Emily: "No honor to the Shaido!"

Sally: And everyone's like, "Oh, sick burn, Rhuarc."

Emily: "Sick burn," and Rand's like, "I don't even know what the fuck I just did."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I don't -- I -- created --"

Sally: (laugh) "You're not even worthy to be murdered by us."

Emily: I guess. (laugh)

Sally: It is, like -- I don't know. The Aiel are incomprehensible.

Emily: Yeah. Then they get to the little talking point, where we see the, uh, some of the clan chiefs already described, and also Sevanna -- or Sevanna. However you pronounce her name. Sevanna, which is how I will pronounce her name --

Sally: Yeah, it'd be pretty ridiculous if her name was Savanna. Like --

Emily: Savanna.

Sally: Like your high school bully. I mean, that tracks.

Emily: Oh my God, did everyone have a high school bully named Savanna?

Sally: I feel like it's a pretty universal experience. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Why are there not more Savannas on the Bachelor franchise?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Because that's, like, completely high school bullies, right?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Pretty much.

Emily: No, it's a bunch of Victorias and Hannahs. All the Hannahs I've known have been delightful.

Sally: I knew a pretty mean Hannah.

Emily: Oh. Hit or miss.

Sally: But I've known a lot of nice Victorias.

Emily: Oh, interesting.

Sally: Yeah. Never a nice Vicky.

Emily: Well, yeah, that goes without saying, because of the Parent Trap.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: With Dennis Quaid. Wasn't her name Vicky? (laugh)

Sally: Or, um, the Fairly Oddparents, with the evil babysitter.

Emily: Oh, was her name Vicky?

Sally: Yeah. Icky Vicky. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God. What a sick burn on the Fairly Oddparents. Anyway, Sevanna, uh, is Muradin's -- Couladin's brother's -- wife, I think?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's the roof mistress, and Rand immediately notes, "Well, she's different than, uh, the roof mistress I've met, Rhuarc's other wife," and it's maybe because all women are different from each other.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that's fun. She's also described as having "a greedy mouth" and big tits.

Sally: Yeah. It's pretty gross. (laugh)

Emily: As if Robert Jordan is descending to say, "I would like to ascribe multiple seven deadly sins --"

Sally: (laugh) Sorry, Tybalt is biting my feet.

Emily: Tybalt! Get out, you dingus.

Sally: (laugh) He's just, like, under my blanket, trying to eat me.

Emily: Just don't.

Sally: (laugh) OK, um.

Emily: Anyway, yeah, it's like Robert Jordan is like, "I don't know how to write women with personalities, so for my villain women, I will just, like, handpick a couple of the seven deadly sins --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Mix 'em all together, and hope that that creates a woman with a personality," and it doesn't.

Sally: It does not.

Emily: It does not. Obviously Sevanna is an obnoxious character, and I wish she died way earlier in the series so we wouldn't have to put up with her, but she is also, like, a maligned attempt of Robert Jordan trying to create a female villain, which he always fails at.

Sally: Yeah. There's just, like -- Rand, of course, comments on how she's, like, the only Aiel woman he's seen to show significant cleavage.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Um, and so there's just, like, always a sexualized component to all of the female villains. And I believe we've talked about this before but, like, Lanfear, of course, is like, literally just Tits McGee herself.

Emily: Yeah. Graendal is, like, Freud -- she's literally used to be a psychologist, so she's just, like, Freud sexuality complex central.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. Like, now Sevanna and even, like, Tylin, who is a villain --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Is, like, a rapist, so there's a sexual component there --

Emily: It's either they're hypersexual --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, uh, what's the opposite of hyper? Hyposexual?

Sally: Sure.

Emily: I guess.

Sally: I think so. I think that's right.

Emily: But you have these women like, um, Elaida --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And, um, lots of other Red Ajah ladies --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Who turn out to be Black Ajah or are just Red Ajah, and it's like, because we cannot possibly, um, imagine them in a situation wherein they would be fucking a man --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That sort of adds to their villainy.

Sally: Yeah, it's very -- yeah. Like, the Red Ajah -- and I also think we've said this before -- is, like, coded, like, with militant feminist -- or militant -- yeah, militant feminist, but also, like, militant lesbian language.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Which is just, like, so disgusting because -- yeah, then there's just the villainization of, like, sexualities that don't exist for men's consumption or benefit.

Emily: Like, notably the only couple of Red Ajah characters we get who are, uh, at all expanded in their characters -- there's one named Pevara who, in the last couple books of the series, becomes important, of course, because she falls in love with a man.

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: I know, gag. And then there's, like, the lady who becomes Egwene's -- Egg's Keeper -- um, after Sheriam does a bad and gets beheaded.

Sally: (laugh) Oh, fuck. RIP Sheriam, I guess.

