



Episode 116: Egghienda, an Omelet

Release Date: June 1, 2020

Running Time: 49 minutes

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 Glynn MacKenzie plays)

Emily: I'm impressed that we both know the lyrics to that song --

Sally: Me too.

Emily: After so long. That was a --

Sally: That was quite a throwback.

Emily: Yeah, when was that, 2014? Feels like?

Sally: I'm pretty sure I was in, like, seventh grade. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, yeah, so that'd be 2014.

Sally: No, I graduated high school in 2013.

Emily: What -- oh, yeah. (laugh)

Sally: We're old, Emily. (laugh)

Emily: My math is, like -- hooo. That got weird. It's so easy for me, too, because my grade correlates to the year.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In eighth grade it was twenty -- 2008. So.

Sally: That's crazy.

Emily: I know. I just keep not remembering that it's --

Sally: 2020?

Emily: Yeah. I mean, I also was, um -- I was just on a walk, and I, um, have a startling visual appearance right now -- (laugh) Just generally, to strangers.

Sally: Uh-huh.

Emily: And I'm not down on myself at all. I have, uh, one of the best self-confidences in the world.

Sally: It's true.

Emily: Um, but I'm, like, in -- I have the palest limbs of all time. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: My hair is not in a great spot right now in terms of -- it's just a little -- a little bun --

Sally: It's very small.

Emily: On top of my head.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the sides are shaved pretty poorly, and I'm wearing my toddler shorts, my green sweat shorts. They're like -- my nephew has this exact pair of pants, you know? But on him, they come down to his ankles. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And I'm wearing, like, a tank top through which my nipples are clearly visible so that I'm just, like -- a lot's going on. But, uh, I look like that, and I'm on my walk and, like, somehow the heat and all of the split-level homes that I'm passing, and all this combines to vividly flash me back to when I was in high school working at, um, a dry cleaners. Which I know, like, when I mention my various jobs, it sounds like I'm flipping through a rolodex --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of weird jobs.

Sally: No, Emily's had all the weird jobs.

Emily: No, I -- yeah, I don't even think I've mentioned the one where I worked at a snow cone stand with two Republican senator's sons.

Sally: Hmm. That's fascinating.

Emily: That was a weird one.

Sally: Speaking of snow cones, this -- there's a snow cone stand open down that way.

Emily: Ah, fuck yeah. You know I love a snow cone.

Sally: I know you -- yeah. So it's officially snow cone season. I saw it on my way home yesterday.

Emily: Ugh. I know, I love summer. Snow cone season. Tank top season. All the best. Um. Anyway, one time my car, which was a white Ford Focus, manual drive, that I did not do well with 'cause stick shift is not particularly easy, and Chris is not a great teacher, no matter what he thinks. Um, one time the battery died, and I did not have a cell phone at that point, but one of my coworkers did. We had already locked up. So I called our house repeatedly, but as was typical in that era, my parents did not answer the phone or were not home to answer the phone and didn't want to answer their cell phones.

Sally: Classic.

Emily: So my coworker had to call one of her friends from high school -- like, from her fucking high school ballroom dance team --

Sally: (whisper) What.

Emily: To come bring, uh, chargers to --

Sally: Jumper cables?

Emily: Yeah, jumper cables to --

Sally: (laugh) Jesus.

Emily: Get my car going. So -- I don't even remember him, but he was one of those -- this was Lehi High School, where all of the boys wore heavily starched --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Button-up T-shirts and heavily starched jeans with cowboy boots and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um ... you know, rode horses in the afternoons.

Sally: I mean, that's my dream, is to ride horses in the afternoons.

Emily: Anyway, this story doesn't have any particular point. It's just the atmosphere --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of the story of me being sixteen years old and helpless because my parents were completely unwilling to --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, engage. It was just weird. One time I got stranded at the snow cone job --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I called, like, six times, and finally when I got ahold of them -- 'cause they were supposed to pick me up in those days -- that was before I could drive --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: They were like, "Oh, we were out on the front porch watching the birds." (laugh)

Sally: Is that the one and only time your parents have watched birds in their whole life? (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, probably. I was like, oh, suddenly --

Sally: Tybalt.

Emily: You two sensible --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rational adults have been taken in by the whimsy of nesting birds.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Just in time to abandon your fifteen-year-old daughter at the local rec center three miles away.

Sally: Awwwww.

Emily: Tybalt, time to go into exile already. (distant) Ahhh! I knew this would happen. Ah! He just jumped --

Sally: Through your hands.

Emily: (distant) Through my hands.

Sally: Tybalt's been very bad the past couple of days. Um. I don't really know what's going on with him, but he's having a renaissance of his troublesome behaviors.

Emily: (normal volume) I feel like we say that Tybalt's being bad every --

Sally: Well, he usually is.

Emily: Episode.

Sally: And we also don't talk about when he's being good, because it's like, he's just being a normal cat.

Emily: Because that's -- yeah, what the normal should be.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But no.

Sally: But when he's being bad. Like, yesterday, Emily was on the phone with her family for a while, and he jumped on the TV like 18 times.

Emily: Oh my God. I think he thinks, in his little warped brain, um, that because we're home more often, he is due much more attention.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, oh, home time equals Tybalt time --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which was not even necessarily true --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: When we were going to work.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but he just thinks, “Well, they’re both home. Surely --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Someone can get on the ground and play with me.” And I’m like --

Sally: It’s like, no, I’m literally working.

Emily: Nah, homie, I literally only have, like, 20 minutes a night to do that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If that.

Sally: Yeah. Tybalt constantly, like, tries to jump in my lap while I’m working, and I’m like, I can’t have you here right now, and he’s like, “But you’re just sitting, and this is what I do when you sit down,” and I’m like, no.

Emily: Mm-hmm. Yeah, but soon you will be biting --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because you’re -- it’s not enough to sit on my lap.

Sally: Yeah, you have to be constantly maneuvered like clay, or you will start biting.

