



Episode 110: CSI: Wheelworld

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Generously Transcribed by Lauren Livesey

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 Glynna Mackenzie plays]

S: As ready as I'll ever be.

E: Yeah, we're risking having the window open in this one, or the sliding glass door, I guess.

S: It's just hooooottt.

E: It's a very hot day – Well, I mean, it's seventy degrees, which, after days of fifty degrees, feels so hot.

S: Very warm.

E: And our AC isn't on yet. There is just a full AC filter on the sidewalk outside.

S: Someone had enough. [laughing]

E: I was watching the maintenance guys zoom by in their little golf carts, and I imagine one of them just dropped it there.

S: Oh, yeah, that makes more sense than my theory. [laughing]

E: No, I like your theory better. The anger. [angry voice] *What the -?!*

S: Yeets it off the little balcony?

E: No!

S: Oh, buddy, please leave the puzzles alone.

E: He's mad because I just dusted there yesterday, so now his, you know, like, layer of sediment and filth –

S: Yeah, that smells different.

E: - that had been accumulating there is gone, one hopes. Hmm.

S: Yeah, Emily's been doing lots of nice deep cleaning, because she is so good.

E: It's on my to-do list to clean the kitchen, but I'm putting it off.

S: It's on *my* to-do list to clean the kitchen.

E: Oh, we should do it together.

S: Yeah, then it'll be super-fast.

E: It's just that when I worked at the restaurant –

S: The restaurant that shall not be named? For several reasons.

E: Yeah, for several reasons. Number one is: the PTSD. Whatever, I worked at Chick Fil-A for a few summers [both laughing]. And now I have – I can't wipe down surfaces or it makes me feel anxious.

S: Well, then you should just let me do it.

E: Then I'll do the other things – you wipe down the surfaces and I'll, like, sweep or something.

S: OK, yeah. And I tried to clean the kitchen so that you don't have to.

E: Sally's so nice to me. She knows that I have such fear of –

S: Yeah, like –

E: - cleaning the counter tops.

S: - yeah, I know you hate it.

E: OK, yeah. [long shaky exhale].

S: It's day twenty [pause] four? Of quarantine?

E: Yeah. Because I guess it was seventeen last time when we did it.

S: We should do a little countdown somewhere so I don't have to do math every week.

E: I'd like to – We should do a paper-chain, but in reverse, you add like a [inaudible] –

S: [speaking over] For every week that goes by? I love that!

E: Wouldn't that be exciting! I don't know what we'd do with it when it's all over. We'd just torture Tybalt with it –

S: Just have it. Imagine if there's a string hanging out of his reach?

E: Oh, no. He'd hate it.

S: I know.

E: This is *Everybody Hates Rand*, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. Day twenty-four – next week we'll be at day thirty-one – which will mean a full month.

S: Crazy!

E: Yeah, yikes. This is Emily, I'm Emily. That's Sally. Oh, you can hear birds ... Do you think there's an owl that lives near our house? Because I often hear a "hoo" noise.

S: That is coming from a dove.

E: [gasps] I knew I could ask you and you'd know.

S: Yeah, no, because I've been investigating and we have these doves around, that I see. They're Eurasian collared doves – I looked them up on my app and that make that kind of "hoo, hoo, hoo" sound.

E: Interesting. Devin asked if he could call me dove – not dove, ew – goose, and I was like, no, geese are so mean.

S: That's correct.

E: That's the end of that anecdote, I just thought about all the mean geese stories you've told me.

S: Geese are the worst!

E: And I was like, I don't wanna be associated with geese.

S: Yeah. Why does he wanna call you goose?

E: It's such a long story, there's so many layers. [laughing]

S: OK. OK. Sure, I'll accept it.

E: Anyway. Yeah. *Wheel of Time*. Phooof.

S: This week we read three chapters, which was painful.

E: Was painful, especially considering it's Nynaeve and El— I mean, it's not gonna be as bad as next week, when it's Sivan and Gareth Bryne.

S: [fake retching]

E: Yeah. I can't imagine — like, I can't wrap my head around a full chapter of Gareth Bryne. [Sally gags] Makes me feel upset. But we can't really stop after two chapters, because it's — Elayne and Nynaeve get drugged. It's a cliffhanger. But —

S: They die.

E: They die! [both laughing] Book four!

S: Two main characters kick the bucket suddenly.

E: I mean, I'm a big proponent of the fact that more major characters should have been killed off in *Wheel of Time* earlier —

S: Yeah.

E: - to, like, give it actual stakes, you know? Which it doesn't until the fourteenth book. But yeah, Nynaeve and Elayne maybe wouldn't be the ones I went for. OK, Elayne —

S: Elayne can perish. She's so annoying in these chapters.

E: Oh my God. The, like, bulk of these chapters is Elayne's neuroses about Thom, her —

S: Her weird — what is it?