Emily: (laugh) Not really. Um, and --

Sally: Ha ha, rip her head off, though. (laugh)

Emily: Ohhhh my God.

Sally: (laugh) OK.

Emily: Anyway, point made. Women aren't bad just 'cause they have tits.

Sally: (laugh) Tits does not equal bad.

Emily: Yeah, let women have tits 2020. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) In fact, one --

Emily: Or not have tits.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: However the case may be.

Sally: Yeah. One might argue, though, that tits are, in fact, excellent.

Emily: Yeah. I -- I --

Sally: Big fan. (laugh)

Emily: I certainly would concur. (laugh) Just don't be gross about them, Robert.

Sally: I know. Also, maybe just a passing comment to the, uh, discourse on Twitter about how, uh, it's not bad the way that Robert Jordan has to draw constant attention to women's breasts. (whisper) It is bad.

Emily: It is bad. And it is.

Sally: You have control as a writer and therefore you don't have to sexualize all your female characters, even if it is in a male point of view.

Emily: Like, it's just bad.

Sally: So whenever anyone tries to justify, like, "This male character is horny, of course he's looking at someone's tits," it's like, listen up, fucko. You just don't have to be gross about it.

Emily: It just --

Sally: And I've never seen a man write about a man looking at a woman's tits and not be gross about it. So just don't do it.

Emily: It's also, like, possible, to be sexually attracted to women and not be constantly thinking about their tits. I would know.

Sally: I do it every day.

Emily: I do it every day I see a woman and I'm like, "That's a very pretty woman," and it's -- I don't think about how her tits look, necessarily.

Sally: Yeah. Sometimes I do. But it's not my, you know --

Emily: Default.

Sally: All-consuming thought upon which I judge her morality.

Emily: I don't see tits first, woman second. (laugh)

Sally; (laugh) No, it's tits first, villain second, woman third.

Emily: Oh my God. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway. Sevanna's -- Sevanna? Fuck. I can't. Sevanna --

Sally: Sevanna.

Emily: Sevanna's arguing that Couladiin should be able to, like, chill with the clan chiefs 'cause of course he has conned everyone into thinking he went to Rhuidean or something like that 'cause he's been there, like, an extra day.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, uh, Couladin like gets up there and is like, “Yeah, I’m fucking the Dragon Reborn, motherfuckers.” The Car’a’carn, I guess. And he’s like, “Check out my sweet tats,” and Rand’s like, “What the fuck? Anyone can get a sparkly tat these days.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “It’s almost like magic exists.”

Sally: Where did he get them?

Emily: I think one of the Forsaken gave them to him.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Is the implication but not -- what’s the -- is there -- you know how in “implication,” the root word is “imply”?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is there something like that for “explicit”?

Sally: Exply. (laugh)

Emily: Ex --

Sally: Explicate?

Emily: Explication?

Sally: Ex -- explanation?

Emily: Anyway, no one ever is like, “Here’s how it fucking went down.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I wish they would. Because sometimes, I just have questions that I would like to have answered, Robert Jordan. But, um, he’s like, “I for sure went to Rhuidean, did the whole thing, now I’m a clan chief, and also I’m the Car’a’carn, so get in line, bitches.” And Rand’s like -- becomes the Spider-man meme -- is like -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “You can’t be the Car’a’carn. I’M the Car’a’carn. Check out my sweet sparkly tats.”

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And everyone’s like, “Aw, but he’s a white boy,” y’know?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He's like, "Well, prophecy said: would be a white boy."

Sally: (laugh) I mean, they're all white boys.

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: Rand's just the metaphorical white boy.

Emily: The white boy. He's like, "I would be a metaphorical white boy, 'cause technically, I'm born of the Aiel. Wise Ones told me so. But I was adopted and raised in, uh, the Shire --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "Equivalent." Um. And Rhuarc's like, "Yeah, I fucking vouch for him," and everyone else is like, "That isn't really good enough." And they're like -- Rand's like, "Well, I totally went to Rhuidean, and I went in the glass columns, and I saw what happened there," and they're like, "Maybe we should talk about this some other place just to, like -- some other place where our voices don't carry? Like in the bad plot of a -- of a TV procedural?" (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Uh, like, literally, I think that happens in Monk once.

Sally: Everything happened in Monk once.

Emily: (laugh) I know, I think I've said that several times this -- this season.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. (clears throat) But Rand just charges on with absolutely no care for the cultural repercussions of his actions.

Sally: So, the white boy. (laugh)

Emily: So, the white boy. And is like, "Yeah, I totally know that the Aiel used to be, um, the Tuatha'an and they're all descended from the same place," and Rhuarc's like, "You absolute fuckface. Don't you even know that it's -- we don't talk about it because when people go to Rhuidean, only one out of three of them survive," which is a staggering statistic -- (laugh) that I don't believe we've been given before.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What the hell?

