



Episode 83 – “Falafel Tinder”

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

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

[Theme song by Glynn Mackenzie plays]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [groans] I have to wake up early tomorrow to bring Otis to the groomer, which is going to be a trial [laughing] for both of us. Because my mom –

SALLY: That’s a wild sentence.

EMILY: [laughing] I know.

SALLY: Like, I was like, “What?!”

EMILY: [laughing] Because my mom’s going to Disneyland. She was like, “I’ll pay you \$20 if you come to our house at 7:45 and get Otis to his groomer’s appointment by 8.” And I was like, “Why are we [laughing] even bothering to groom Otis anymore? He’s on death’s door.”

SALLY: Yeah. No offense, but Otis is sort of the living dead at this point [laughs]. Like, god bless him. Everyone. But you look at him and you’re like, “Is that dog alive?”

EMILY: I was like, “How’s he getting home if you’re just hopping on a plane to Disneyland?” And she was like, “Sarah’s picking him up.” And I was like [laughing], “Sarah will love that.”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Sarah –

SALLY: Sarah, who despises Otis.

EMILY: Yeah, Sarah’s hatred for Otis knows no bounds.

SALLY: It’s really funny.

EMILY: It’s really hilarious.

SALLY: Because Otis is, like, a pretty inoffensive animal.

EMILY: I know. Otis doesn’t really do anything, and also –

SALLY: He’s not like Tybalt, ya know?

EMILY: Yeah, it’s not like Tybalt, who’s an active crime against humanity.

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah.

EMILY: [laughing] He’s a living...

SALLY: A living...a living sin.

EMILY: He’s currently

[crosstalk]

EMILY: Is it?

SALLY: Last night I was [laughs].

EMILY: Is that gonna be the signoff, maybe?

SALLY: Oh yeah. [laughing] It’s so good, though. So good. I’ll wait.

EMILY: No, we’ve already. We’ve introduced ourselves. Sort of. I feel like that was a pretty good introduction to our lives, where we’re at. My period story, and also, I have to take the dog to the groomer tomorrow. Your niece being sassy.

SALLY: I know. She's so mean to me.

EMILY: We do have to talk about *Wheel of Time* eventually.

SALLY: These are okay chapters. I'm fine to talk about these ones.

EMILY: Oh, good. Well.

SALLY: Egg!

EMILY: Egg! It's an Egg –

SALLY: I love talking about *EGG*.

EMILY: Don't you just?

SALLY: Okay, this is our *Wheel of Time* – this is *Wheel of Time*.

EMILY: I hate you.

SALLY: This is our *Wheel of Time* podcast. Everybody Hates Rand. [pause] I'm...Emily [laughs]. I'm Emily Juchau.

EMILY: No, that was so fun. You were doing so good introducing it. I was like, "Ooh. I like not having this task." But then of course [laughing], she couldn't go through with it.

SALLY: [laughs] It's just so funny to make it bad [laughs].

EMILY: Okay, let's just leave it like that, then.

SALLY: It's funny to me on some weird level.

EMILY: Okay, well that was it, then, fel – fellas [laughs].

SALLY: Fu – fella.

EMILY: Fu – fella.

SALLY: Fuh – falafel.

EMILY: What?

SALLY: Falafel.

EMILY: [pause] Is there a good falafel place around here?

SALLY: I've been trying to find one.

EMILY: Damn.

SALLY: I love falafel. Apparently, there's a good falafel food truck, but the problem with food trucks is I never know where the fuck they're going to be.

EMILY: That's true!

SALLY: Where are they?

EMILY: It's an inherent problem.

SALLY: They're like, "Check my social media," and I'm like, "I'm not getting on Instagram just to hunt for falafel, okay?"

EMILY: I mean, if you were gonna hunt for anything, falafel is the [laughing] the most dangerous game.

SALLY: [laughs, *Psycho* knife noise]

EMILY: Maaan?

SALLY: Forget it. I want some falafel.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: What if there was, like, a Tinder for falafel?

EMILY: To, like, match you up with falafel?

SALLY: Yeah, with, like, ideal falafel. The problem is that the falafel would have to match with me, too. Huh, that would be really putting yourself under the mic – under the microscope [laughs].

EMILY: I've completely lost track of what just happened.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: Sally's the manic one this episode.

SALLY: [groans]

EMILY: Welcome. So, we are, in fact, talking about Egg.

SALLY: [laughs] Egg!

EMILY: We're with the gals as they, uh, attempt to infiltrate *tel'aran'rhiod*, or, actually, just Egg does, because she's like, "I'm the only one who's competent to do it." Just kidding, she's like, "I'm the only one who's ever used the ring. I only let Elayne and Nynaeve do it, like, once, because it freaked me out. So, I know more than they do so it's just me who's going." Um, she's not even using the ring, actually.

SALLY: Yeah, she's doing it sans ring.

EMILY: Yeah, she's doing it dreamer style.

SALLY: She's doing it raw.

EMILY: Oo-kay. I don't like that analogy at all.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [groaning noises]

SALLY: [laughing, wheezing]

EMILY: Sorry, that was a really troubling one. I'm gonna need some time to get through that.

SALLY: [laughs] Anyway, Aviendha's there, too.

EMILY: Yeah, Aviendha has now joined the girl squad, like, officially. She's just there. This is also picking up immediately after the events of the last chapters, wherein in the Stone of Tear was attacked by, like, a big army of Trollocs and Myddraal. Which, we don't get too much intel on from the girls, like, how much fighting they did? Like, it's kind of implied, but all we really get is Egwene's PTSD when she, like, found out what was happening. Because she saw a woman get killed, which is upsetting, of course, but also, like, I want to know what badass channeling they did.