E: - sexual acting-out.

S: Is it, like, the Electra complex? What's the reverse — I know Thom's not her dad.

E: Yeah, it's the Electra complex.

S: She's a little too defensive when Nynaeve's like, *He could be your father*, and she's like, *He's NOT my father!*

E: *He's not my father*. And also, she's, like, obsessed with — it's so weird, I don't even wanna parse what's going on in Elayne's head, because it's so stupid, and it's so — I can't conceive of where Robert Jordan came up with this sub-plot, you know? What possible furthering of the narrative did this accomplish? Giving Elayne this very weird four or five chapters where she is sexually interested in Thom. It's like, what?

S: Yeah, and when Nynaeve confronts her about it, she's — like, her reasoning is that Rand is surrounded by a bunch of Maidens of the Spear, and he's obviously flirting with them, and Nynaeve is like, *No, he isn't*.

E: First of all, have you *met* the Maidens? They're gonna kill him.

S: Yeah. And Rand is not a flirtatious person, so that's, like, not what's happening, and even if it was –

E: And it is: sex igloo.

S: - yeah. But, even if it is, why is your jealousy and insecurity manifesting in this weird way?

E: Yeah, like, Elayne and Rand did not have a true understanding when they parted ways, and I understand that people react differently to that when you leave a relationship ambiguously, and that one of them might be more attached to it than the other, but the fact is, Elayne: you are not in direct communication with Rand. You have no control over what he does. You do have control over your own behavior, though. So, maybe, don't be weird.

S: Yeah. It's just really odd. I don't know. Yeah, it's just really uncomfortable and – I don't know. I don't know. Robert Jordan just has such a weird thing with young women being attracted to old men. Which is like some weird fantasy –

E: Especially Thom.

S: - that men have that, it's like they become sexier when they get older, and – Whatever. That's not necessarily *not* true, but most women I know are not like, *Yeah, seventy-year-old man with mustaches who FUCKED MY MOM.*

E: Oh, my God. Like, as if the age thing wasn't enough, then you get to the layer where he fucked her mom. And it's, like, I can't – Why is for – Yikes, Elayne. You know?

S: Yeah. [small scream] She's the weirdest person.

E: And you're right, it does feel like some sort of weird fantasy fulfilment of male fantasy authors that they sort of are like, *I'm in control of this young female character's sexuality, so I can have her behave the way I think young women ought to behave.* And it's such a weird policing of women's sexual desires.

S: Yeah, yeah – because this is also just the way Thom is situated in Elayne's life. It plays out very much along the lines of “she's trying to resolve her daddy issues”, which is a sexual framework put on young women so often, no matter their situation or relationship to their father. It's just so annoying on every level. And then Nynaeve, of course, has to comment in this section that Lan is old enough to be *her* father, so then we just have it playing out in two different ways. And we're supposed to believe that one is healthier than the other.

E: [speaking over] And it's like, girl, maybe –

S: Like it's situated that maybe Nynaeve is right.

E: Nynaeve, that should be a revelation to you.

S: Yeah, take your own advice.

E: This isn't ideal. Yeah, I was gonna say ... It's just so – Because on the one hand, as a modern feminist, you want to say, *Well, Elayne should be able to desire whoever she desires*, and you get irritated at Nynaeve for calling her, you know, the fantasy version of a skank, whatever it is. Like, “twitchskirt”, I think, is the phrase?

S: Yeah, is it a “twitchskirt” or a “flipskirt”?

E: I think both are used –

S: Nice!

E: - but I think it's “twitchskirt” in this one.

S: I like “twitchskirt”, it sounds funny.

E: “Twitchskirt”. Yeah, it sounds hilarious. Like – it sounds like a can-can dancer.

S: Yeah, you're, like, flipping up your skirt.

E: [humming the can-can song]

S: Showing your ankles.

E: Yeah, hoo! [Sally laughing] So, on the one hand, you as a modern feminist want to be like, *Yeah, Elayne can want whoever she wants, because she's free to do that. She has agency*, but as a person who understands that this is not coming from a modern feminist perspective, it's just gross.

S: Yeah. Yeah. That's such a complicated space to navigate. Because you're totally right, but not everything that gets touted as modern feminist – modern feminism is actually feminist.

E: Yeah, it's modern feminism to say, *Elayne can want whoever she wants*, but it is feminism with the framework of patriarchy that Elayne happens to want an older man, who has had a relationship with her mother.

S: Yeah, and so much of it is, like, Elayne's framework – Just growing up in the society she grew up in, this framework is who she was taught that she *could* desire. And, so, it's just – Yeah, the desire within patriarchy is excellent, Emily, you're so smart.

[Emily makes a strange scoffing sound, both laughing]

S: What's that noise?