Sally: Yeah. Thirty-three point three-three percent of Aiel men --

Emily: Of dudes are -- (laugh)

Sally: Survive. (laugh)

Emily: Are contented enough with their place in the world --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To handle this sort of upheaval.

Sally: Like -- I mean, that does say something about their, you know, sense of self, I guess.
(laugh)

Emily: Yeah. It's wild.

Sally: Yeah, it's -- it is a staggering statistic, though. I was like, "What?"

Emily: I know. I was like, "Oh, excuse me? What the fuck?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, and Rand also is probably like, "Huh, maybe if you'd told me that, I would not have done this as I did."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But he gets distracted by making it rain. He literally blessed the rains down in Africa.
(laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (singing, with Sally joining in) "It's gonna take a lot to drag me away from you ..."

Sally: 'Cause there's, like, this whole battle where everyone, of course, is, like, losing their shit. Like, all thirteen million people there.

Emily: Yeah, everyone freaks out --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As soon as Rand drops the mic on this revelation.

Sally: Yeah. But --

Emily: But Rand is like, "How can I possibly stop everyone from murdering each other? I know. I'll make it rain." Only he doesn't really know what he's doing or how. He just makes it rain --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because that's Rand.

Sally: And everyone's like, "Never seen this before."

Emily: "What the?"

Sally: "What?"

Emily: "Rain?"

Sally: (Cockney accent) "Water from the sky?"

Emily: (Cockney accent) "Water?"

Sally: (Cockney accent) "Water?" (laugh)

Emily: 'Cause literally, before Rand gets there, one of the clan chiefs is like, "I'm sick of talking about Couladin. Can we talk about something important, like water?"

Sally: (simultaneously) "WATER." (laugh)

Emily: "AGUA. We all need it to survive. No one needs Couladin to survive. Arguably, without him, more of us would survive." (laugh) "The same cannot be said of water."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so anyway, Rand's like, "Ah, sweet, make it -- made it rain," and Lanfear shows up, makes a little bubble, and is like, "Hello, I've come to talk to you. Asmodean's gone to Rhuidean."

Sally: (snort)

Emily: Ohhh, fuck. Too many words that sound alike. She's like, "I wish you had not done this because now --"

Sally: (laugh) It's just so accurate to how everyone feels in this scene.

Emily: (laugh) "I wish you had not done this."

Sally: "I wish you had not done this."

Emily: She's like, "I too do not care about the cultural repercussions, but you did make it rain, and that freaked out Asmodean, so --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “He’s run off to get something in Rhuidean. I know what it is, but I’m not gonna tell you. I’ll maybe hint obliquely at what it is just to give you a fun mind game, because I’m a woman, and I love mind games.”

Sally: “It’s the only thing that makes me horny.”

Emily: It’s as confusing as my -- what’s that line? About, um, how women don’t piss as easily as men because their insides are all like a labyrinth.

Sally: Oh, yeah. (laugh) It’s --

Emily: (laugh) So funny.

Sally: It, like, takes a while for the pee to come out --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: ‘Cause it has to, like, get through all the plumbing or whatever.

Emily: All the plumbing. (laugh)

Sally: I can’t remember. It’s -- I think you’re right, I think it says, like, maze or labyrinth or something.

Emily: Yeah. It’s like, “The maze of her insides,” and it’s like, what --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Kind of weird --

Sally: I forgot about this.

Emily: Some man. Anyway. And Rand’s like, “Aw, fuck, I gotta remember how to get to -- I can’t get to Rhuidean, it’s like three weeks away.” And then he’s like, “I did do a thing one time. Gotta remember how to do this thing,” while Lanfear keeps monologuing.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Lanfear’s still monologuing, and Rand’s like, “Oh! Remembered.”

Sally: “Goodbye!”

Emily: And fucking takes off on his little magic stairs through the darkness, which is a fun little sequence where he chases after Asmodean, eventually sees Asmodean up in the distance, oh, and hey, Asmodean is dressed like a conductor -- not a train conductor -- an orchestra --

Sally: (gasp) Could you imagine?

Emily: That would've been incredible. You know, like, a little stripey overall.

Sally: Dressed like Skimbleshanks from the "Cats" movie. (laugh)

Emily: Ahh! No, he's dressed in, like, a red coat that Rand describes as having "tails" --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So he just sort of evokes the image of an orchestra conductor. (vocalizing) Ah, ah, ah, ah. (normal voice) And I imagine intense orchestral music would be playing in this scene.

Sally: Yeah. There's actually just a full choir there.

Emily: Oh my God. Like, a children's choir, like in "His Dark Materials."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Which is a really upsetting thing, by the way. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a show all about child endangerment. Anyway. (clears throat) The Shia LaBeouf choir. That's who I want.