SALLY: It's true.

EMILY: And also, like, is it, like, four in the morning? Because they all need – because Nynaeve had to do healing, right? You'd think? She can make herself angry enough to heal, right?

SALLY: She can do that. Nynaeve really hates it when people are sick.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: It's pretty charming.

EMILY: Nynaeve's like, "A papercut? *What?*"

SALLY: “How dare you treat your body like this?”

EMILY: [yells] “You didn’t get the *flu shot?!?*”

SALLY: “Your god given body, and you didn’t get the fucking flu shot?”

EMILY: Hey, get the flu shot, people. It’s gonna be a gnarly flu season.

SALLY: This is your EHR PSA. Get the flu shot.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I hate getting shots. I cry every time. And *I* get the flu shot every year.

EMILY: Yeah, because she’s brave.

SALLY: You have no excuse.

EMILY: Because she’s brave and also because she’s doing her duty for all the people with – in the nation with immunodeficiencies.

SALLY: Yeah. And little kiddos.

EMILY: Little kiddos, and the oldies. And the diabetics.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: All those people, they need herd immunity. So, get your flu shot!

SALLY: Herd immunity! I like that term.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Herdimmunity.

EMILY: Herd –

SALLY: [mumbling]

EMILY: I can’t.

SALLY: My niece cannot say the word “aviary.” She used to say, um, yeah. Anyway, she can’t say it, so when we were taking her to the aviary this week she’d say, “Are we going to the ar – avr – avriary?” [laughs] It would take her like ten seconds.

EMILY: That’s like me with, um, celebrities’ last names. Like Cara –

SALLY: Delevingne?

EMILY: Is that how you say it?

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: I've literally never heard it said out loud [laughing] until just now.

SALLY: Cara Delevingne.

EMILY: Delevingne.

SALLY: What's another one?

EMILY: It's mostly that one is the one I was thinking of. Because I keep seeing ads for her dumb circus fairy show [laughs] on Hulu or whatever. With Orlando Bloom as her love interest, which there's a big age difference, people. Orlando Bloom isn't the spry twenty-something elf lad he once was. Now he's, like, in his forties or whatever.

SALLY: Now he might as well be dead.

EMILY: He might as well be dead! But he definitely shouldn't be dating women in their twenties.

SALLY: That's correct.

EMILY: Yeah. Did you know Jerry Seinfeld used to date an eighteen-year-old?

SALLY: Hate that!

EMILY: Yeah, but I think we all need to talk about it, because now we know Jerry Seinfeld's a trash can of a human.

SALLY: Yeah, that's true.

EMILY: Okay, anyway. If you think of any other trash cans of human men, just, like, throw them out there as the episode progresses. Woody Allen.

SALLY: Mm. That's a big one.

EMILY: Roman Polanski. Keep going. Most of them, actually, as it turns out. At least the famous ones in Hollywood. Okay, anyway, everyone's all really freaked out. Aviendha's like fully armed to the teeth, which, like, good for fucking her. And everyone's like, "Okay, getting ready to go to the world of dreams." And Egwene's like, "First, real quick, let me tell you about my prophetic dreams." Which are all super fun, and I actually can't remember any of them.

SALLY: Um, Mat's being wrestled by a Seanchan woman.

EMILY: Yeah, Mat's wrestling with a Seanchan woman, who's got an invisible leash on him. Which, I think he does physically wrestle Tuon at one point when he's trying to tie her up in a rug. So...you can say this about them. [laughing] The relationship is exciting.

SALLY: Jesus. And then there's, like, Perrin with a wolf stuff. Galad wraps himself in white.

EMILY: Oh, yeah. That's interesting. She doesn't usually have Galad-centric –

SALLY: [laughs] At least not prophetic dreams, you know? Wink, wink.

EMILY: Wink, wink. Could you imagine though if Egwene was like, "I was having sex dreams about Galad, but now I'm having sex dreams about Gawyn and it's a major downgrade. Like, come on."

SALLY: God, I can't wait until they announce the cast for Galad and Gawyn and Elayne.

EMILY: How are they gonna do it, though? Galad is canonically the most beautiful character in the world.

SALLY: [laughing] What if they make him CGI? [laughing] It's just a CGI pretty boy.

EMILY: [laughing] Everyone's like, "He's so beautiful." Alternately, what if he's super just, like, not good looking? [laughs] And everyone has to fawn over him?

SALLY: Yeah, that would be so good.

EMILY: That would also be really good. How do you, like, just cast a Disney prince, you know? I guess they do it all the time [laughing] in these live action –

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, but I don't think they ever do a particularly good job.

EMILY: Yeah, that's true. Can anyone think of a Disney prince who has been cast who was, like, fittingly a Disney prince? Umm, what are the live action ones that have come out? They were gonna get Harry Styles to be the Little Mermaid's love interest, and I was like [laughing], "Finally, I might be invested in the Little Mermaid as a narrative."

SALLY: That would be so good. If they were like, "And here's Harry Styles!"

EMILY: But Harry Styles was like, "I'm too busy being chaotic," [laughs] so.

SALLY: What if Harry Styles played Galad? [laughs].

EMILY: I'd get it.



SALLY: [laughing] Could you imagine?

EMILY: [laughing] It would be super funny.

SALLY: And they got, like, Niall to play Gawyn [laughs].

EMILY: That's really trashing Niall, I think Liam should play Gawyn.