E: Don't clip that noise. I've never made that noise before. It was me finishing my soda. But, yeah, there are other things happening in these chapters, beyond Elayne's complicated, or perhaps very simple, sexuality. We are picking up with the girls as they are just about to cross the border to Amadicia after leaving Tanchico, which is a full inch and a half on the inside map – That's the most anyone's traveled, really, on foot, except I guess two books ago when Rand did cross the entire continent.

S: By himself, at night, in the woods.

E: Yeah, like a fucking lunatic.

S: He was having a journey.

E: So, yeah, they're kinda masquerading as merchants. They have a wagon that is purportedly full of dyes, I don't – I assume they're not actually full of dyes, but who's to say? And it's sort of *in medias res*, because they're galloping away from the scene of a bunch of brigands trying to rob them and Nynaeve apparently getting pissed off enough to create a storm, like a big dust storm, so ... She's, like, hanging off the back of the wagon watching this big cloud of dust, and is like, *I didn't really mean to do ...*

S: *It's a little bigger than I ...*

E: *I was maybe more angry than I thought*, [Sally laughs] *Whoopsie*. But they kinda slow down eventually, just as some Whitecloaks are coming towards them on the road, as a fun reminder Amadicia is Whitecloak territory.

S: Yeah, that's their country.

E: It's their country. I think there's a king there, but it's basically –

S: It's their country.

E: Yeah, Pedron Niall. So, they run into these Whitecloaks, they get off the road, and then Nynaeve, sort of posing as a merchant, is like, *Oh, hello, we're just on our way from point A to point B, what's happening, Captain?* Like, just kinda – I don't know, from her point of view, it doesn't seem like she's doing anything.

S: She seems perfectly reasonable.

E: Yeah, she's being polite. She's also very anxious, because these are the Whitecloaks, and at one point one of them almost opens one of the barrels – supposedly of dye, we don't, again, actually know what's in it, I assume it's just their supplies – and Nynaeve is like –talks him out of opening it by saying, *Oh, it's dye, you don't wanna expose it to the elements*. But then Elayne sort of pipes up with, *Are you here to expand the border?* or something like that, and Nynaeve kinda has to talk them out of it. Then they leave, and Nynaeve's like, *Could you maybe not act like you're a princess? When we're in these situations?* And Nynaeve – Elayne's like, *Well, you're just groveling for him*. It's like, have you never interacted with the Whitecloaks before, lady?

S: I know, Elayne is so frustrating.

E: Like, you are not in a position to bargain with your behavior at this point. There's four of you – even if two of you are, like, mega-powerful channelers –

S: There's fifty dudes on horseback.

E: - you can't – you're also technically not supposed to kill people unless they're Darkfriends. You're also – again – like, two steps away from Whitecloak territory where there are many more of them.

S: Yeah, and, like, Nynaeve mentions multiple times, like *I'm not angry enough to channel*, so it's gonna be Elayne v fifty Whitecloaks. She's the most insufferable. She's really bad in this book. She's

got, like, her whole, *I'm a feisty young princess off to discover myself* vibe, like *really* hard in this book. And I hate it.

E: It's like, girl. Just shut up.

S: You need to – at some point, Elayne, you need to become a mature person.

E: She never does.

S: It's so upsetting. [laughing] It makes me wanna vomit.

E: [speaking over] As far as I can tell. And in the last book, they're just like, *We'll put her in charge of all of our armies*.

S: Why?

E: And I'm like, that does not make sense. [quiet scream of rage]

S: There are so many more people capable of running armies than literally the dumbest woman in Randland.

E: I know. It makes me so upset. I didn't remember that it happened and when I read it in the book, I was like, what is happening? This convoluted plot! That's, like, just desperately trying to make Elayne relevant.

S: Why isn't Mat in charge of all of the armies?

E: Mat essentially is in charge of all the armies, but at that point in the narrative he's, like, off somewhere?

S: OK.

E: And even though literally everyone knows where he is –

S: [laughing] Excellent.

E: - no one is like, *Perhaps we should put him in charge*.

S: *Perhaps we should just go teleport to where Mat is and teleport him back! Because teleportation exists!*

E: [speaking over] It's this ridiculous – Every single one of my blogs, I'm like, “do you remember how teleportation is a thing? This isn't a problem we should have! What are we talking about?”

S: [frustrated noise] OK.

E: Like, have I told you about the whole fucking thing with the Horn of Valere?

S: Yeah, and how they have to, like, secretly smuggle it? Through some underground railroad shit?

E: Yeah! Yeah!

S: Instead of just, like, yeeting it over through the magic void?

E: I'm like – they're like, *We have to send someone we can trust*. Like, you trust yourself, right, Egg? Go get it!

S: Egg, just bee-beep!