Sally: Fuck. Yes.

Emily: They could even be singing the Shia LaBeouf song.

Sally: (singing) "Running through the woods, it's Shia LaBeouf." Well, then Shia LaBeouf would have to play Asmodean.

Emily: (laugh) You're so right.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ah, man. How do we get Shia LaBeouf up in this? No, Asmodean's like, "I'm lacy. I am in a red coat. And I am throwing fire at you, Rand Al'Thor."

Sally: (laugh) "I'm gay. I'm new in town. I have AIDS."

Emily: "And my hands are flamethrowers."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, then there's some little back-and-forth Power shenanigans.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then, uh, eventually Asmodean makes a gateway out. Rand's like, "I don't know how to do that!"

Sally: “Ahhh!”

Emily: “Gotta hold his open and dive through it.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which he does, but it slices his boot heel clean off --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which does make one wonder how tall his boot heels are.

Sally: God, right?

Emily: He’s already six-three.

Sally: Is he just wearing, like --

Emily: Or whatever.

Sally: King Louis court’s ...?

Emily: God, I hope so.

Sally: But also, like, then, if it slices his boot heel off, he’s just, like, hobbling around this entire scene with mismatched boot heels.

Emily: Yeah, which Harley Quinn does in Birds of Prey a lot too.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I found it very satisfying in those instances.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, yeah, with -- well, he’s literally rolling around on the ground with Asmodean for a while.

Sally: That’s true.

Emily: Anyway, Rand looks up. Asmodean’s -- oh, by the way, he knows -- at this point, he’s figured out that Asmodean is going for the little statue that connects to the Choedan Kal. Um. You know, those big-ass sa’angreals? The one Rand saw in Cairhien? But Rand’s like, “I gotta stop him,” so he goes there, and he gets a hold of it right as Asmodean gets a hold of it, and there’s, like, a second where their eyes are locked, and then they’re both, like, reaching for the Power at the same time, and they just fucking destroy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Half of everything. Rhuidean more or less comes crumbling down. They set the fucking tree of life on fire. They do an earthquake. Now there's a lake in Rhuidean, and that mist stuff is gone. It's no longer shielded, as Lanfear then tells us. What is the point of me telling you this? Men, when they do a fight, just make things worse for everyone.

Sally: Yeah. This scene is directly contrasted to Nynaeve's fight --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: With Moghedien. Um -- did I say that right?

Emily: Moghedien instead of Moghieden?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't think it really matters.

Sally: Mo -- (laugh) I'm thinking Asmodean, Rhuidean --

Emily: Asmodean. It's too confusing.

Sally: Moghedien. (laugh)

Emily: Rrrrghh! This book series was not meant to be podcasted about.

Sally: OK. (laugh) What even is her name?

Emily: Moghedien.

Sally: Moghedien, OK. (laugh) Fuck. Um, it's directly contrasted with Nynaeve's fight with Moghedien, which, we talked about in the last episode, is, like, completely internal. You cannot see from the outside what is happening. Meanwhile, Lanfear rolls up, and she's like, "What the fuck just happened?"

Emily: Yeah. Lanfear shows up, and Asmodean and Rand are sitting there like two six-year-old boys --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who just got into a -- a -- a tussle.

Sally: Yeah. Just, like --

Emily: And are now nursing their boo-boos.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) And it's, like, really upsetting, 'cause I -- weirdly, when I read these chapters, I thought about Spider-man: Far From Home. (laugh)

Emily: Of course. As one does.

Sally: Because after that movie, I remember telling Emily that it was really stressful for me because you could just -- like, the entire movie was, like, the villains and the fights were just, like, destroying these ancient landmarks in Europe. And it, like, was very unsettling to me for some reason to just be, like, watching, like, this destruction of civilization.

Emily: It was --

Sally: Quote unquote, "civilization."

Emily: Yeah, I thought of that too. Because then they're like, here we are in Rhuidean, also just destroying this city --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That is an uninhabited city but has been so remarkably well-preserved.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so intentionally preserved. Like, some very powerful person, before dying, set up this bubble of mist --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Around Rhuidean to make sure that, um, it wouldn't just get destroyed by time and the weather --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And things like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And here Rand and Asmodean are, literally wrestling for power --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, and just, like, recklessly destroying that.

Sally: Yeah. And --

Emily: And having massive ecological repercussions.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, of course, turn out to be positive because there's not too much you can do in the desert -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: That's a bad.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, um. Y'know. Changing the landscape generally isn't a great thing.

Sally: Yeah. Especially 'cause I feel like there's this tone throughout the chapter where it's, like, not necessarily a bad thing that they've destroyed Rhuidean.

Emily: They've opened it.