SALLY: Yeah, I know, but then I don't want to have to look at Liam Payne for that long [laughs].

EMILY: We'll cast Niall as something else.

SALLY: Okay, who can Niall be?

EMILY: Some other, unoffensive...um boy. I don't know. Who could Niall be? What are there? Are there – are there any other boys who aren't six foot nine?

SALLY: God I know. Ugh.

EMILY: Because Niall, bless his heart, can't really fit the bill.

SALLY: Can't really play Gaul [laughs].

EMILY: Yep. Rough.

SALLY: I don't know. *Wheel of Time* has – for having three main boys, it has otherwise a lack of boys.

EMILY: Yeah. Go figure. We'll – if we think of it, we'll let you know.

SALLY: Now we have to get all of the five One Direction boys into *The Wheel of Time*.

EMILY: Yeah. “A wolf, she was sure it was Perrin, fighting a man whose face kept changing.” Oh yeah. That's the –

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: Isam slash –

SALLY: Lord Luc.

EMILY: Lord Luc dynamic, which literally will crop up in this book and then not again for, like, nine books. It's so stupid.

SALLY: It's Isam and what's the actual prince's name?

EMILY: Uh, Luc.

SALLY: Oh, I thought that was what he went by.

EMILY: Yeah, that's the name that he goes by in the Two Rivers, but it's also literally one of the names of the two guys who get melded into one person.

SALLY: Jekyll and Hyde'd.

EMILY: Yeah. Isam and Luc, so.

SALLY: Isam!

EMILY: Yeah. Which, finally I received some clarification on, because there's a chapter in the beginning of *A Memory of Light* from their point of view, and that was kind of enlightening in a weird way. Not in, like, a fun way, because I hate reading villains' points of view, but nevertheless I did find things out.

SALLY: It was a memory of enlightening?

EMILY: I can't with you. Anyway, yeah Galad wrapping himself in white as though putting on his own shroud is actually a really upsetting image.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And also does imply that being a Whitecloak will kill him. Which, spoiler alert, does not happen, so that's kind of disappointing. I hate when there are prophetic dreams that are, like, death related that don't result in a character....I just don't – I just don't like when foreshadowing does not come to fruition in a narratively appropriate way.

SALLY: But, I mean, I haven't read much of Galad's narrative, so I think it's like – doesn't he, like, metaphorically have some crises of faith? And therefore die?

EMILY: Not really. He kind of just has a successful go of it as a Whitecloak.

SALLY: Well, I hate that.

EMILY: Yeah, he, like, does his – everyone is kind of like – mourns him for joining the Whitecloaks, but then he kind of pulls them out of the, you know, religious terrorist category and kind of shapes them up a little bit. Or, at least that's implied what's going to be happening in the future. Um, so yeah. I don't really.

SALLY: Huh? Weird, then.

EMILY: I'd rather just all Whitecloaks as an organization, like, perished and also Galad died. Not because I don't – obviously I fucking love Galad, but he's one of those expendable characters.

SALLY: Yeah, like he's a death that would be fine.

EMILY: Yeah, it's kind of just weird and we'll get to – we'll get to, in *A Memory of Light*, my list of characters who should have died and didn't. And it's, like, a pretty fucking long list.

SALLY: You're like, "Everybody. All of them."

EMILY: You can't just build up Armageddon and just, like, but only three characters die, you know?

SALLY: Wow.

EMILY: Not literally only three. Just like, only three we care about. Come on. If Galad had died that would have been a major blow.

SALLY: True.

EMILY: To me, personally.

SALLY: Yeah, you'd be like, "Where'd that ass go, though?"

EMILY: Yeah. Uh, "Gawyn with his eyes full of pain and hatred." Who the fuck cares!

SALLY: Yeah, seriously.

EMILY: That's just called be an adolescent.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Come on, Gawyn. Shape up. "Rand building a wall with him on one side and her on the other. Her and Elayne and others she could not make out." [dramatic voice] "It has to be done, I'll not let you stop me now." That's called an emotional wall people and they're unhealthy.

SALLY: Mm.

EMILY: And also it's not a very good metaphor [laughs].

[pause]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, oh and also her mom being upset, which is actually sad. And foreshadows Two Rivers stuff. Anyway, blahbity blahbity blah. Egwene goes into *tel'aran'rhiod* and there's – she goes – she is specifically investigating Tarabon. Tanchico. Which is one of their known possibilities for where the Black Ajah could be headed. And she's like, "I'm just looking for anything that could indicate that the Black Ajah are here," which, as she soon discovers, in an entire city, is kind of tough to do. But she's like, "Here I am in this weird museum thing." Which has a skeleton of an elephant? Or possible a wooly mammoth. Unclear. Definitely a giraffe, and then a bear thing that doesn't seem like an our world thing.

SALLY: Yeah, it's got, like, saber teeth.

EMILY: Yeah, it's like a saber-tooth bear.

SALLY: I feel like we might have had saber-tooth bears.

EMILY: You think?

SALLY: Oh shit. Guess what time it is?

EMILY: Sally Googles Things!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Meanwhile, I'll continue telling you about the museum exhibits. Um, there –

SALLY: Did you ever go to the Bean Museum?

EMILY: Yeah, I did. I had to go a few times, because it's in Provo and there's – my family hangs out there.

SALLY: It's coming up saber-tooth bear.

EMILY: You found it?

SALLY: Oh my god. This just looks like a giant beaver.

EMILY: I hate that.

SALLY: [laughs] Maybe it is a giant beaver.