E: I just got to the Faile point of view where's she's like, *Oh, we're finally taking the Horn of Valere to Mat, because he finally showed up for us to give it to him*, and I'm like, "People have known where he is! Rand knew where he was! Why was Rand himself not just like, *Oh, hey, and by the way, you need the Horn of Valere, right? Let me go pop on over and get that for you.*"

S: Ah, the fourteenth book sounds, like, exhausting.

E: The fourteenth book is Brandon Sanderson, like, sitting there with plot points running through his fingers, like, *I'm trying so hard* –

S: *Robert! I don't know what any of this means!*

E – *Robert, why'd you do this to me?*

S: Yeah, God bless him for even trying.

E: I know, he did his best.

S: Plot points running through his fingers.

E: We give him – we give him a lot of shit on this podcast but, you know –

S: I wouldn't have wanted to undertake that.

E: No one would! I don't know why he did it.

S: Robert Jordan didn't even want to –

E: Yeah, Robert Jordan was like, *Ugh. Enough of this. I've put it off for as long as I physically could* – [both laughing] He's expanded it to eleven books.

S: Maybe that explains how long it is. He's like, *I don't wanna end it, I don't know how.*

E: Yeah, Harriet was like, *Please, Bobby, just end it.*

S: He's like, *But it's confusing. What?*

E: He's like, *I don't remember how. Somehow, I have to get all those characters in one place?* She's like, *You did that you yourself!*

S: *You made that choice.*

E: *You made those characters.*

S: *You control them!*

E: *You could have chosen to kill them off at any point!*

S: *You are their god! They don't control you, Robert – it's the other way around.*

E: [frustrated scream] OK.

S: But, they bee-beep on into Whitecloak land.

E: Yeah, they stop outside the nearest village to resupply, and the guys are like, *Hey, we've been traveling for, like, a flat month, day after day after day, so maybe we could take, like, a little – a leetle – break.* And Nynaeve's like, *Fine. I'm hot and sweaty, and I'm upset at Elayne because Elayne's being ridiculous.* So, they stop, and Thom and Juilin flip a coin to see who will go into town and resupply, which I find hilarious because Thom cheated for long enough that now Juilin only –

S: Juilin flips the coin.

E: - is the only one allowed to flip the coin. Thom goes off, Juilin stays, there's this whole extended scene where Elayne and Nynaeve are washing their hands or something, which: relatable. In this day and age. And Nynaeve's trying subtly to get things back to normal with Elayne, and Elayne's like, *Wah! I hate you!* And they're just chatting about the thing – again, they're, like, catching us up here, on what's been going down. Like, *hey, we're on the run. We just left Tanchico, we have this seal to the Dark One's prison that we are carrying.* Nynaeve considers this priority number one for getting out of Tanchico. I, again, am like, why did – I get it, Tanchico was a terrible place, but, like, the plot didn't really give them enough reasons to leave, in my opinion. Nynaeve's like, *The Black Ajah are still there, as far as we know.*

S: Yeah, and she's like, *I wanna get the seal to the Amyrlin Seat.*

E: Yeah, Nynaeve mentions, *I wanna – I want Siuan to tell me where to hunt the Black Ajah next,* and I'm like, they were right there.

S: They were in the same city as you.

E: You actually were in the same building for a while, there were some just right there.

S: Just right there.

E: For you to –

S: Snatch.

E: - murder, would be my preference at this point.

S: Yeah, they're annoying, get them out of the plot. We now have the Forsaken, we don't need another group of –

E: Yeah, come on.

S: - super-powered but incompetent evils.

E: We don't need an Elite Black Ajah kill squad, because you don't have to be elite to kill them.

S: Yeah, they're actually kind of stupid.

E: Yeah, they're a bunch of dummies.

S: Like all Robert Jordan's villains, they are just impossibly incompetent. And bad at being evil.
[laughing]

E: Oh, Robert. [frustrated scream] Stop trying to convince us that your bad guys are actually scary. They're not. Oh, and there's also all these convoluted reasons why they couldn't take a ship, for some reason? Basically, it's that Nynaeve didn't want to get seasick, I think, was the gist of it, but –

S: Yeah, she's making all these convoluted reasons, like, *Oh, what if we get caught by the Black Ajah at the docks?*

E: Really, she just didn't wanna get back on a boat again, which I find relatable. I will do any – I will jump through any number of hoops to avoid doing something that I don't wanna do, but also: girl.

S: You should have just gotten on a boat.

E: You maybe should have just got on. At this point, in Whitecloak territory, she's like, *Maybe I should have. Maybe a boat?*

S: What I find so funny is that at this point, everyone's just kind of listening to Nynaeve. She's like, *We're not taking a boat*, and they're like, *OK*.

E: They're all just like, *We have no – we can't possibly argue with her*.

S: *I don't have the energy*.