Emily: (laugh) He’s the weirdest cat.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Ughh. Anyway, so that was a weird atmospheric cold open. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I didn’t even say how much I like your shirt. It’s so fun.

Sally: Oh, thanks.

Emily: Speaking of summer.

Sally: My -- yeah, my friend Brianna introduced me to this brand called “Moko Yobi.”

Emily: Oh.

Sally: I think that’s how you say it? And they do, like, really fun prints. And they had a sale going where I bought a jacket from them that I really like that’s really crazy, and it is also -- it was on sale, so, like, I could only buy a large, and I was like, that’s fine.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But it is, like -- and it, like, fits fine, but I'm a little vertically challenged, as you guys know, so it just looks a little funny, but that's OK. But then I saw this, and I really liked it, even though I don't play basketball.

Emily: Yeah, it's got, like, a -- a basketball prints and tank top, little uniform --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then basketball shoes and socks, but also, like, sunglasses --

Sally: Yeah, and, like, cactus. Like, I think the print is literally called, like, "basketball summer" or something.

Emily: Yeah, it's very -- very cute.

Sally: They had one that kind of had sharks on it, and I almost bought it for you, but I didn't know if it was, like, sharky enough.

Emily: What? Everything's sharky enough.

Sally: I'll show it to you. After this.

Emily: Every time I hop on a Skype with my friends, if there's any shark-related news, or if they've seen -- if they've --

Sally: A shark? (laugh)

Emily: If they've heard tell of a shark -- (laugh) Then, um, they're quick to alert me.

Sally: I just like buying clothes for people so much.

Emily: You're good at it. Yeah.

Sally: I just like clothes so much. I think clothing is so fun.

Emily: It is fun. Have you guys heard about the 20-foot shark that they found off Oahu? It's my favorite.

Sally: It's very big. We talked about it extensively in our livestream last week.

Emily: Yeah, and I won't apologize. I know there's only, like, a -- the Venn diagram of podcast listeners and livestream viewers is a really thin sliver --

Sally: Yeah, we only get, like --

Emily: So I don't regret saying it now. There's a --

Sally: No, that's fine.

Emily: Twenty-foot shark off Oahu. It's a huge boy.

Sally: He's very rotund.

Emily: Yeah, and he's just so peaceful.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just doing his thing.

Sally: Just floating along.

Emily: Just, la da da da ...

Sally: Prince of the sea.

Emily: He's like, "I'm the king of the ocean," and I'm like, "Yes, you are."

Sally: You absolutely are, you beautiful bastard.

Emily: My, um -- I was on the phone with my sister last night, as previously mentioned, who is married to a man who, uh, grew up kind of all over the U.S. because his dad was in the military.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, like a doctor in the military. Including, they lived in Alaska for a few years, and I guess he was telling Anne, my sister, who then told me, about how they were, like, fishing off the coast of Alaska one time in those, like, big, you know, fisher boats, and apparently they caught, like, a little -- like, a small shark. And it -- like, it was dead already from being pulled out of the water. This is, like, a sad story but also a crazy story about how cool sharks are.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Apparently sharks, after they die, can, like, still send electrical pulses through the body, kind of the way that, like, the human heart can keep beating if, uh, you're technically brain-dead.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So they were, like, preparing the meat and, like, all of the sudden, the, like -- the just, like, meat -- the, like, flanks of meat -- start, like, pulsing.

Sally: Holy shit.

Emily: (laugh) Isn't that the craziest fucking thing?

Sally: Yeah. I would've freaked out.

Emily: I know, you would've been like, ah, I'm being haunted.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sharks are just so cool.

Sally: Sharks are wild, man.

Emily: Like -- I don't know what that's for. What that --

Sally: The lulz.

Emily: What, in their biology, is for that, except maybe to be like, anyone who kills us is gonna be like, "Oh! Oh!"

Sally: Yeah. Hwah.

Emily: Hwah! What happened? I wish that had happened in Jaws.

Sally: (laugh) The big shark just starts, like, spasming.

Emily: (verbal shudder) OK, I don't even think I mentioned our names. I'm Emily.

Sally: I'm Sally.

Emily: Here we are. Uh, to talk about the Wheel of Time. Wheely Time.

Sally: Do I want to talk about Wheely Time anymore today? No.

Emily: That's touch, yeah. It's tough to talk about Wheely Time sometimes, especially when people are being dummies on the internet about it.

Sally: People are always being dumb on the internet, though.

Emily: I mean, yeah, that's true. And it's, like, hard to be like, stand -- get on my soapbox here on the podcast 'cause I feel like most of the people who listen to the podcast --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Are well enough aware that there is no gay representation in the Wheel of Time.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Surprise.

Sally: Fucking hell.

Emily: But, uh, here is a set of chapters about Egg and also a lot about, uh, Egg's burgeoning sexuality.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: In that it sort of morphs into this weird sex dreams --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, thing at the end. Not even sex dreams. I don't want to call it sex dreams.

Sally: Yeah, they're just sort of, like --

Emily: It's like -- because the dreams are less about sex and more about domesticity --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Which troubles me.

Sally: Yeah, of course.

Emily: Because --

Sally: Especially 'cause there's a baby.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So it's always like female sexuality is, like, a one-way road to childbirth.

Emily: To baby.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which is upsetting. But they're just sort of, like, romantically charged --

Emily: Chapters?

Sally: That's -- yeah, that's all -- like, in terms of the sex -- like, I wouldn't call them sex dreams either.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: They're just sort of, like -- because, like, Galad and Gawyn are there, and Egg's like, "They're so hot," and I'm like, one of them is so hot. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. And these chapters are framed by -- like, it starts with Egg going into her tent at the end of this long day's ride --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and she has to wait for a little while to go into Tel'aran'rhiod to meet Nynaeve or Elayne or whoever it is with the Wise Ones. And so she's, like, reading this little book of stories that Aviendha gave her?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which seem to involve primarily --

Sally: Sorry.