EMILY: I wanna die.

SALLY: Ummmmmmmm. "Jaw dropping extinct sea bear chowed down like a sabertoothed cat. A mysterious, carnivorous marine mammal clamped down on its muscle dinner."

EMILY: Marine mammal? That's horrifying. Imagine you're swimming and instead of a shark attacking you a sabertoothed bear fish attacks you. It's like something out of D&D, folks.

SALLY: I don't know. I'm getting – I mean, nothing...

EMILY: No definitive.

SALLY: No definitive. I'm getting "extinct otter-like marine bear might have had a bite like a sabertoothed cat." This one looks really upsetting [laughs] in proportion. But this didn't come out until 2016, so there's no way Robert Jordan could have known. Unless, he's really been alive throughout all of human history.

EMILY: [laughing] And retroactively – oh, through all of human history. He's like a highlander or something?

SALLY: Yeah, he's been alive since the Pleistocene [laughs]. And he's like, "My long-lost childhood pet, my sabertoothed bear. Nathaniel."

EMILY: "I'm going to have a throw-away line about him in my fourth, my least good book."

[both laugh]

EMILY: Ah, rough. Rough, rough, rough.

SALLY: [singing] rough, rough, rough, rough being a dog. Never get to drive a car [laughs]. We sang that song in elementary school chorus every year.

EMILY: Okay. That's a fun [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I can't remember anything we sang in, in elementary school chorus. I don't remember singing from the age of three to the age of, like, eighteen, because I hated it so much as a school proscribed activity. It was so fucking terrible.

SALLY: Chorus was an elective thing you could do at my elementary school.

EMILY: Oh, I had to do it in church more.

SALLY: Oh.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: I always forget that people grew up going to church, because it was not my childhood experience.

EMILY: Yeah, I don't reference it too often, because I've mostly also forgotten that it's happened.

SALLY: Anyway, Egg does a bad in the museum and crosses the red ropes. Oh shit.

EMILY: Yeah. She's like, "Oh, there's an *angreal*." And then she sees the thing that the Black Ajah are there for and that a seasoned reader will immediately recognize. Which is a creepy, like, um, I think it's called something about dominion or some fucking weird thing. But it's a, uh, god I just forgot what they're called. The, like, leashes that they –

SALLY: Oh, the *a'dam*?

EMILY: Yeah, the *a'dam*. It's like an *a'dam*, but for men. Um, which Egwene doesn't quite – it's a little ridiculous that she doesn't recognize it.

SALLY: Yeah, of all people.

EMILY: Of all people she was literally traumatized with one for a month or so. So, even if she doesn't, like, even if it's a different color.

SALLY: Yeah, she would still recognize the shape.

EMILY: Yeah, and she also just senses pain and suffering. Like there's all this – these things are radiating weird emotional auras. So it's just, like, a little buck wild that she just skims right over that.

SALLY: Yeah. She's like, "NBD. Instrument of my torture." Like, if it was Nynaeve or Elayne it might make more sense.

EMILY: Exactly. And it's, like, it has to be Egwene in this kind of scene, but it's, like, I wish she hadn't noticed it or something. And then Nynaeve and Elayne noticed it later when one of them is actually physically there. It's pretty weird.

SALLY: It's an odd moment.

EMILY: Yeah, just kind of bad writing. Bad callback. Uh, she also finds a kind of broken, uh, choedan kal key. One of the female versions. So, this is a *ter'angreal*, which links to one of the really massive *s'angreal*s. Rand has already seen the big *s'angreal* and almost blew up Cairhien with it. Which, let's be honest, would have [laughs].

SALLY: Would have been a much more interesting turn of events.

EMILY: [laughing] For Cairhien, specifically.

SALLY: Yeah, like, RIP Thom I guess.

EMILY: [laughs] I guess Thom would have been in the line of fire.

SALLY: [laughing] But is that a price I'm willing to pay?

EMILY: But at that point no one knew he was alive yet. So, it would have just been like a, you know. He would have just stayed dead [laughs].

SALLY: Oh my god. My sis – Melissa started reading – she read *The Eye of the World*.

EMILY: Oh, did she?

SALLY: And she was like, "I listened to the first two episodes of your podcast, but I was *pissed* that you spoiled that Thom was still alive." And I was like, "Melissa."

EMILY: Yeah, get some genre savviness.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Obviously Thom's still alive.

SALLY: It was very sweet, though. She was like, "I mean, I thought I knew, but I wanted to, like, find out on my own." And I was like, "Okay."

EMILY: It's not...

SALLY: And I was like, "Then you probably shouldn't listen to most of EHR until you get a little further in."

EMILY: Remember the moment when Rand just walks in and Thom's doing his dumb performance, and it's, like, that's the moment where you're like, "Thom's alive!" And everyone's like, "We been knew."

SALLY: We been knew, baby boy. Moiraine herself was like –

EMILY: He's shacking up, Jerry Seinfeld style, with a much younger woman. Thom you're on the list.

SALLY: Oh shit.

EMILY: Can't – you're gonna have to redeem yourself. And frankly? You don't do much to redeem yourself narratively.

SALLY: Considering, yeah, that [sighs]. [whispering] You end up with Moiraine.

EMILY: It's less that I like Thom and more that I like the idea of Thom. If that makes sense.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah. Thom could be a really good character, but he's...

EMILY: I love Thom's interactions with any of the boys.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And I literally hate him in any other context.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: His whole relationship with Elayne is horrifying.

SALLY: Yeah, it's gross.