Sally: Yeah, they've, like, opened it up, and it's also like -- of course the, like, cyclical nature of this series is, like, things are destroyed and then reborn, and, like, so in order for the world to change, things have to first be destroyed.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Um, and so there's this idea that, like, the destruction of something so ancient and so well-preserved is, like, y'know, put adjacent to, like, this extreme change with the Aiel, and Rhuidean is their place of, like, stasis and history, and we're just, like, shattering that.

Emily: Like it, literally -- Rhuidean sort of feels like a museum.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In an interesting way. And there's a lot of museum rhetoric to be had, but it's interesting that they had this, like, literal, like, um, display, almost, of artifacts --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And interesting things that they were tasked with protecting, and as soon as Rand and Asmodean open up Rhuidean -- God, that's so hard to say --

Sally: "Rand and Asmodean open up Rhuidean."

Emily: Yeah, it's literally, just, if you just combined their names, it's Rhuidean.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What the hell. Um, but once it's opened up, like, Moiraine packs up a bunch of angreal and sa'angreal and is like, "Well, going back to colonizer central."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know?

Sally: It, like, weirdly parallels -- this week, um --

Emily: Yeah. The Elgin Marbles.

Sally: The Elgin Marbles. There was, uh, in the, like, EU negotiation with Brexit, Greece was like, "Fuck you, England. Give me the Elgin Marbles back."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: After, like --

Emily: "Fuck your colonizer asses."

Sally: (laugh) Hundreds -- hundreds of years of them trying to get the Elgin Marbles back and the Brits having this, like, horrible colonist rhetoric about how, like, Greece doesn't have the capacity to take care of them, like, they're safer here in the center of civilization or whatever, and even though England went into Greece, ravaged Greece, and took all of their shit, which is, like, very much -- yeah, it just has that same sort of vibe here, where Moiraine is like, "Well, we came here, me and my angry magic son, and we destroyed your history and your land and your artifacts, and now I'm going to take them."

Emily: Yeah. I don't know. I just think about that scene in Black Panther every day, where, um --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Michael B. Jordan is standing in the museum, like, "Hey, give me back my shit --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "That you took from my people."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's just so --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Relevant. Anyway, I think the museums should all give back things.

Sally: Yeah. Like --

Emily: Obviously.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: I don't know why it's a fucking matter of debate. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Like, I don't know. (laugh) I don't -- I -- whatever. Bah. Um.

Emily: So they -- finally Rand gets the upper hand when he remembers he also has an angreal tucked away in his pocket, and he uses that to sever Asmodean's link to the Dark One, which is the first time, I believe, that anyone has ever explicitly said that that's what Rand is doing.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, he's like, "Asmodean sold his soul to the Dark One, and I just undid that."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Asmodean's like, "That's not great for me, because my whole soul-selling dealio was how I did not go crazy."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Rand's like, "That's irrelevant because you'll be dead in a book anyway." (laugh)

Sally: "Someone murders you."

Emily: "Someone murders you." It's Graendal. I don't know why it's such a mystery.

Sally: Is it?

Emily: Huh?

Sally: Is it?

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, implied in one of the last books --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: That it was Graendal. But it was also, like, why the fuck --

Sally: Why's she murdering Asmodean?

Emily: Yeah. Who cares? Why would anyone murder Asmodean? He's just gay -- gay and doing crimes.

Sally: (laugh) The dream, really.

Emily: (laugh) The dream, really.

Sally: He's just Shia LaBeouf.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, Rand does that, and then Lanfear shows up and is like, "What the fuck? I can't leave you guys alone for two minutes." (laugh) And Rand's like, "Well, listen. He's severed from the Dark One, so now he has to be my teacher because if he tries to go back to the Forsaken, then I'll just be like, 'Ah, hey, he left the Dark One. What do you want to do?' And

Especially if you testify for me that that's what he did." And Lanfear's like, "Fine, I will do that, 'cause I'm whipped or whatever." (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um -- there's this weird scene where she, like, talks to herself. She's like, "We can't kill him yet," while looking Rand dead in the eyes and referring to Rand. It's buck wild. It's like a Gollum moment. (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm. She's --

Emily: What's happening? Is she referring to herself and her tits? The --

Sally: (laugh) "No, no, no, no, we can't kill him yet."

Emily: (laugh) Oh my GOD, that's the funniest thing I've ever thought of. You just, like, talk to your tits. (laugh)

Sally: "No, no, no. We can't kill him yet." (laugh) Lanfear's our Gollum figure but her -- her ring is her tits. No, she's Smeagol, and Gollum is her tits. (laugh) OK.

Emily: Um. (laugh) Sorry for all the tits discourse in this.

Sally: I am not sorry.

Emily: It's just a lot. Um --

Sally: More titties.