Emily: You're fine. Um, Heroes of the Horn and their romances.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily Uh, and she's, like -- oh, and they're supposed to be adventure -- purportedly, they're adventure stories, but really every one of them has, like, a romance, so it's sort of like this little, oh, "Aviendha is a romantic at heart" thing --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I'm like, if the queer-coding in this text was real --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then this would be like, Aviendha being like, "Hey, I think you'll really like this book ..." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I know. It's just --

Emily: You know?

Sally: So ripe with possibility.

Emily: It's so -- ah. Egg, Aviendha, what could have been.

Sally: Egghienda.

Emily: ... That's a great celebrity couple name. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Egghienda.

Emily: Yeah, I mean, the alternative is Avwene, so -- (laugh)

Sally: No, that sounds like a disease. (laugh)

Emily: Exactly. (laugh)

Sally: Or, like, a medication.

Emily: So does Egghienda. Or, like, an omelet.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: In a French restaurant. Egghienda. Um, yeah, so the two chapters are sort of framed by what Egg has just been reading --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And sort of frequent callbacks to that. Which, I find, um -- I find interesting in the, like, meta sense, that we -- that in the Wheel of Time world, there are books that exist, I guess. That's always sort of an interesting facet of fantasy.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because books -- to anyone who's reading fantasy, to anyone who's a fan of fantasy, then of course books are a huge part of your life --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the way that your worldview is shaped, so to see characters reading books is both endearing and sort of like, "Oh, oh! They're reading a book! They're like me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also, just, the idea -- since so many fantasy worlds are based in pre-printing press-type worlds, it's really interesting, always, to see books.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And usually we're seeing books handled by, like, Rand, and they're academic texts or, at the very most, Jain Fairstrider, y'know?

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: This is, like, the only book I can think of in the entire series -- not that I remembered it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, that seems to be ... I mean, the genre, you'd think, is fictional, but then again, it's also talking about real people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who we know are real people because in the very next chapter, we see Birgitte interacting with Elayne.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Birgitte will eventually be a character in her own right.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So --

Sally: Yeah. Again, the Heroes of the Horn occupy, like, the weirdest --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Space in Wheel of Time because we, like, do not have a real world equivalent for what they are.

Emily: There's, like, in our world, the sleeping hero myth. Like --

Sally: Yeah. Like Arthur.

Emily: Arthur and Glendower and, um, for some reason, it's mostly the British Isles. I don't know what the Brits have with, uh, sleeping kings.

Sally: Everyone's just sleeping.

Emily: Everyone's just so sleepy here.

Sally: Just snoozing.

Emily: On our green island or whatever the fuck it's called. Um.

Sally: Yeah. So there's, like, stuff that is similar, like culture heroes, and I think we've -- seems - - I'm just having deja vu -- but I feel like we talked about this when we talked about the Horn of Valere in the Great Hunt. But there are, like, culture heroes and ideas like that, but they're not, like -- I mean, maybe. I don't know if Arthur's a real person. According to Emily's last presentation for Patreon, he probably wasn't.

Emily: Nope.

Sally: So. (laugh)

Emily: No take-backs. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Arthur's gonna come kick our ass.

Emily: Well, yeah, that's the very concept, isn't it?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is that post-apocalyptic -- like, the apocalypse will come, and Arthur WILL wake up.
(laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And that is so, one hundred percent, believed by the people of this continent.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's the -- it's -- we -- I know we talk about this all the time, but it's the weirdest thing about Wheel of Time --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: There are no, you know, differing viewpoints.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Even the Aiel are like, "Ah, yeah, Heroes of the Horn."

Sally: Yeah, they're like, "Of course, Birgitte and Artur Hawkwing are gonna come back."

Emily: Yeah, Aviendha's like, "Here's a sweet-ass book about Birgitte and her romance with Gaidal Cain."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's like, what?

Sally: I know, it's very odd. Like, you think, at least, the Aiel, in that huge, literal division of that big mountain range, would have something different going on.

Emily: Yeah, no. And it's been, what, thousands of years?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I just find it so difficult to believe. When people are like, here's this fantasy world that has not progressed in some cultural aspects beyond its cultural belief system --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I don't mean "progressed" as in "gone from bad to good," I mean "progressed" as in "changed --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, in 3,000 years or whatever it's been.

Sally: Yeah, it's very -- it's very odd. It's a very stagnant world.

Emily: Yeah, it's really bizarre.

Sally: Who's to say? But yeah, Eggy is reading her romance-y book, and she's like, "Aviendha would never admit that she likes romances, but I would. But not in public."

Emily: "But not in public, because liking romance is not cool for a business lady like me."

Sally: Yeah. For a high class business woman.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) My Delta diamond sky miles.

Emily: I know, I need Egg to, like, go on a reverse, um, Legally Blonde --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Journey. (laugh) For her to realize -- you know, Legally Blonde is about a feminine woman --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, demonstrating that femininity does not make her any less powerful --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of a -- or less intellectual of a --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Business person. And a -- or, a lawyer, I should say. And I need Egg to realize that she can be a business person and be incredibly powerful --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also like romance.

Sally: Yeah. God, I love Legally Blonde so much.

Emily: Legally Blonde is like a perfect movie.

Sally: It's so good. It's so good!

Emily: I think Gawyn -- like, Egg's romance with Gawyn -- is meant to be that. Is meant to be like, Egg's already been on her journey to becoming a -- uh, the young pope, and now she's

going to have a romance with Gawyn, and it's like, ah, yes, she is growing in such a way that, um, she's realized she can -- she can have it all. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Barf.

Emily: And I'm like, you can't have it all if -- you know, the man in the equation, the romance in the equation, is Gawyn.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The worst.

Sally: Yeah. And it's like -- ugh, I was just thinking about this, 'cause I just read, um, the Shadow and Bone trilogy, the Grisha -- Grisha trilogy --

Emily: Yeah, Leigh Bardugo.