E: *We're too tired. We're exhausted*. There's mentions of Amathera, who was barely a blip in the last book, so I'm not sure why anyone still cares about her now.

S: Yeah, why would you remember her name? I certainly didn't.

E: Nynaeve and Elayne are still annoyed by her, how incompetent she was, or something? As though they were expecting a girl who was not raised to be royalty to act like royalty. Come on. [chanting] Be a little less – judgmental – Nynaeve and Elayne.

S: That's – it's impossible for them.

E I know. They're the most judge-y people in the entire world. But Juilin's like, *I don't know, I thought she was kinda hot*, and Juilin – Nynaeve and Elayne are like, *Shut the fuck up!*

S: *Juilin, you're the worst!*

E: Juilin's like, *I'll show you guys one day, by making her my love interest!*

S: Oh, yeah! Did we talk about it at the end of last season, and I was like, whatever.

E: Yeah, because –

S: I don't give a shit about what Juilin does, ever, and this throwaway character.

E: Why is Juilin still in the plot?

S: I don't know. Admittedly, Juilin's, like, super-gross. He's like, *Remember when she was wearing that super-hot dress, and her tits were out, and you could see her whole body?* And Nynaeve and Elayne are like, *Be less disgusting.*

E: Gross. Like, Juilin fulfils his relevance in the plot in this chapter, when he helps rescue Elayne and Nynaeve from the lady who drugged them. After that he could have died, and literally – Nothing, he does *nothing*, throughout the rest of the series, to justify his presence.

S: He's so annoying.

E: Juilin ... But anyway. Thom comes back with a bunch of meat and beans.

S: Like, a bag of apples.

E: And, like, a bag of apples, and Nynaeve's like, *I can't believe you've done this.*

S: He brings back, like, three salted hams –

E: Three hams.

S: - which I think is *so* funny.

E: Which I would be like, legendary, lets chow down. *Meat's back on the menu, boys!* [Sally laughing] But Nynaeve and Elayne are like, *The audacity. We can't just eat meat.* Nynaeve's like, *We need vegetables.* And I'm like, OK, I get it. Vegetables – be healthy. *But.* When you are on the road and can only afford a few supply stops, like, you want to keep moving, it's better to have, like, protein, and beans, you know. Veggies don't really hold as well. So perhaps, Thom has a brain. Nynaeve.

S: I know, but if I ate nothing but salted meat and beans, I would be the most miserable – like, I would be puking. My stomach cannot. So Nynaeve's desire for green vegetables was very – I felt that.

E: Well, Nynaeve and Elayne are like, *Let's go get some actual food. Let's leave the men to their ham.*

S: And Thom's like, *That's fine, Imma eat a whole ham!* [laughing]

E: Thom's like a cartoon character. Nynaeve's like, *Elayne, do you wanna come with me?* Elayne's like, *Sure.* And they start walking and Elayne's like, *OK, so you clearly wanted to talk to me, is it about Moghedien?* Who for some reason they still haven't told Thom and Juilin about. Like, I don't know, first thing I would update my bodyguards on is: there is a Forsaken after me.

S: Who wants to kill me.

E: Me, personally.

S: Because I kicked her ass.

E: Nynaeve's like, *It does worry me*, [Sally laughing] *a little bit, that she knows my name, what I look like, etc. And I kicked her ass.*

S: [speaking over] *Yeah, it's a little concerning.*

E: *It's, like, a little bit concerning. But I will not share that info with anyone relevant.*

S; [laughing] Anyway.

E: Like, Juilin's not stupid. Juilin's a lot of things, but not technically stupid, so when they start talking about Moghedien and then Elayne's like, switches it to *Mother*. He's not gonna –

S: He's not gonna be like, *That makes sense, they're super-worried about what Morgase is doing!*

E: Yeah, Nynaeve gives a shit about Elayne's mom. I've heard Nynaeve say from her lips, multiple times, *Elayne, I don't give a shit about your mom.*

S: Exactly. Yeah.

E: *Or your royal heritage, fuck you.* But Nynaeve's like, *No, I don't wanna talk about Moghedien. I wanna talk about how you're being insufferable with Thom. Blah, blah, blah-blah, blah.* We've covered this. Elayne is like, *I can't.* And then they get into town, cannot really find many vegetables, but Nynaeve does see a little bundle of flowers hanging in someone's window and recognizes it for, like, a signal to all of the Yellow Ajah that there's a message there from one of the many spies that are out in the world. I wish we had more characters who are spies.

S: I know. That'd be so lit.

E: That'd be cool.

S: What if one of our main characters was just, like, a spy?

E: That'd be neat.

S: For the Aes Sedai? Instead of, just, like, a bunch of Seanchan fascists. [Emily makes retching sound] It's just a lot.