Emily: Lanfear's like, "I will assist you by putting a shield on Asmodean which will wear down with time, which he can only -- so he can only access a little bit of the Power to teach you." And then she kind of looks around surreptitiously for the female equivalent of what Rand is currently holding, doesn't see it, leaves.

Sally: Doesn't Rand have it?

Emily: Rand then goes and finds it --

Sally: Okay.

Emily: And picks it up and is like, "I now have my two haunted dolls." (laugh)

Sally: (imitating the "Haunted Doll Watch" segment of My Brother, My Brother, and Me) Boo boo doo boo boo doo.

Emily: (imitating the “Haunted Doll Watch” segment of My Brother, My Brother, and Me) Boo boo doo boo boo doo. And Asmodean’s like, “I wish you had not done this, because she will kill you if she finds it.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) “Listen. I wish you had not done this.”

Emily: Gonna be the title of this episode. (laugh) “I wish you had not done this.” Um, Asmodean’s like, “If she sees you with these, she’s gonna kill you,” and Rand’s like, “She’s gonna kill you. She LOVES me.” (laugh)

Sally: “She’s in love with me.”

Emily: “She’s in love with me. I do have the upper hand here. No one loves you, Asmodean.”

Sally: Aww.

Emily: I know. Well, that’s what happens when you sell your soul to the devil. I don’t make the rules. Um. (laugh) But then they go back to the Golden Bowl. Oh, by the way, Rand is now going to have these two statues -- they’re -- like, Choedan Kal? Chekhov’s gun?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Similarities there, perhaps? Two words! Second word: has three letters. First word, starts with “ch.”

Sally: “Ch ...”

Emily: Chekhov’s gun. Choedan Kal.

Sally: Chekhov’s Kal. Choedan ...

Emily: Choedan’s gun. (laugh)

Sally: Choedan’s gun. (laugh)

Emily: And it’s like, yeah, he will eventually use them with great purpose to cleanse saidin, but then he will just stick the one in his pocket and carry it around to intimidate people. Because that’s the type of person that Rand becomes.

Sally: (laugh) Does it fit in his pocket?

Emily: He literally makes a special pocket for it.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I’m not even joking with you.

Sally: This is -- you are joking, that can not be real. (laugh)

Emily: I'm not. Rand -- literally, this happens off-screen, but we know it happens -- Rand literally sits down, sews a big-ass pocket on his coat and is like, "This is to fit my massive bazooka --"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Y'know, magic equivalent --

Sally: (laughing, inaudible)

Emily: I don't know.

Sally: (laugh) Like a little baby?

Emily: I think it's just in his --

Sally: Like a little papoose? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He's got a baby bjorn and it's holding this --

Sally: (laugh) He holds the Choedan Kal in his baby bjorn.

Emily: Yeah, exactly. And he's like -- whenever he wants to intimidate someone, he's like, "Look at me. Look -- look at my face. Now look at my child's face." (laugh)

Sally; (laugh) "Look at my baby bjorn."

Emily: "I could destroy you." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I feel like this is a fake plot.

Emily: It's NOT.

Sally: (laugh) You're --

Emily: How could I ever make something like that up?

Sally: (laugh) How does anybody take Rand seriously in this story? Like, he's carrying a statue in his pocket.

Emily: Well, my sense is that most people don't. And he just thinks they are. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Like, imagine Mat being like, "What are you doing?"

Emily: No, if Mat saw him while he had that in his pocket, Mat would, like, be like, "I'm gonna bully you until you stop. What the hell."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, Rand and Asmodean, our new dynamic duo --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Go back to the Golden fucking Bowl. And are like, "Hey, what's up? Just disappeared. Came back with this gleeman in tow."

Sally: Yeah. And everyone's like, "What?"

Emily: And no one is like, "Hey, where'd Jasin come from?"

Sally: (laugh) I love that his name is Jasin.

Emily: I know, I love that his name is Jasin. No one's like, "So you disappeared and reappear with the gleeman," and are like -- no one's suspicious about that, I guess. This is --

Sally: I mean, he did just make it rain.

Emily: I know. (whisper) Make it rain.

Sally: (singing) I bless the rains down in Africa ... (normal voice) Toto, don't sue us.

Emily: Rand's like, "This is --" Oh, God. (laugh) Toto and Chumbawamba. The two --

Sally: Yeah, those are our villains.

Emily: Ahhh! No --

Sally: Chumbawamba's our -- no, Chumbawamba's our enemies to lovers.

Emily: Oh, that's nice to think about.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um --

Sally: The lovers is when we stopped copyrighting their music. (laugh)

Emily: That's true, yeah. Um. Yeah, Rand's like, "This is my new partner in crime. Sorry, Mat, you've been demoted." And Mat's like, "I demoted myself like three books ago. I don't know what you're talking about. I don't want to be near your ugly ass." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "Except when I have to protect it so that I don't die."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Rand, it's all about me in this equation." (laugh)

Sally: Of course.