Sally: And, like, the main, um, romance in that is, like, the conflict at the core of it is that, like, the woman is becoming, like, too powerful, and the man is, like, struggling with that. He's like, "I don't want you to be this powerful person. You don't have any need for me." And I'm just like, that is so barf. (laugh)

Emily: And so, like, the Devil Wears Prada.

Sally: Yeah. Ugh.

Emily: Like, what the fuck.

Sally: Oh, that's, like, perfect. That's definitely what I'm gonna start calling this. (laugh)

Emily: That particular trope.

Sally: Yeah. The Devil Wears Prada Syndrome.

Emily: The Devil Wears Prada Syndrome --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When men are like, "Ah, no, my girlfriend has a professional life, and therefore --"

Sally: Yeah. And it's just like, I don't -- I just, like, don't buy it anymore. It's like, there are plenty of men who have powerful women in their lives and are like, "Yeah, whatever."

Emily: Yeah. Just, like, stop being like, "Men can only be this one thing," you know?

Sally: Yeah. It's just becoming, like, so -- I'm just like, does everyone really have such poor faith in the male sex, as it were?

Emily: I know, especially when you get all these young adult novels that are written by women.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, then you're like, so, I know you're trying to be a little bit real here --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Either that, or you have a poor grasp of what makes interesting conflict.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, you know, it is, perhaps, a real thing that women face, is trying to, um, have romances while also maintaining their power in their -- in the world or whatever.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But it's like, you're writing a fantasy world.

Sally: Yeah. Who cares?

Emily: Who cares? You don't have to have men be under the same --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Illusions of toxic masculinity that they are in the real world.

Sally: I know. It's so annoying. And in this series, it's like, she's basically becoming, like, a living saint, is like the whole thing.

Emily: Ah.

Sally: And he, like, has just, like, the weirdest relationship to, like, what it means to, like, have faith in her and be a follower of hers and not her equal, and I'm like, mm, this is gross. Anyway, um, so yeah. Egg is trapped in the Devil Wears Prada Syndrome, where Gawyn cannot -- I mean, I haven't gotten too far into Egg being the Amyrlin, but from what I've gathered --

Emily: Oh, I mean, you will. (laugh)

Sally: Gawyn is not particularly, um, good at just, like, letting his lady do her stuff.

Emily: Gawyn thinks he's entitled to be the hero of the story.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's his syndrome. And, uh, the fact that he's not, that he's a side character in a a) in a meta sense, and b) in a real-world sense -- he doesn't have the most important things to do.

Sally: No, yeah.

Emily: Just, like, ruins him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, you'd think, perhaps if it were done better, would be an interesting commentary -- commentary on masculinity, but the fact that it's paired with Egg, who's this, like, paragon of --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, conventional femininity and conventional feminine power --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, like, getting it done --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In a -- in many really interesting ways just sort of means that it's terrible.

Sally: What is that noise?

Emily: I think it's the washer of the people next door.

Sally: ... I hate this apartment.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So much.

Emily: We've -- we talk about that in every episode. (laugh)

Sally: It just, like -- because we've been spending so much time in the apartment lately, it's like everything is just getting on my nerves.

Emily: Yeah, every noise.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Someone, last night at, like, 12:30, was moving furniture upstairs.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, I was like, "Shut up! I want to be asleep!"

Emily: I was like, "What is happening? You don't need to be doing this."

Sally: The people upstairs seem to drop heavy pieces of furniture, like, on the hour.

Emily: Well, it's so bizarre 'cause normally, like, during daylight hours, they're pretty chill.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then it's like, the night falls, they're turning into werewolves up there.

Sally: Boys becoming men.

Emily: Men becoming wolves.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Werewolf bar mitzvah.

Sally: Um.

Emily: So --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egg falls asleep reading this book of romance stories. Uh, and finds herself in the Stone of Tear before schedule, and she's kinda like, "Ah, I can't go back to my body, quote unquote, because I'll just actually fall asleep, and I don't want to leave, uh, Nynaeve --" Which is who she thinks will be coming -- "alone with the Wise Ones," 'cause she's still really worried that Nynaeve's gonna rat her out. And, you know, more and more of Egg, every time she thinks of Nynaeve or talks about Nynaeve, is like, "I just have to keep her in her place."

Sally: Yeah, which is --

Emily: A really troubling arc to put both of them on. But I think we talked about that enough last time.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Umm. But as she's sort of just, like, waiting around, she realizes, "Oh, actually, Elayne's here," and Elayne's talking to this woman, who is -- we know is Birgitte --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But this is the first time Egwene is seeing her and is kinda like, "Oh my God, my -- I was just reading that -- you know --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Crazy book about Birgitte, so am I just seeing Birgitte?" Um, but just then the Wise Ones arrive and are like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) "Why are you so early."

Emily: "Why'd you come so early?" and Egg's like, "Sorry, I fell asleep." And they're like, "Ah, it's cool."

Sally: Happens.

Emily: "It happens to the best of us. We all tired." And when Egwene looks back, Birgitte is gone. And Elayne's there, still. And the Wise Ones are like, "Elayne, you dumbass, stop coming to Tel'aran'rhiod so fucking early without supervision," and Elayne's like, "How dare you?"

Sally: Yeah, "I'm the princess of Andor."

Emily: "I'm the princess of Andor."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "No one can tell me what to do. Except for, the presence of my brother Galad will force me to join the circus."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Like, Egg has this aside --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where she's like, "I don't really know why Gawyn -- Galad showing up would prompt them to take desperate measures --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Like this."

Sally: Egg is like, "I do not get it."

Emily: No one gets it.

Sally: Especially 'cause then Egg is like, "What they're doing in the circus sounds crazy. I do not understand why Nynaeve is fighting with people."

Emily: Yeah, she's like, "How's the circus?" Or, like, "Where's Elayne -- where's Nynaeve?" and Elayne's like, "Ah, she had a headache 'cause she legitimately got into a fist fight today."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which sounds like it was not, uh, initiated by Nynaeve.

