



Episode 98 – “ROXANNE!”

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

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

[Theme song by Glynn Mackenzie plays]

EMILY: You know how I went through that box of, um, letters from my childhood?

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Various thank you cards and happy birthday cards. Well, have I told you about this very good one from my dad? Which reads, “Emily” – first of all the inside of the card says “to someone very special” I don't remember what the outside of the card said. “Emily, I love you with all my heart and hope the rest of your life is as happy as your first two years.”

SALLY: [laughing] Oh my god.

EMILY: Can you imagine the hubris?

SALLY: [continues laughing]

EMILY: That absolute insanity. [laughing] He was begging to be cursed.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Me to be cursed! He's the reason I have anxiety.

SALLY: He did put a curse on you.

EMILY: Like, he was just like, "Hey, Zeus or whoever."

SALLY: [laughs] Zeus or whoever.

EMILY: "Just fuck up my daughter, why don't you."

SALLY: Tybalt.

EMILY: [distantly] "She had a happy childhood." Tybalt, I swear to fucking god. Um, this is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: I am Sally Goodger.

EMILY: Thanks. Every week I wonder. Just keeps me guessing.

SALLY: Exactly.

EMILY: Um, I guess we'll get right into it, because there's actually things to talk about, right?

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: First there's a horrible Elayne/Nynaeve/Egeanin chapter.

SALLY: Yeah. The point of view in that chapter is fu – the point of view in all these chapters is like "Who the fuck is talking?"

EMILY: Yeah, it was just long. Yeah, particularly at the end of that chapter, like, the point of view switches out of Egeanin into that rando Seanchan dude.

SALLY: Yeah, that random dude.

EMILY: And I was *so confused*. I had to read it, like, six times.

SALLY: No, I read it once and was like, "What the heck? That's a weird thing for Bayle Domon to say." And then I was like [laughing], "This is not Bayle Domon!"

EMILY: I was like, "Egeanin? What are you talking about? Do you know a guy's following you?" And then I was like, "What the?" So confusing.

SALLY: I know, it's very confusing.

EMILY: Oh my god. Anyway, this is, like, the introduction of Egeanin's friendship with Nynaeve and Elayne, which I don't really know if you can call it a friendship or an acquaintanceship?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I don't know.

SALLY: [laughs] A working relationship.

EMILY: Yeah, a working relationship. All about breaking down the barriers of...magic...bias. Or whatever it is the Seanchan –

SALLY: Can you have, like, activist relationships?

EMILY: What do you mean?

SALLY: An activist-ship. Like, you know each other exclusively through, like, the political work that you're doing.

EMILY: Oh. I don't know.

SALLY: Can you have it exclusively be that kind of relationship without it, like, crossing over into friendship territory?

EMILY: I didn't steep this tea long enough.

SALLY: Oh no!

EMILY: Or perhaps I did not put enough sugar in it.

SALLY: Yeah, Egeanin is in the street.

EMILY: She –

SALLY: With the people, complaining about refugees [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, as everyone does, apparently. And she's like, "I'm just tracking Gelb, or whatever his name is, because he's about to kidnap some other poor women and try to get me to pay him for her. Which maybe I shouldn't have done for that first woman." And it's like, dur der der. Egeanin, you dipshit. Of course not!

SALLY: I know. And I don't think it hit me fully the first time that Egeanin is running, like, a human trafficking operation here.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And then I was reading this and she was like, “Oh, I should stop him from giving me a woman that I’ll have to, like, kill or sell into sex slavery.” And I’m like, “WHOA-kay. Pump the breaks here for a second.”

EMILY: Just like?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Just like, whaaaat?

SALLY: [laughing] Why are you doing human trafficking?

EMILY: Girl. Anyway, and then it swi – then she, like, sees Elayne and Nynaeve and realizes, “Oh, Nynaeve looks sort of like some, some *sul’dam*.” I guess on her list or whatever, so that must be who they’re going for. Then it switches over to Elayne’s privileged ass, talking about how [laughs] upsetting it is to be walking the streets like a Roxanne on the street corner in her red dress –

SALLY: [imitating the version of *Roxanne* from *Moulin Rouge*] ROXANNE!

EMILY: [also imitating *Moulin Rouge*] ROXANNE!

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [vocalizing]

SALLY: Seriously, though.

EMILY: [laughs] I don’t even think what’s his name sings it like that either. What’s his bucket?

SALLY: Oh, what is his name? In *Moulin Rogue*?

EMILY: No, the *Moulin Rogue* guy definitely does. Who’s the original?

SALLY: [laughing] Oh yeah, I don’t know who the actual guy is.

EMILY: Is it Sting?

SALLY: [laughing] Is it?! Emily has a weird knowledge of Sting music. I believe this.

EMILY: Yeah, because Becky is obsessed with Sting.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: The question is it Sting and the Police? Or just Sting? Roxanne. Have to Google it.

SALLY: [laughs] Roxanne!

EMILY: Roxanne! [imitating The Witcher] Hmm. Fuck.

SALLY: [laughs, coughs]

EMILY: Roxanne...song. Sting! Ha!

SALLY: Oh my god, Emily.

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: Emily can clock Sting from across a county.

EMILY: [laughing] I can really can.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: I think I've heard every Sting album. [laughs] It's really upsetting.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Do you know what my dad said to me the other day?