E: But Nynaeve and Elayne go in, they have this whole convoluted plan – or Nynaeve does – but basically, they're like, *What's the message?* And this – it's just this one seamstress lady and then her little servant girl, who's just a sad, skinny, terrified –

S: Little bab.

E: - baby named Luci, and the woman's name is spelled R-O-N-D-E, but I was pronouncing it "Ronda" [like the name Rhonda is pronounced].

S: That's fair.

E: Ron-da.

S: Ron-da.

E: I just love the name Rhonda.

S: It's a great name!

E: It makes me picture a woman in a red dress.

S: Yeah, Rhonda.

E: Rhonda.

S: Rhonda. ROX-ANNE. [performed with a lot of gravel in the voice, as in the *Moulin Rouge* cover of the song]

E: Yeah, that's what I'm thinking of. ROX-ANNE. [Sally laughing] That wrecks my throat every time. I find it hilarious.

S: I know, I can't even do it.

E: [singing, again with extra gravel] "You don't have to sell your body to the night."

S: [with some gravel, but not as much as Emily] ROX-anne.

E: [hums the background melody]

S: Fuck. [with extra gravel] FUCK. OK. Anyway.

E: Yeah, OK, whatever. This lady's like, *Please have some tea*, and Nynaeve is like, *What is the fucking message?* And Ronde's like, *Uh, the message is that everyone should go back to the Tower. So it can be whole again.* And Nynaeve's like, *What the fuck are you talking about? Been out of the goddamn gossip loop for, like, three months, I don't know what's happening. I thought this was an emergency.* She gives them some tea, they drink it, as one does, unsuspectingly, and then Elayne falls over, Nynaeve falls over and we switch over to Elayne's point of view as she and Nynaeve are being sort of deposited in this upstairs bedroom. They are paralyzed and they can't channel. Ronde is like, *I have to run out and send a message, so Luci, you have to stay here and make sure they drink more of this tea.* She says it's forkroot, she says she discovered it – what happy accident this woman discovered the one drug that can make –

S: People not channel.

E: - people not channel.

S: Yeah, and it's just like – Does it come back, ever?

E: Oh, it's huge later.

S: OK, because where I'm at it hasn't made a reappearance.

E: No, it's big, there's a battle Perrin fights where he, like, drugs the water supply of the enemy channelers with forkroot. So that they can't channel.

S: I know. Just uses chemical weapons, you know.

E: Oh, yeah – I'm not endorsing it –

S: Good job, Perrin.

E: - it's just a big plot point [noises in background]

S: God, sorry.

E: So, yeah, it'll be, like, pretty big. I find it so hilarious that this woman discovered the one drug that can make channelers not channel and wasn't like, *I'm gonna monetize this*.

S: Yeah, *I'm gonna sell it to the fucking Whitecloaks or whatever*.

E: Yeah, I mean, good for her that she didn't, because we'd be –

S: [speaking over] In a different book! Tough spot.

E: - in a more intense book, yeah! We'd be in a very different book, yeah. But she hasn't, and now it's just gonna be spread throughout the world, eventually.

S: Interesting.

E: So, this little Luci has to feed them more – make them – force-feed them more tea every, like, hour or something. There's an hourglass, so I guess literally an hour. As time goes on, they can start moving again, a little bit, and start feeling for the Source, but it's just, like, time is the only cure, apparently. They're both really panicked, but Luci force-feeds them once and then the second time she doesn't get the chance, because Thom just, like, appears with a knife to her throat and is like, *What the fuck is happening?* And they're like, *We got drugged, Dad*, and he's like, *Ugh – I can't – Why, you guys?*

S: Yeah, it's very upsetting, this whole thing, because Thom's like, *I expected there to be twenty men in this room holding you hostage*, and it's, like, that would also be scary, but they've literally been paralyzed for three hours and unable to move.

E: [speaking over] It's horrifying.

S: It's terrifying! And Nynaeve and Elayne are so concerned that Thom and Juilin don't realize that they've made a mistake that they're not like, *This was deeply traumatizing and this is what happened, and this is another threat that we have to deal with*.

E: Yeah, there's not much discussion of the forkroot after that. You'd think Nynaeve would be like, *I'm going to take this woman's entire supply, find out where she gets it*, and, like, I don't know, do something about it. Yeah, it's a very weird sweeping-under-the-rug of trauma.

S: Yeah, and, like, their main concern – Nynaeve and Elayne – all the time with these men is just that they seem competent and in charge. Which is some internalized misogyny bullshit. You don't have to be – it's OK to be *traumatized* by the fact you were drugged.

E: It's just also OK to rely on each other. You're all a team.

S: It's OK to be dependent on people sometimes.

E: I'll just never understand the power dynamics at play here. That Robert Jordan thinks are really funny, but are just, like –

S: Annoying?