Sally: No.

Emily: Some other woman in the circus just decided to fucking fight her?

Sally: Yeah. Because all the, like, acrobats were trying to flirt with Nynaeve, and she -- it -- it's, like, so stupid. It's like, this isn't how people work.

Emily: Yeah, people --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Never, in my life --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Have I seen a woman physically attack another woman for getting male attention.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's, like, Riverdale shit. What are you talking about?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It only happens on the CW.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Come on.

Sally: It was -- it was pretty wild.

Emily: Um, but it is pretty hilarious to think of Nynaeve --

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause Nynaeve, of course, isn't gonna stand for that, so she's just like, "OK, guess we're fighting." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, Egg's like, "Who won?" (laugh) And Elayne's like, "Nynaeve, obviously."

Sally: "Duh."

Emily: "She fuckin' knows how to fight."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, I dunno, it's sort of, like -- so much of Nynaeve's power is enforced by the idea that she can and would throw down at any time. So to see it actually happen, off-screen --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Kind of, is like, "Alright, well --"

Sally: Now we know.

Emily: We know -- we know she could.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She can hold her own. Um.

Sally: God, I hope the series makes Nynaeve just, like, jacked.

Emily: (whisper) God, I wish that --

Sally: That'd be so good. You could just, like, see her biceps through her dress.

Emily: Ah, she's just like --

Sally: She's just, like, huge. Elayne is like --

Emily: Rrrrrggghh.

Sally: "Yeah."

Emily: Yeah, I mean, that's hot.

Sally: I think we've talked about this before. I think we've talked about Nynaeve being jacked before.

Emily: Yeah, 'cause she's so -- she's just so incredible.

Sally: She should be jacked.

Emily: (sigh) She does so many incredible things. Sorry, I got off on a little tangent there, thinking about women's arms. Um.

Sally: It happens to the best of us.

Emily: Hhhhhhh. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But once the circus update is done, there's not really much to say --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Between them. The Wise Ones are like, "Ah, yeah, we're in Cairhien now. Ya dee da dee da."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And everyone's like, "OK, great," and Egg sort of passes this little code to Elayne to, like, meet her in their novice rooms at the White Tower. So, um, the Wise Ones disappear, and

Egg goes to this, like, sort of in-between space in Tel'aran'rhiod, which I don't believe we've ever visited before.

Sally: I don't think so.

Emily: Um, which she describes as kind of, like, just fireflies, and the lights are people's dreams, and generally they're indistinguishable from each other, but she's now been taught enough to be able to recognize certain people because she's visited their dreams. So, like, she recognizes Amys and Bair, and she's like, "The only reason I'm staying here is 'cause I can see they're actually dreaming. If they weren't, then I'd be like, 'Eek, snap,' and go back to my actual body --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because surely they'd be on the way to drag me by my hair out of bed and put me to work.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, she recognizes Rand's and Moiraine's dreams, 'cause they're warded. Uh. But I think she'll come back to this place later, especially as she learns to -- she mentions the possibility of this -- learning to communicate to, uh, people like Elayne and Nynaeve, who are on the other side of the continent --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Without having to set up these elaborate meetings.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, she'll eventually learn to do that. But she is like, "OK, cool. Amys and Bair are asleep. Scouting mission accomplished," and goes to her little novice room. Pokes her head out just as Elayne is poking her head out -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Of the next-door room, and they kind of sit together to chat. Again, not a very substantive conversation --

Sally: No. Egg is like, "Why were you talking to Birgitte?" (laugh) And Elayne, like, flips.

Emily: Elayne's like, "Oh my God."

Sally: "I can't tell you. This is ..."

Emily: "I can't. Tell. You." It's like that scene in Fullmetal Alchemist when, um -- (laugh) Roy Mustang is like, "What's going on?" and, um, Armstrong is like, "I can't. Speak." Or something like that.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And Roy Mustang is like, "Ah, so that means someone higher up in the military ordered you not to talk about it." (laugh) Therefore I know that the entire military is corrupt.

Sally: I know.

Emily: And you're like, Roy Mustang, you should've known this --

Sally: Yeah. It's a military.

Emily; From the get-go.

Sally: Also, they -- you literally helped them commit genocide. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, they were like, "Do a genocide."

Sally: And Roy was like, "Sure --"

Emily: Roy was like, "Yeah, yeah, whatever." Actually, the genocide politics in Fullmetal Alchemist are some of the finest I've ever seen crafted in a show purportedly for teens.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but --

Sally: Yeah, they talk about that, and then -- it's like, Egg --

Emily: Yeah. Elayne's like, "You just have to trust me, I can't talk to you about it," and Egg's like, "OK, fine." Like, "I'm not gonna push you on it."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. And then Elayne's like, "How's Rand?" and her, like, neckline, like, slips down to her bellybutton. (laugh) And Egg's like, "He's fine. He's being kind of --" Like, "He's giving out laws that, um --" Uhh. I dunno. It's sort of the usual. Egwene being like, "I'm worried that he's becoming too arrogant," and Elayne's like, "How dare you speak poorly of the love of my life --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Who I've spent one week with."

Sally: Yeah. (sing-song) It's been --

Emily: "Obviously he's just becoming a king, and kings, of course, have to --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Do these things."

Sally: And -- yeah, Egg is like, "OK. Whatever."

Emily: And Egg's like, "You're right. A peasant like me would know nothing of the nuances of royalty. How dare I presume." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: "To understand." Um, Elayne, you know, three books from now or whatever, will be like, "How DARE Rand take the throne of Andor. I will kill him."

Sally: Yeah. And we're like --

Emily: So.

Sally: Homegirl. You're annoying.

Emily: Girl. He -- stop it.

Sally: But Elayne leaves, and Egg is like, "I'm gonna --" Do they say anything else of importance?