EMILY: Nynaeve it's just, you know, weird and combative because Nynaeve. And then it's just, like, yeah.

SALLY: Then he's just kind of there.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: To be our bard.

EMILY: Yeah. So, if Thom was just like de – Mat's dad figure, that would be appropriate. But now.

SALLY: Yeah, but instead. Ugh.

EMILY: Ugh. Okay, um...

SALLY: Egg.

EMILY: Oh, yeah. Egg picks up this, like, big *ter'angreal* thing, but then, like, it makes her – it puts her in pain?

SALLY: Hmm.

EMILY: It's just broken. So it doesn't, like, she like sort of feels the – the Power, but also it's just, like, broken. Which is just a really interesting concept, I think.

SALLY: [singing] I've got the power! Yeah. [whispers] sorry.

EMILY: You can sing.

SALLY: I can't.



EMILY: I mean, you can.

SALLY: I shouldn't. Okay, yeah. It is interesting. I've been thinking a lot, to, like, no conclusions, but, like, um. Just the relationship to magic and punishment in *The Wheel of Time*. Like, there's always, like, a cost. And I think we've talked about that a little bit. Or probably a lot. I feel like now that we're in season four we're probably going to be rehashing some old themes.

EMILY: I mean, yeah, which is fine. And I imagine if we've forgotten talking about it then you've forgotten listening about it. Unless it really changed your life in some way.

SALLY: You're welcome.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Yeah, that furry episode in season one.

EMILY: I don't remember that furry episode. No, I do, actually. Because it traumatized me.

SALLY: That's where I learned about ABO [laughs].

EMILY: Oh no! Don't say it. I was skirting around it, but you had to bring it.

SALLY: Um.

EMILY: Like Beetlejuice now it will appear. Or whatever.

SALLY: Oh god [laughing]. Could you imagine? What would that even look like?

EMILY: I don't know! I don't want to think about it!

SALLY: Appeared in our living. Um, what was even saying?

EMILY: Magic. Punishment.

SALLY: I had some connection between magic and punishment and one of the artefacts being broken, and it making Egg's head hurt. But I can't remember what the thread through these pillars were. So, put it together yourself, I guess.

EMILY: Well, I don't know. I've been thinking about how magic items are just, like, such a Dungeons & Dragons thing. It's just such an interesting, like, trope that is so accepted in high fantasy that we don't really question it.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I guess. But it's, like, the idea that you can just pick up an object and then it suddenly has magical properties is, like, pretty buck wild when you really think about it.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's really well explained, I think, in *The Wheel of Time* universe. The way that it's classified. The idea that you can get a battery, a really big battery, or...x,y,z.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: Just miscellaneous. The *ter'angreal* classification itself is just super crazy. It's, like, any – [laughs] they can do anything, theoretically. Who the fuck knows?

SALLY: Do you think that the concept of magic items comes from like the Holy Grail? Or is there, like, some myth that I'm forgetting about?

EMILY: I mean, I certainly think of Arthurian legend, because you have the pursuit of magical items, although the Holy Grail doesn't necessarily have magical properties in myth. It's more just, like, the idea of relics. Which, I guess in Middle Ages, that was kind of your magic object thing. Just watch the movie *Pilgrimage* featuring Tom Holland for proof. Um, I think more of, like, Excalibur. Or, I guess it's not Excalibur, but the sword that the Lady of the Lake gives to Arthur. I know there's a difference, or whatever. But just the idea that a woman in a lake can yet a sword [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs] I know. If you think about that myth it's so funny. She's like, "Here ya go!"

EMILY: It is pretty wild. And I'm sure there are other mythologies in other – I mean, they're big in ancient Greek and Roman myths. The gods just like present –

SALLY: Yeah, the golden fleece and stuff.

EMILY: Yeah, objects that are kind of like...Anyway, you kind of cross into the science fiction boundary in *The Wheel of Time*'s treatment of magical objects, because they are kind of categorized as lost technology in a way. Especially the *ter'angreal*. That, as we kind of get more and more of them, and we start being able to identify them, which is one of Elayne's talents. I know just – I can't. It's so stupid.

SALLY: Is she just like a fucking encyclopedia?

EMILY: She can touch them and is like, "I know what this is." Which, literally there's a spell in D&D that does that. It's called Identify. I'm sorry I know so much about D&D. I've been watching Critical Role and it's like –

SALLY: It's not a bad thing to know about.

EMILY: Um, but anyway. Yeah. She'll be like, "This one is just like a library. Like a little handheld library." And I'm like, "So it's an i – it's a Kindle."

SALLY: [laughs] It's a Kindle.

EMILY: It's a fucking Kindle [laughs]. And just things like that. That are kind of, like, uh in a bygone era these would have been much more accepted, widely used items. But because we are in a post-apocalyptic, rebuilt society they are now viewed as magical objects.

SALLY: This is completely random, but I was thinking about how much that history structure of *Wheel of Time* annoys me for some reason.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: The idea that it is both, like, post-apocalyptic, but not. I don't know why [laughs] it really bothers me. I don't know why. I can't explain that. I was getting really –

EMILY: Both post-apocalyptic and pre-apocalyptic?

SALLY: Yeah. [laughing] It was really bothering me the other day. I don't know why. I was like, "This is *dumb!*"

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: It's not dumb. It's mythologically very interesting, but it was really bothering me.

EMILY: Yeah, like, [laughing] I really like it. I just think the idea of having – so often it's just the pre-apocalyptic thing. Or, dystopian, post-apocalyptic thing. Having a healthy mix of them kind of gives weight to the pre-apocalyptic thing. It's, like, normally you're just like, "Okay, something vague will happen to shatter the world." And they're like, "Nope. We been knew. It fucked up."