E: - yeah, so annoying. So, Thom rescues them, Juilin comes in a little bit later with Ronde. She's been sending a pigeon with a message. And they find out from Ronde that she just was told by her Aes Sedai who does her assignments, *Put out this signal, and if you see Elayne* – gives Elayne's description – *then you should let people know and apprehend her if you can*. So, she's super-excited to actually be able to apprehend an Aes Sedai, like – who does that?

S: Mm-hmm.

E: They're like, *Oh, great – well, someone's after Elayne*. Good to know. And Nynaeve's like, *What are you talking about, the Amyrlin Seat wants her back?* And she's like, *That's all I know, is the Amyrlin is making her come back*. And Nynaeve's like, *OK, that doesn't make sense*. And we won't know what's going on for another – I don't know – nineteen chapters, or whatever.

S: Yeah, and it's very frustrating, because at this point it's like, what's happening is that the Amyrlin you know is not the Amyrlin anymore. It's one of those very frustrating Robert Jordan dramatic irony moments that are meant to build tension for the reader and for the characters, but it's just kind of like, *For fuck's sake*.

E: It's kind of, like, old news for us. There's so much fucking page space here, that this happened, like, a full book ago?

S: Yeah, if this had happened at the end of book four, or the middle, I would be like, shit, this is intense. They don't know what's going on. But I'm like, OK, at some point they have – Like, it's a big deal that there's a new Amyrlin. Even – in every country, that should be a big deal.

E: Yeah. In Whitecloak territory?

S: Yeah.

E: You think that'd be, like, the talk of the fucking town.

S: Yeah, so the fact that they haven't heard just seems – I don't know – a little ridiculous.

E: Yeah. I mean, we don't know the exact timelines, because Robert Jordan is like, *I'm going to give you multiple character points of view but they will not match up in the timeline*. Because he's a dingbat. [huffy sigh] But – yeah.

S: It's at least been a month, that's canonical. It's at least been a month since they left Tanchico

E: It's been a month since they left Tanchico; we don't know how long it's been, though, since the Tower –

S: I guess that's true.

E: - split.

S: I like to think that the Tower happened –

E: Yeah, you like to think that those two events happened simultaneously –

S: [speaking over] You're right, you're right, I'm understanding what you're saying now.

E: - because that's where they happen in the book, but Robert Jordan, for all we know, is like –

S: Happened yesterday.

E: - yesterday. He is so mean!

S: But doesn't the lady say, it's been up there for, like, a month or so?

E: I don't know.

S: I'm pretty sure she says the flowers – the flowers have been there for a little bit of time, but Emily's right. We have absolutely no idea how these major events relate to one another in a timeline, which is very frustrating.

E: Yeah, the only time we ever know that an event is happening to a bunch of people – is affecting a bunch of people at once, is when Rand cleanses *saidin*, because we get each character's point of view, immediately surrounding that. And that feels like the first time the timelines have synced up since book three.

S: Oh, that makes me crazy.

E: It's so annoying. But, whatever. Oh, by the way, there's – Juilin also got this lady to talk by utilizing some street interrogation technique. You know.

S: Yeah, he's like, *Bring me salt and ropes*. And the lady's like, *Don't let him use the salt and ropes on me!*

E: *Don't let him use the salt on me!* And Elayne's like, *What would you do with the salt?* And Juilin's like, *I don't fucking know*.

S: It's just the first two items that came to mind! [laughing]

E: That came to mind ... There's, like, imagination. He's like, *But! That way you can also get false confessions, so be careful*. And I'm like, wow, Juilin, maybe you should talk to the police. [both laughing] Hey, Juilin.

S: Hey, Juilin!

E: Maybe you should train the police. Are there cops in fucking Wheelworld?

S: No, I was just talking on Twitter how people can't go to jail in Wheelworld.

E: Because there's no jail?

S: Yeah. And I've never really thought about that, there's no concrete justice system.

E: Yeah, there's just the shed that Siuan and Min are in – [both laughing]

S: There's just the shed! Or a Whitecloak camp, that Perrin and Egg get taken to –

E: That's true.

S: - after they commit a murder!

E: It's not like there's any jurisdictional –

S: It's not like [inaudible] down in the jail cell.

E: Yeah, that's like when Morgase does this little fun trial for Perrin for finally, you know, killing the Whitecloaks. It's not like Perrin goes into custody. He doesn't have to pay bail.

S: Your bail has been set at ten thousand dollars.

E: We need a fan-fiction of the Elite Forsaken Kill Squad – we also need a fan-fiction of Law & Order: Wheelworld.

S: Yeah, who would be our cops?

E: Or CSI: Wheelworld.

Both: [singing] Out here in the field!