Emily: Uh, no, they just sort of chat about the circus a little bit more.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Yeah. Um, about Rand. And, uh, yeah, then Elayne leaves, and Egwene teleports up to the Amyrlin's office so she can do some snooping. Oh. Elayne is like, "Oh, by the way, we think Moghedien's after us." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, which is a key piece of information for the end of this chapter.

Emily: Yeah, seriously. And Egwene's like, "Oh, OK, well, I guess, be careful," and Elayne's like, "Well, you be careful," and Egwene's like, "I'm always careful."

Sally: (laugh) Egg's like, "I'm -- yeah, I'm good."

Emily: Egg's like, "I'm incredible. You should see me." And Elayne's like, "OK, whatever." Like, all you ladies are just --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, talk about the arrogant ones.

Emily: I know, they're all so -- they're all like, "We never need help," and Mat's like, "Ha!"

Sally: (whisper) "You always need help."

Emily: "I beg to differ." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, but she goes up to the Amyrlin's office to do some snooping. Doesn't really discover anything substantive there either, I think. She's like, "Oh, here's a plan to recover Nynaeve and Elayne," but she doesn't really get far in it before it disappears.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, Elaida's building an entire palace for herself. Which is, like, always a great sign in a ruler.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: When they're like, "You know what I'm gonna use my funds on?"

Sally: (whisper) A palace.

Emily: (whisper) Living in luxury.

Sally: (normal voice) Barf.

Emily: Did you ever see those, like -- I don't know what show it was -- I think it was on TLC, or maybe it was HGTV, but it was, like, the Dream Home series?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it was, like, just these massive homes, and I don't even know what the point was.

Sally: (laugh) What is the point of such a massive home?

Emily: Well, I mean, I don't know what the point -- I don't remember what the point -- I don't remember what the plot of the television show was; all I remember is sitting there in front of the television screen, like, after watching American Idol, y'know, when I was in the seventh grade --

Sally: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Emily: And them being like, here's this tour of this fucking ski lodge of a house.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is really funny, because then I worked for a year at a -- a resort place, where such homes existed.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And it's like, no one needs it.

Sally: I know. It's crazy. I remember -- I literally think the point was just to be like, "Look at this nice house which you will never be able to afford."

Emily: I know. I was like, what?

Sally: They're always, like, three, four, five million dollar homes. Yeah. And it's just like, what?

Emily: And they're all built for, like, 20 people. But also, there's a guest house.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, what? To what end?

Sally: Yeah. It's like, all I want in life is a third bedroom.

Emily: I know, right? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) That's all I aspire to. Third bedroom in an apartment I will rent, because I can never afford a home.

Emily: I know, seriously. Home ownership is so far off the scale of what I will ever be able to afford at this rate.

Sally: I know, it's pretty wacky.

Emily: (sing-song) Welcome to the economy in the United States. I wish I had any money.
(normal voice) I wish my sister hadn't set such high standards.

Sally: (whisper) I know.

Emily: My older sister is like, "Oh, yeah, sure, we'll move into a house and have two kids," and I'm like, "Stop being my father's perspective of success."

Sally: Yeah. That's how my oldest brother is too. His wife is a highly specialized ICU nurse, and he's a school administrator with, like, a major nice master's, so both of them get paid just, like, buckets of money, and they have this huge house, like, on a lake. Two beautiful children, a brand new minivan --

Emily: Seriously.

Sally: And I'm like, "Could you stop?" (laugh)

Emily: Could you stop being such an oldest child --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For, like, a second? Because I need the standards to be lowered a little bit --

Sally: I know.

Emily: In my case, 'cause it's never happening for me.

Sally: I know.

Emily: (laugh) I'm just gonna be living with Sally for the rest of my life and our six cats.

Sally: Yeah. Gogurt. (laugh)

Emily: Gogurt is our next cat, obviously. Listen to "We Don't Watch Outlander." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's just such a funny cat name.

Emily: It's a perfect cat name.

Sally: (laugh) I just --

Emily: "Gogurt! Gogurt!"

Sally: Want Gogurt to be so stupid.

Emily: Exactly. I want a cat with eyes that go separate directions.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Or, like, together.

Emily: I mean, I don't really want a cat that has any eye problems, because we have Tybalt --

Sally: Yeah. Who has the grossest eyes on the planet.

Emily: I know, he's disgusting.

Sally: Sorry, I keep covering my mouth today, I should know better.

Emily: Oh, you're fine. We don't --

Sally: Podcast one-oh-one.

Emily: We've never really obeyed podcast etiquette.

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Talk over each other all the time. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, sorry.

Emily: Nah.

Sally: That's how Emily and I talk.

Emily: That's just how we talk. Sometimes I forget that the computer's here, OK? That's not true. I never forget it's there. It's looming in the corner of my vision --

Sally: (whisper) I know.

Emily: Like Slenderman haunting me from the woods. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Sometimes I just watch the blue line go by and be like, "What am I even saying?" When I'm, like, on a rant. I'm just like --

Emily: (laugh) It's sort of hypnotizing.

Sally: "Blah blah blah blah blah." OK, anyway, Egg doesn't really find anything useful, and then who should walk through the door but Galad?

Emily: Yeah, Galad, like, sweeps through the door --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Y'know? He's, like --

Sally: Yeah. And Egg notes his --

Emily: The Beyonce wind tunnel. His eyes sparkle --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like he's in an anime.

Sally: Yeah. Egg notes he's wearing tight pants to show off his well-turned calf.

Emily: Oh, does she?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I just sort of skimmed over it at that point --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I was like, yeah, I don't need this horniness.

Sally: Yeah. Galad's hot.

Emily: Egwene basically gets a nosebleed like they do in anime when they're horny. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Yeah, and, like, runs away.

Emily: She's like, "Oh, no! This is, like, a dream." She's like, "I totally cautioned Nynaeve about getting caught up in dreams, and here I am about to get caught up in my own," she says, which seems bizarre.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That you would, like, lose control like that?