SALLY: Yeah. I don't know why it was making so mad. Because, yeah, mythologically fascinating.

EMILY: Mythologically very sound.

SALLY: But I was like, "What the fuck?"

EMILY: Well, these things happen. Things annoy me about *Wheel of Time* constantly. And I'm like, "I don't know why, but it annoys me." [pops lips] Anyway, we do meet beautiful icon Amys (a-meess) in this. Is that how you say it?

SALLY: I always said Amys (am-iss).

EMILY: Amys.

SALLY: But I don't think it really matters.

EMILY: Am-iss. A-mees. Whatever the fuck her name is. Badass motherfucker. She's so cool. Because Egwene is, like, teleporting herself accidentally to the Aiel Waste in a [laughs] convenient turn of events.

SALLY: Duh duh duh duh

EMILY: Do do do. Forest of coincidences. She's like, "Huh, a lady hunting a...boar thing. Desert pig?"

SALLY: [laughs] A big desert pig, yeah.

EMILY: A big desert pig. And then she's like, "Goodbye." And then she comes back and is like, "Whaaa! Desert pig!" And the lady is like, "ollo?"

SALLY: [laughs] "Why are you here?"

EMILY: "Why are you here?" And then they have a little battle of wills.

SALLY: Because the lady is like, "You shouldn't be wearing the – "

BOTH: Cadin'sor

SALLY: So, she makes Egg naked. And then Egg is like, "Fuck you," and makes her naked.

EMILY: "You're naked. Fuck you."

SALLY: Yeah. And this lady's like, "Whaaat?"

EMILY: "Damn this girl learns so very quickly. I must pursue this well of ambition."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: "Goodbye, I shall track her to Tanchico."

SALLY: [laughing] Where Egg is flying through the sky?

EMILY: Where Egg is like, "Oh, I've realized I can fly. Whee!"

SALLY: [laughing] Is, like, Peter Panning herself around.

EMILY: And after thirty seconds is like, "You know? This actually might not be the best idea if I'm trying to avoid notice. Whoops."

SALLY: “Oopa.” [laughs]

EMILY: [signing] Oompa Loompa –

BOTH: [singing] Doopity doo.

EMILY: Um, and so she has this conversation with Amys where Amys – Amys.

BOTH: Amiss?

SALLY: [gasp] Amiss. What’s amiss?

EMILY: Where she’s like, “Girl, you’ve gotta learn. Come to me in the Aiel Waste.” And Egwene’s like, “No, I’m trying to find the Black Ajah in this city. Do you think you can help me?” And Amys is like, “I don’t know anything about the Black Ajah, but this city is fucked up.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which, Egg herself has noticed as she’s walking through. It’s such, like, an eerie thing that there are so many animals in it. She describes just kind of, like, pigeons and roaches and rats and kind of like...what we would I guess label as pests.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: Yeah, there are, like, little hound dogs lone wolfing it around.

SALLY: Little, like, stray dogs. Yeah.

EMILY: Um, and regardless of how you feel about pigeons or stray dogs that’s kind of, like, when you combine all of them it sort of –

SALLY: Yeah, it’s coded.

EMILY: Yeah, creates a kind of wild west image.

SALLY: Yeah, it’s coded in a – yeah, a wild west, post-apocalyptic scenario where only vermin and scavengers have survived.

EMILY: It’s very odd, because, um, I don’t remember, and I guess we’re still kind of wading into the deep waters that is *tel’aran’rhiod*, but we haven’t really experienced this with any other cities that have, like, known the Forsaken’s touch. Because that’s all I can really imagine is happening here in Tanchico, is that Moghedien’s there and so are all the Black Ajah. And it’s just a kind of politically gross climate. Shit’s going on in Tarabon that I’m not super familiar with. They’re sort of always at war with Arad Domon, but I don’t know. Um, so it’s just a little

wild that this particular city is how we experience this. Like, you'd think – it would be appropriate, I feel, in Caemlyn.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And a little more creepy, I guess, because Caemlyn's a city we're familiar with, and, um, I went on a rant on this in one of my recent blogs, but it's almost like another character in the series, because so much happens to our various characters in that setting. Even if itself is not a particular setting – even if it itself is not a particularly interesting setting it is, like, standout in so many people's memories and stories that it is important.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, um, if this were happening in Caemlyn it would be a whole level of ooh. Uh oh. But it's happening in this rando city, so it's kind of, like, okay.

SALLY: Yeah, and we also don't have, like, the, um, background. Like, we haven't been to Tanchico yet, so, it's like, we got to Tear and everything was really weird. How do we not know it's just not another thing about Rand doing things to the world? Like, it's – like, I don't think I would have grasped that something was weird until Amys was like, "Something is weird."

EMILY: Yeah, and it's a little annoying that – it's, uh, questionable writing if you have to have a character state explicitly something that you are making an effort to state implicitly.

SALLY: Yeah, and it's also extra hard, because Egg keeps talking about how weird things are, but she's in the world of dreams where everything is weird.

EMILY: Everything's uncanny and super weird.

SALLY: Yeah, so it's just, like, a weird setting.

EMILY: Yeah, it's hard to introduce us to Tanchico in any tangible way, I guess, when you are introducing it to us through *tel'aran'rhiod*, which is just such a bizarre medium. But anyway, Egwene gets back to the real world, is like, "Ollo, I have decided I'm going on a vision quest [laughing] to..."