Emily: Rand's like, "OK, we're off. I guess we have to go, you know, finish what we started." 'Cause the Shaido have just taken off along with a percentage of the others. Rand's like -- I mean, Rhurc's like, "None of my guys went."

Sally: YEET.

Emily: "Because my guys are cool."

Sally: And then he dabs.

Emily: Then he fuckin' dabs. (laugh)

Sally: He's like --

Emily: He's like, "But Rand, I wish you had not done that."

Sally: "I wish you had not done this." (laugh)

Emily: And Rand's like, "It's too late, motherfucker."

Sally: "I did it. Oops."

Emily: "Now we've gotta wait for everyone else to arrive so that we can go ravage Cairhien, as the next book demands."

Sally: For reasons ...

Emily: For reasons unknown.

Sally: Unknown. Because he wants to give it to Elayne or whatever?

Emily: I don't fuckin' -- (mumble) -- it's 'cause the Shaido get there first --

Sally: Oh.

Emily: And are like, "We fucking hate Cairhien." And Moiraine's like, "Understandable. I mean, honestly."

Sally: (laugh) "Yeah, I mean, they killed your tree."

Emily: "I mean, look at them."

Sally: (laugh) "Look at ME."

Emily: "Look at me. It's the fuckin' Sun King all over again."

Sally: But Talmanes is Cairhienin, right?

Emily: Yeah, but you know, he meets Mat and then they get to go away and get married.

Sally: I'm sorry. Tall-mane.

Emily: (bad French accent) *Talmanes*.

Sally: (French accent) Talmanes.

Emily: Talmanes. Ho ho ho. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Why does this always happen? We start an episode and we're like, "Aw, we're so tired," and by the fucking 45-minute mark, we're like -- (cackle) Clowns! Deranged clowns!

Sally: It's very funny to think of Talmanes' name being *Talmanes*.

Emily: I can't.

Sally: Mat being like --

Emily: This book is already full of unpronounceable --

Sally: "Excuse me, *Talmanes*." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, Mat would just be like, "Your name's Talmanes now, bitch." (laugh)

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

Emily: "Thank GOD. I've been waiting for years for someone non-French to rescue me from the prison that is fantasy France."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, then the book ends!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rand's like, "We gotta go." Rhuarc's like, "10-4."

Sally: "Roger that." Into his little radio, he's like, "Copy."

Emily: Yeah, into that, he's like, "Alright, we're getting ready to pull out."

Sally: "Roger roger. Over, over."

Emily: "The Dragon Reborn wants to leave."

Sally: (laugh) “Rhuarc to all Taardad: the Dragon Reborn is ready to go. Do you copy?”

Emily: (laugh) “Eagle is leaving. Eagle is leaving.”

Sally: “The eagle is leaving.”

Emily: “Quick: shoot him.”

Sally: (laugh) Rhuarc’s like, “Kay, listen: I know he’s the Car’a’carn or whatever, but stab him.”

Emily: “I know I am the head of the secret service in this scenario. I’m --” Who’s the guy in London Has Fallen or whatever? Olympus Has Fallen?

Sally: (laugh) Oh, yeah.

Emily: Is it Gerard Butler?

Sally: Is it Gerard Butler? ‘Cause there’s, like, two that are, like, the exact same movie.

Emily: Well, there’s one with Channing Tatum, and that one’s the funny one. And that one’s called -- I -- White House Down.

Sally: Yeah, it’s Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx, right?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And then the other one --

Emily: The other one has Morgan Freeman. I know that.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: But I don’t know the white guy. Don’t worry, I’m looking it up, everyone.

Sally: I feel like it’s Gerard Butler. I feel like --

Emily: It is Gerard Butler.

Sally: Nailed it.

Emily: God, I’m so proud of us.

Sally: Rhuarc -- thankfully, probably, not played by Gerard Butler --

Emily: In the first one, there’s a white president, but then in the second installment, it becomes Morgan Freeman.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Presumably because, um, it came out in 2013 and they were like, “It’s time. Barack has just been elected to his second term.”

Sally: Yeet.

Emily: God, those were the days. Anyway.

(rustling noise in the background)

Emily: Tybalt, I wish you would not do this.

Sally: (laugh) Next good sticker option: “I wish you had not done this.”

Emily: (laugh) “I wish you had not done this.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: With, like, an arrow. OK. That’s it.

Sally: (cough) That, for fuck’s sake, is the Shadow Rising.

Emily: That was the Shadow Rising. The Shadow has risen, as it were.

Sally: It’s erect now.