Sally: Yeah. It's odd.

Emily: Um, but she sort of teleports over to the Two Rivers and is there long enough to see the banners that are now flying, which is sort of our one indicator that, uh, Perrin and Faile are still here, still --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Going strong. And then the dream starts up again, with her mom coming out of the inn. She can hear her dad's voice. Egwene has siblings, doesn't she?

Sally: I think so.

Emily: She's supposed to have, like, a bunch of sisters. Never mentioned.

Sally: (laugh) At least they don't die like Perrin's whole family.

Emily: That's true.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Why is it that Mat is the only one whose sisters are named?

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: And, like, sort of do things. Um. But her, like, mom comes out and is like, "Oh, you're still here?" Like, "Your husband will -- you don't want to keep your husband waiting." And Egg's like, "My husband?" And then Gawyn comes galloping toward her and is like, "Hello, wife," and smooches her.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then someone's like, "Here's your baby," and hands Egg her baby. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Egg's like, "What?"

Emily: And Egg's like, "What?" and Gawyn's like, "Ah, yeah, he's such a perfect son," and Egg's like, "Uh, yeah, I guess." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And sort of realizes that this is a dream again and runs from it. Um, back to her own sleeping body, and --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The same dream, it is shown, but now it's safe because it's no longer within Tel'aran'rhiod --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, one of those weird things. And then we see, ah, Moghedien was manufacturing these dreams the whole time in an attempt to catch Egg in a trap, and as she tells us, it's not for any particular reason. She just didn't want another person --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who could use Tel'aran'rhiod around. Which is, like, Moghedien.

Sally: You so ...

Emily: That's the dumbest reason to murder someone.

Sally: (laugh) I know.

Emily: When people go missing, other people probably -- usually notice.

Sally: Yeah, usually. If Egg just died.

Emily: If Egg just died, the Wise Ones would be like, "Ah, we're gonna hunt down the Forsaken," and then they'd be like, "Rand. Egg just got murdered," and he'd be like, "Oh, no! A woman died because of me!"

Sally: (laugh) And it's like, you had nothing to do with it.

Emily: Yeah, they'd be like, you had literally nothing to do with it. (sigh) But then he'd be like, "Oh my god, now I have to hunt down Moghedien --" No, he wouldn't. He'd be like, "Whatever. Fuck Egwene. Just like I -- just like fuck Morgase," you know?

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) "I don't care when women get hurt by the Forsaken, only when they get hurt by my actions."

Emily: "Yeah, that's on them, if they get murdered by the Forsaken." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Ahhh!

Emily: "That's their own problem to deal with."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I'm too busy being a dick."

Sally: I hate Rand so much.

Emily: (laugh) I know. He's the worst.

Sally: He's literally such a fucking bastard.

Emily: Yeah, so that's basically it?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They were very boring chapters.

Sally: Yeah, it's a very odd set of chapters. And, like, the only mildly interesting thing is, yeah, Egg's weird blossoming sexuality.

Emily: Yeah, and again, it's so, like, troubling the way that it is framed. Especially because it's weird because it's Moghedien, we find out, and so then you'd be like, maybe Egg could go to her own dream and that would be a little bit different.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But no, it's implied that it's the exact same. So -- of course, the actual content of your subconscious dreams has no bearing on your real life and what is happening and what you want, obviously.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Freud can suck my dick. But --

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Um, but, like, narratively --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It makes it look as though this is what Egwene really does want, in her heart of hearts, the way that she likes to read romance but would never admit it to anyone.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In the privacy of her dreams, she wants to have a baby --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And live in her hometown with her parents near her --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And have Gawyn just be her domineering husband. (laugh) Her prince on his noble steed.

Sally: Barf.

Emily: Et cetera, et cetera. All of which, it's important to note, are not bad things to want.

Sally: Yeah, of course.

Emily: You are -- like, people are free to want whatever they want. But it is troubling that every woman in Wheel of Time is set up to want these things.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: We see that in Nynaeve's test for the Accepted, when her whole "thing you want the most that you'll have to leave" is Lan and her three babies or whatever.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, we see it with Elayne getting pregnant, Aviendha getting pregnant, it's all just very ...

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. It's the theme of the Fires of Heaven, that female desire is very tightly bracketed in terms of, like, patriarchy's available roles for women.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: And it's deeply upsetting. And it's also, like, so weird to think about Moghedien being like, "I'm going to trap this girl by placing her in this weird dream with Gawyn." It's, like --

Emily: Yep.

Sally: She's like, "I'm gonna construct this weird quasi-sex dream."

Emily: Like, how much does Moghedien know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: How much effort is put in by them? Because the last time we saw this happen was when Egwene sort of set that nightmare on Nynaeve.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And again, that was through Nynaeve's point of view, so we don't really know how much control over it Egwene has, but presumably enough --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To, like, know what's going to happen. And so it's like, does Moghedien even know who Gawyn is?

Sally: Yeah. Or is she just like, "Gotta search in there, pluck out the horniness."

Emily: Yeah, or is she just like, "Mm, just let me get my little creepy fingers -- my spider fingers in her brain and pull it out."

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: So many things --

Sally: It's just odd.

Emily: That happen in Tel'aran'rhiod, Robert Jordan was like, "And I just won't ever explain this to you."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Fuck off." (laugh)

Sally: "LOL." Oh, Eggy.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway.

Sally: We are officially back in the -- the other side of the desert. The not-desert.

Emily: Yeah, we have now left the Aiel Waste for eternity.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Never going back there, Robert Jordan says.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This is my non -- one non-Westernized setting, so fuck it.

Sally: Gonna -- yeah, just blow it all to dust.

Emily: Just -- fssshhhew.

Sally: So now we're back in fantasy France.

Emily: Back in fantasy France, which, of course, is being burned.

Sally: Yeah, mercilessly burned and looted by --

Emily: The Aiel.

Sally: Couladin.