SALLY: The desert.

EMILY: "To make this lady I met for thirty seconds my mentor, because she has knowledge and I am thir-sty for knowledge. Aviendha will you take me?" And Aviendha's like, "Eh." And everyone's like [laughing], "Aviendha's taking her." It's a little awkward.

SALLY: Yeah, Aviendha's like, "Ummmm."

EMILY: Aviendha's, like, quietly in the corner like, "Don't make any sudden movements and they'll [laughing]."

SALLY: “They’ll forget about you.”

EMILY: “They’ll forget about you.” Um, and, uh, oh! Aviendha’s like, “Oh, yeah. I know Amys. She’s technically my…” Okay, so. Aviendha has an aunt who is married to Rhuarc.

SALLY: Uh-huh.

EMILY: Which makes Rhuarc her uncle, which is fun tidbit [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah, which is kickass [laughs].

EMILY: And, uh, Amys is also married to Rhuarc, so does that make her Aviendha’s aunt by marriage?

SALLY: I guess.

EMILY: In a very weird, roundabout way. As Elayne states, Aiel family culture is really interesting.

SALLY: Yeah, yeah. Wild.

EMILY: Like, I love the idea that you’re closer to, um, you’re closer to a cousin if your mothers are related than if your fathers are related.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: That’s just, like, super interesting [laughs]/

SALLY: So random.

EMILY: [laughing] It’s like, “Okay.”

BOTH: Cool.

EMILY: Cool. Aviendha also introduced the idea of sister wives here and the idea that Aiel women are the marriage proposers.

SALLY: Instigators.

EMILY: Yeah, which is fun. I wish that was how our world, our society operated.

SALLY: I mean, it can be.

EMILY: It certainly can be.

SALLY: But everyone's like, "He won't ask me to marry him!"

EMILY: In the society in which I grew up, it is definitely not the norm.

SALLY: Yeah, oh my god. I had a friend in high school who was, like, desperately in love with this boy. And she was like, "I just wish he would hold my hand." And I was like, "You could try holding his hand." And she was like, "No, Sally. That's the man's job." And I was like, "To hold hands?"

EMILY: Grosss.

SALLY: Yeah, and I was like, "Okay, good luck." They're married now.

EMILY: HA!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Somehow, I both completely saw and had no way of seeing that coming.

SALLY: I know. Wild right?

EMILY: I was like, "I'm sure she's bullied him into marrying her [laughs] by now. But."

SALLY: Utah's wild, man.

EMILY: Yeah, Utah's a weird. The wild, wild west. Speaking of.

SALLY: Literally.

EMILY: Woof. Uh, but they're all kind of chatting about Egwene taking off and her lack of evidence for Tanchico, when Moiraine enters and, without preamble, is like, "So, the Darkfriends are dead." And they're all like, "Cool. Great."

SALLY: Awesome.

EMILY: "Cool, cool, cool, cool." And Moiraine's like, "Yes, here's the gruesome way in which they were killed." And everyone's like –

SALLY: Gross!

EMILY: "Gross, Moiraine! Thanks!"

SALLY: Moiraine, tiny French woman, is like, "This is...what?"

EMILY: "What?"



SALLY: “I don’t understand.”

EMILY: “I don’t understand. I’ve been around so long I’ve forgotten what is and is not a grotesque death.”

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah. Like, what?

EMILY: [laughing] Come on, Moiraine. Um, and so they just kind of say, “Well, we’re – Nynaeve and Elayne are gonna head to Tanchico tomorrow. And Egwene is going to go with Aviendha to the Waste.” And Aviendha’s like, “I really don’t wanna go to the Aiel Waste,” and Moiraine is like, “Too bad, sucker! Because I’ve got a letter here, that I’ve already showed your uncle, that is like drag Aviendha to the Waste by her hair if you have to.” And Aviendha’s like, “[sighs] Fucking narc.”

SALLY: Yeah, she’s like, “You fucking – snitches get stitches, Moiraine.”

EMILY: Yeah, fucking kill you, Moiraine.

SALLY: I know. I do – I do really hate the plot that Aviendha is forced to become a Wise One.

EMILY: Yeah, it’s really. Yeah. It’s just sad. She gives off such big lesbian energy when she’s like, “All I want is to be a Maiden with my spear sisters.” And it’s like, “That’s so sweet! I, too, just value female friendship.”

SALLY: Maybe I just want to chase Egwene, the love of my life, across the world.

EMILY: Yeah, exactly.

SALLY: And be her Warder.

EMILY: Yeah. Yeah....it would be cool if Aviendha was not a channeler is what I’m saying.

SALLY: Yeah. It would be cool.

EMILY: Or even if she was a channeler, and this just wasn’t the way Aiel – Aiel society operated. But alas. Ugh. [sighs] Anyway, so that decided is where they end the chapter.

SALLY: Yep, everybody has made decisions. And then Moiraine’s like, “Rand’s gonna dramatically tell us all what he’s going to do.”

EMILY: “At some point.”

SALLY: “Tomorrow.” [laughs]

EMILY: Finger guns.

SALLY: Yeah, and she's like, "I hate this motherfucker so much" [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] She's like, "I just wish he would just tell me."

SALLY: Yeah. She's like, "I don't even care anymore."

EMILY: "Instead of keeping it a secret until the public – " [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs] "Until the public announcement."

EMILY: "Until the public is slobbering for it and he can, you know, bring it to them." Like a Marvel movie. He's like, "Here's what I'm gonna be doing now." And they're all like, "Ooh. Ahh. Please don't kill us. We're terrified of you."