Emily: It’s fully erect -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Gone limp? Nope. The Shadow has risen.

Emily: Stop. I hate that billboard. I also hate that movie poster that’s from the point of view of Sonic the Hedgehog’s dick.

Sally: Yeah, it’s deeply upsetting. (laugh) Anyway --

Emily: You might not have seen it. It might have only been in our local movie theater. But I saw it. And Sally saw it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Devin and Janet saw it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we all know.

Sally: Yeah, and Devin tried to excuse it away. He’s like, “He’s holding the camera on his stomach.”

Emily: It’s like, “No, that’s his penis.”

Sally: Devin. (laugh)

Emily: “Devin, obviously.”

Sally: Um. I love you, Devin. Umm.

Emily: I don’t know. What do we usually do at the end of a season? I’ve completely forgotten.

Sally: I was like, we rate it. And then I was like, no, that’s We Don’t Watch Outlander. (laugh)

Emily: That’s We Don’t Watch Outlander. I think we just say, “Thank God.”

Sally: Yeah. No, I feel like at the end of the Dragon Reborn, I was crying, because then I had to talk about this fucking book.

Emily: Yeah. The good news is that now we get to talk about the Fires of Heaven.

Sally: Yeah. Which is true. We survived one of the even books, and now we can go to the odd book.

Emily: Now we can go to one of the odds. Bad news is that after the Fires of Heaven, we have to read Lord of Chaos, and the cycle continues.

Sally: Mm-hmm ... Lord of Chaos, at least, has some good Egg content.

Emily: Yeah. Lord of Chaos has some good content, we can all agree.

Sally: I think the --

Emily: Not as good as Fires of Heaven.

Sally: I really need to start reading. We’re gonna be caught up to where I am before I’ll know it. (laugh)

Emily: In a year and a half.

Sally: Have you noticed how slow I am at reading?

Emily: OK, yeah. Maybe you should start tomorrow. (laugh)

Sally: I’ll start Path of Daggers soon.

Emily: OK.

Sally: Um. Thanks for coming along with us on this journey through the Waste.

Emily: And the Stone of Tear for a long time, for some reason.

Sally: (laugh) And also, um ... what’s the city that Elayne and Nynaeve --

Emily: Tanchico.

Sally: Tanchico.

Emily: And also the Two Rivers.

Sally: And the -- doesn't the White Tower break in this book?

Emily: And the White Tower. And Perrin's dreams.

Sally: And ... yeah.

Emily: Faile's vagina, 'cause that's some -- some things happen there, you -- if you know what I'm saying. OK. Yeah, thank you. Thanks to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Uh, next week -- right? We will be taking a bye week?

Sally: Mm-hmm. That's correct.

Emily: Next week, we're just gonna give ourselves a little breather after -- from after the Shadow Rising. Then we will be back the following week either with some EHR extra content if we think of something fun to do that the people will love or we'll just start the Fires of Heaven.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't really know which.

Sally: We can always do, like, a Q&A. But I feel like you guys have asked us many questions.

Emily: Yeah, you fucking know everything about us already. That's not true --

Sally: Or do you?

Emily: I'm an enigma. Wrapped in a mystery. Um. Yeah, that's it. Is there anything else to --

Sally: I could talk to you guys about birds. For thirty minutes.

Emily: Birds.

Sally: Or I could talk to you about volleyball anime.

Emily: Yeah, just --

Sally: Those are my two areas.

Emily: Listen, we have unlimited things to talk about.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: It's just whether or not you are interested.

Sally: Whether or not you would enjoy it is a different story. (laugh) Um --

Emily: Tybalt's eating again, which is --

Sally: That's a good way to end this season. Um.

Emily: Yeah. Do you have --

Sally: But real quick: Thanks to everyone who's supporting us on Patreon. And thank you to everyone who has bought stickers. Um, so far, we love it if you send pictures of where they end up so please, if you have stickers and want to send us some pictures, that would be rad. If you haven't bought stickers, we still have plenty. Please do so. They're pretty cheap. Four dollars each, or ten dollars for a pack of three. One dollar domestic shipping, meaning the United States, two dollars international shipping. Emily and I will write you a card.

Emily: Sally will write you a card, and I'll sign it. That's how it usually goes.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But I do mean my signature. (laugh)

Sally: And Emily will address it.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And put the stamps on it.

Emily: That's how we do it.

Sally: And seal it with love.

Emily: Yep. Um ... Oh, Tybalt, just cronching in the background.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, I feel like --

Emily: I'm so sorry.

Sally: There's no better sign-off than just these horrible audio sounds.

(crunching in the background)

Sally: Here, can I -- yeah, bring the --

(microphone moving)

(crunching and rustling becomes louder)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I'm so sorry. Don't do war crimes.

Sally: (laugh)