E: But whatever – girls are rescued, they decide, OK, we'll go in disguise. We're gonna dye Elayne's hair, we're gonna switch out our cart for some carriage that Nynaeve saw outside of town. And get the fuck out of Dodge. Which is what they do. And we find that someone eventually discovers Ronde and Luci all tied up. Ronde goes to send another letter by pigeon, probably immediately apologizing for the first pigeon. *Please, disregard first* –

S: *Please, disregard! That was – wrong person!*

E: *Agh, er, wrong number!* And then the guy who has the pigeons copies down her message, just to reinforce the idea that the Aes Sedai spies are everywhere, and they are multitude, but yet somehow none of them are main characters, so –

S: Yeah, because, it's like, we've got, what, seven different Ajahs? And all of their spy networks, plus the Darkfriends. So, there's all this subterfuge happening, and we get just these idiots, rolling around, getting drugged.

E: Yeah, it's like this weird thing that could be really interesting. I could see how another author could take a concept like this and make an entire book about the Ajah eyes-and-ears. And the details of what Sivan has to do to get information and spread information and that kind of stuff, and make a minor character out of that. It could be really cool. But Robert Jordan's just like, *No. I prioritize different storylines – the military storylines, various things –*

S: The noble storylines.

E: - *so much more*. That's it.

S: That's it, lads!

E: Anything else to say about these?

S: Nope.

E: Yeah, they're just –

S: Just sets the groundwork for what happens with the rest of their storyline this book. They're hiding!

E: Whitecloaks are gonna be a problem, disguises, we're eventually going to find out about the White Tower. Moghedien will come back. It's like, Moghedien will return in *Avengers: Endgame*, or whatever.

S: The *Avengers* movies are so stupid. [laughing]

E: I know. Sarah sent us this video of some person's Twitter that was like, *If you're feeling down, here's the moment on opening night when Captain America used Thor's hammer and the whole crowd, like, freaked the hell out*. It is pretty funny. They're just like, *YEEEEHHH!*

S: That was a very sweet moment in that movie, though.

E: It was very unifying.

S: I mean, everyone loves Chris Evans as Captain America.

E: Loves Chris Evans.

S: And Chris Hemsworth as Thor. They're our babies.

E: [speaking over] Yeah. Just a moment between our boys. [pause] Anyway, next week we will tragically be back with Sivan's legs [both laughing] and –

S: Christ.

E: - Gareth Bryne. Not a lot, honestly, to talk about there, so there may be a lot of shenanigans in the next –

S: You're welcome.

E: Yeah, you're welcome.

S: We'll also have been in quarantine for a month at that point, so there *will* be a lot of shenanigans.

E: Whoo, yeah, if you think we're crazy now, wait until –

S: Rarr!

E: Stop sticking your tongue out! OK, any housekeeping?

S: Nope! Emily now has kind of a standing appointment – [laughs] I said “nope” and starting talking – Emily now has a standing appointment to do a livestream of *Wind Waker* every Friday at 5.30 MST for the foreseeable future, I guess at least until she finishes the game, and/or we have to go back to our regularly scheduled life programming.

E: Which – believe me – finishing the game will take a fucking while, since I need Cambria to hold my hand every single time.

S: Yeah, Cambria wasn't there for the beginning bit last time, and –

E: Yeah, that was a disaster, I almost died.

S: We made it through, though.

E: If you're a \$5 or above Patron on Patreon then we just released our video reward for the \$5 tier, where we “in-video” address certain topics. Whatever topic, literary or otherwise, suits our whimsy. Sally talked all about *Frankenstein*, one of her favorite books. Very interesting, check that out on Patreon, and next month we'll be talking about King Arthur – the legends, the history, etc., etc., so if you have any questions, or specific topics within that umbrella topic to discuss, hit us up and we'll try and address that there.

S: Yeah, other than that, not a whole lot going on. Still produce the podcast, everything's moving as scheduled, plus a little extra from Emily. Yeah.

E: Do you have a sign-off?

S: Last night, I went and had dinner with my mom, because she's quarantining, like, completely by herself, and she's a very social person, so since we both don't see other people we can see each other a little bit, and we went down to the local neighborhood school, and she was, like, just walking around while I was roller-skating, because I'm trying to learn how to roller-skate, and my mom was like, *You're, like, pretty steady, but when I used to roller-skate I could weave in and out around stuff.* And I was like, OK, I'm sorry I'm not as nimble as eight-year-old you. [laughing]

E: Fucking savage! She was like, *I was a Derby Queen at your age.*

S: *I was really good at roller-skating, and you've almost fallen a lot.* It's like, OK, goodbye, mom. I'm gonna skate over here.

E: See you.

S: And she's like, *What? Why are you mad?* [both laughing] I was like, you're just being a little sassy.

E: She's so funny. Alright, we're going to go take care of the cat on his tower.

S: Take care of yourself!

E: Yeah, have a good week, y'all. As much as you can. Stay healthy.

Both: Byeee.

ENDS