Emily: Yeah. So that's a great place to be, and of course, as they are coming into fantasy France, we now have to leave, uh, the army to head over to our least favorite set of characters in this book, Siuan, Min, Gareth -- which, I think, is where we'll be next time -- and then we spend more time in the circus and then hopefully, one day, we'll get back to Cairhien.

Sally: (laugh) Where the actual --

Emily: Where the actually --

Sally: Driving action of this book is taking place.

Emily: Yeah, where the things that make the Fires of Heaven a redeemable book -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Are happening.

Sally: This book is wild.

Emily: I know. So many -- so many bizarre things happening. Anyway. Anything else to add?

Sally: Not about these two chapters.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: They're also really short in terms of Wheel of Time chapters.

Emily: Yeah. Just not a lot going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, thank you for listening. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Uh, you can check us out on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, um, or on our Patreon, where we have lots of extra content these days. Um, including, we'll be releasing -- probably by the time you're listening to this, it will have just been released -- um, our latest installment In an Hour or Less series. Sally referenced that I talked about King Arthur last time. This time, she is talking about motifs and archetypes and themes, things like that, to sort of help us get a little more of a baseline on literary theory before we dive into the deep --

Sally: Murky waters.

Emily: Terrible -- the deep, murky waters of, like, Foucault and shit.

Sally: I don't know if we'll ever get to Foucault. I can't --

Emily: Well, yeah, no, we're never talking about Foucault.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I hate that guy. (laugh)

Sally: But, yeah, we'll do, like, some other, like, structuralism -- I'm trying to keep it stuff that's, like, related to fantasy literature. I mean, all theory is -- whatever. Listen to it or don't.

Emily: Foucault doesn't relate to anything.

Sally: No, Foucault and Derrida -- there's, like, a little bit of a period in literary theory where they're just saying whatever the fuck they want.

Emily: They're just like, "Nothing matters, and what we're saying is that nothing matters, but genuinely, nothing matters," and you're like, "Then what was the point of you saying it?"

Sally: Yeah, then why did you write it out?

Emily: You didn't have to publish it, my bitch.

Sally: I know. They're annoying. (laugh) But we won't talk about that.

Emily: (laugh) You didn't have to write it, 'cause now it's on my syllabus.

Sally: Yeah, unfortunately. Like, reading Derrida is, like, literally pulling your eyeballs out repeatedly.

Emily: It's the worst.

Sally: 'Cause his whole thing was, like, "It's not gonna make any sense so I can prove to you that it -- nothing matters," and I'm like, I hate you. (laugh)

Emily: Dick.

Sally: You're an asshole.

Emily: I know that nothing makes sense.

Sally: Yeah, I live in this world, Jacques.

Emily: I live in the 21st century. I've been on Twitter.

Sally: Yeah. Fuck, what a hellscape. Um, but yeah, you can check that out. We've also been reading, uh, Susans -- *Susans* Cooper's -- (laugh) Susan Cooper's *The Dark Is Rising* for our secondary Patreon-only podcast, We Don't Watch Outlander. So that's been fun. There's also, at this point, a HUGE log of We Don't Watch Outlander.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: So if you want, like, more stuff to listen to, there is two full years of We Don't Watch Outlander content to just dive right into. Um, and Emily's blog, where she's rereading, right now, *A Memory of Light*.

Emily: I calculated, and it's gonna go until 2021, people.

Sally: Really?!

Emily: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Sally: I was gonna start my Path of Daggers blogs, but I guess I will wait a while. (laugh)

Emily: No, you should do it. And then just, like, build up a backlog.

Sally: 'Cause I was like -- then -- I was like, "Emily will be done by, like, August, maybe."

Emily: No, I skimmed through it, and I was like, what I've been doing right now is, like, two or three points of view per blog, and if I hold to that method, then yeah, it's another, like, 30 to 35 blogs.

Sally: *A Memory of Light* is a crime. (laugh)

Emily: I know! (laugh)

Sally: It is a crime. Um, so yeah, you can check that out as we get into the final six months of Emily's reread -- (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: *Of a Memory of Light*. (laugh)

Emily: I'm gonna drag it out, not because I want to, but because I'm going to make us all suffer through it. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Um, yeah, and as always, we've got, uh, the livestream Fridays, 5:30 Mountain Standard Time. Emily will be playing Windwaker, and then we might be doing some fun other bonus things in the future. Wink.

Emily: Wink! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Uh, yeah, that's us. Thanks.

Emily: That's us. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: I do.

Emily: Yeah, I get to find out what that mysterious message was.

Sally: (laugh) Um, so I have, like, a -- like everybody, I have a group chat with, uh, my good friends, um, most of whom work at the Aviary, and then Nathan, who doesn't, so God bless him for putting up with our shit.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Um, and, like always, I'm just like, "Look at this new jacket I bought! Everybody send pictures of yourself. I love talking about how cute my friends are." It was, like, a totally normal conversation. Then, all of a sudden, Gethin sends a picture of just, like, a decapitated rat head -- (laugh) that's just in one of the bird enclosures, 'cause he's working today. And it was, like, stuck through the holes of the fence, so it was just, like, a decapitated rat head just, like, in one of the, like, little fence grooves, and all of us --

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Were like, "Why are you sending this?!" (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: And he's like, "Look at how cool it is," and we're like, "No." (laugh) "You can't just -- no."

Emily: This makes me think of the, like, orc head on a stick --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In Two Towers.

Sally: It was so haunting, too.

Emily: When Viggo Mortensen broke his toe.

Sally: Oh, yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: So anyway, I was like, "Why are you doing this, Gethin?"

Emily: Jesus Christ.

Sally: And he was like, "It's neat." I was like, "No." (laugh)

Emily: It's not.

Sally: It's gross. (laugh)

Emily: It's disgusting.

Sally: Anyway, bye.

Emily: Goodbye -- oh. (laugh) Goodbye!

Sally: Goodbye now.