SALLY: "We're so scared of you and your glass sword."

EMILY: Yeah. [laughs] He's – [chanting] glass sword, glass sword.

SALLY: [quoting Justin McElroy] Glass shark gonna get you fat kid.

EMILY: [laughs] Anyway, anything else you'd like to add? Academically? Theoretically?

SALLY: I know that's the only thing I bring to this podcast, and I don't really bring a lot of it.

EMILY: That's not true. You also bring a lot of humor, and a lot of heart.

SALLY: Oh. Thanks, babe [laughs]. Um, I don't think so. Pretty typical world of dreams – oh! We also see Birgitte in the distance.

EMILY: Oh yeah! She is hinted at, yeah. Egwene is like, "I swear I just saw Birgitte, but – " [crosstalk].

SALLY: I like Birgitte's reveal, because it's like a striptease, you know. Everyone just sort of sees bits and pieces of her throughout *tel'aran'rhiod* and then she's like, "Surprise, bitch. It's me."

EMILY: "Surprise, bitches. I'm here to be a main part of the plot."

SALLY: And befriend Mat Cauthon.

EMILY: Yes! I know, right?

SALLY: I love their friendship. It's so wholesome.

EMILY: It's a very good friendship.

SALLY: [laughing] It's very wholesome.

EMILY: [laughing] It's the me and Devin of *Wheel of Time*.

SALLY: That's true! Except [laughing] Devin's Birgitte and you're Mat.

EMILY: God, I wish he listened to the episodes proper so he could ask what that means.

SALLY: And then you could be like, "Well, you're a slutty archer." [laughs]

EMILY: And I'm...a slutty gambler.

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah, exactly.

EMILY: And their sluttiness combines.

SALLY: Yeah, by their sluttiness combined, they are Captain Planet.

EMILY: [laughs] They make Voltron.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: Or whatever.

SALLY: Yeah, I don't know. It was funny, though.

EMILY: Okay. Uh, we will be back next week. I think for three chapters, it might be.

SALLY: Do you know the chapter in this book called Rumors is what first made me listen to *Rumors* by Fleetwood Mac, which is legitimately one of my favorite albums of all time?

EMILY: Well, that was – that was actually a very fun tidbit. Thank you for that.

SALLY: I was marking up a Patreon book, and I just wrote "*Rumors* by Fleetwood Mac," because we always, like, do stupid things to the titles of the chapters.

EMILY: Yeah, sure.

SALLY: Because the chapter titles are fucking ridiculous [laughs].

EMILY: Of course.

SALLY: And I was like, "Oh, I haven't listened to that album, except for, um, Go Your Own Way, or whatever." And then I listened to it and was changed fundamentally as a person.

EMILY: I've listened to it on vinyl at Devin's house, so.

SALLY: Oh my god!

EMILY: I know.

SALLY: Oh my god!

EMILY: I know.

SALLY: Why is he so ridiculous?

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: He's so annoying [laughs].

EMILY: I love him.

SALLY: That is a good one to have on vinyl, though.

EMILY: It's pretty good.

SALLY: If you're gonna have one on vinyl. I love that album.

EMILY: Um, anyway, *Rumors* – we're getting two very good Mat chapters and one unfortunate Perrin chapter, but isn't that the way it always goes?

SALLY: Yeah, we have to pay for our pleasures.

EMILY: Our sins. What?

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Pain and pleasures, etc. Anyway, thank you to Glynna Mackenzie for our beautiful theme song. Thank you to you all for listening. Please check us out on any of our social medias.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Please check out our website, [everybodyhatesrand.com](http://everybodyhatesrand.com). It's great. You can keep up to date on our reading schedule there, if you're at all interested in reading with us.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Um, and a variety of other fun things.

SALLY: Yeah, you should also check us out over on Patreon. We're getting really close to the goal that would allow us to make some merchandise. Um, which would be really exciting for all

of us, I think. So you should go check us out over there, where you can find the aforementioned blooper reel and Emily's blog and the infamous other podcast We Don't Watch Outlander, and all that good shiz.

EMILY: Yes. Do you want to tell the story now as your sign-off?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Where is he?

SALLY: I don't even know where he is.

EMILY: He's been oddly quiet.

SALLY: He's vanished.

EMILY: We haven't had to yeet him into the abyss today.

SALLY: Um, yesterday I was meal prepping for the week, and I made zucchini lasagna, which was the first time I've ever cooked with zucchini, and it was kind of a weird experience.

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Because it's apparently, like, a very watery vegetable, so, like, yeah anyway. That's beside the point. And I was making it. And the meat sauce was admittedly, like, really good, so I, like, understand this crime. But [laughing] right before I was about to put the fucking lasagna in the oven Tybalt just, like, reaches down and sticks his whole little white paw [laughing] right into the corner of the lasagna. And I, like, shrieked and had to, like, rip him out of the lasagna.

EMILY: Like, oh my god.

SALLY: And then I couldn't wash all of it off, so he's got [laughing] a little orange paw, because his paws are white. I was so mad.

EMILY: The, uh, text she sent me was, "This is a formal apology for the fact that Tybalt has meat sauce stains on one of his paws. He reached his hand into the lasagna dish like Prometheus reaching for the fire and between his wiggling and biting I could not wash all of it off. So I'm sorry our cat has one orange – orangish foot."

SALLY: [laughing] AH!

EMILY: It was really good.

SALLY: I was so mad at him. AGH.

EMILY: [laughs] Thanks! Bye!

SALLY: Bye!