SALLY: Hm?

EMILY: He was like, "I've had this U2 song stuck in my head – "

SALLY: [coughs, laughs]

EMILY: " – for, like, a year." And I was like, "What U2 song?" Thinking he was gonna name one of the classics, like, I don't know, Angel of Harlem. It's just like [laughs] – and he goes – he names some absurd song that I think came out a few years ago when U2 dropped their album on everyone's iPhones without their permission. And my dad legitimately, this is like a direct quote, he said, "I didn't like it the first nine times I heard it, [laughing] but now it's stuck in my head and I really like it."

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] I was like –

SALLY: What?!

EMILY: “U2 Stockholm Syndrome-d you! Dad!”

SALLY: How do you? Do you think his iPod just was playing it and he, like, couldn’t get it to stop?

EMILY: Yeah, he didn’t know how.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] He’s so...

SALLY: Do you know that that *ugly* thing by the Aquarium is part of a U2 stage?

EMILY: Yeah. Because I went to that U2 concert [laughs]. Have I not told you?

SALLY: *What?!* I didn’t know you went to a U2 concert?

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: Oh my god.

EMILY: I was, like, seventeen.

SALLY: That’s crazy.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Did you go with Chris?

EMILY: No, Chris desperately wanted to go, but he was away on a business trip. So I went with Becky.

SALLY: Nice. Kickass.

EMILY: Yeah. It was, uh, not a great concert except that my other favorite band at my – at the time of my adolescence, The Fray, of How to Save a Life fame –

SALLY: [singing] How to save a life.

EMILY: – uh, was opening, which was very odd when you think about it.

SALLY: Weird combo.

EMILY: Yeah, weird combo.

SALLY: But fun.

EMILY: I guess it was The Fray getting publicity with the middle-aged folks.

SALLY: [snorts] Gotta tap that market, you know.

EMILY: Or whatever. Yeah. Remember how six minutes ago I was like [laughing], “We need to stay on track for these long chapters?” Whatever. We’ve had exciting days.

SALLY: We don’t know what that is. Anyway, it’s just like Elayne is like, “Oh my!” And then they get attacked.

EMILY: And Elayne’s like [valley girl voice], “Oh my god. It’s because they’re trying to Liam Neeson *Taken* me. [laughs] Because I’m the princess of Andor.” And It’s like, “Bitch, no one knows you.”

SALLY: It’s, like, you know that meme a few years ago where all the YouTube influencers were like “Story time!”

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing] “I got profiled as a terrorist.”

EMILY: Yes!!

SALLY: [laughing] And it’s this white lady. That is one hundred percent what Elayne does.

EMILY: So. Funny.

SALLY: And later is Elayne is like, “They were trying to grab me.” And Nynaeve is like, “They grabbed me first.” And she’s like, “Only to get you out of the way” [laughs].

EMILY: Elayne’s like, “They were after me, because I’m a princess.” And Nynaeve’s like, “But they *physically* grabbed me, so?”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: She’s like, “They were going to kill you.” And I’m like, “What?! Girl?”

[crosstalk]

SALLY: And Nynaeve’s like, “I can’t deal with this at the moment.”

EMILY: Anyway, then there’s this ugly ass interlude where they go [laughing] –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: – back with Egeanin and they have to interact with both the men in the most patronizing ways possible. Um.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, Julin comes in and is like, “Good news. I found where they used to be.” And Nynaeve, like, chews him out for not being careful enough. And it’s like, girl, you are roaming the streets alone with your gal pal who’s the most useless bitch on this side of Mississippi, and you just have, like, a couple of clubs or something, which –

SALLY: You’re just walkinga round with a big stick.

EMILY: Yeah, if it weren’t for Egeanin, who apparently knows god damn kung fu, like, you’d be dead.

SALLY: Yeah, that would be a cool scene in the show, where it’s like, “Oh no, what are these two girls gonna do?” And then it’s, like, kung fu master Egeanin.

EMILY: I know. Well, it described her as having, like, really sick moves, you know?

SALLY: But wouldn’t it be cool if it was in the style of, like, a kung-fu movie?

EMILY: Yeah that would be cool.

SALLY: Sick music starting playing.

EMILY: But it would also –

SALLY: She took down, like, fifteen guys.

EMILY: Contribute to the idea that the Seanchan are, like, a Chinese parallel.

SALLY: Yes, that’s true.

EMILY: Culture.

SALLY: You are right.

EMILY: As we’ve talked about before I’m pretty sure, it’s so upsetting how Eurocentric this fantasy world is, even if some of the other countries are...

SALLY: You’re right. It should be more like *Walker: Texas Ranger*, and she’s got a Texan accent.

EMILY: Oh man that would be – I feel like all the Seanchan do have Texan accents.

SALLY: [laughing] And she's like –

EMILY: Eldritch blast.

SALLY: [southern accent] Eldritch blast.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: And, like –

EMILY: [laughing] That's what I want her to say to Mat, in a Texan accent.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I can't do a Texan accent.

SALLY: [laughs harder]

EMILY: All I know is eldritch blast.

SALLY: [southern accent] Eldritch blast.

EMILY: [quoting Critical Role] I'm the only one doing that.

SALLY: I'm the only one doing that.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Um, but, like, Johnny Cash could start playing and then she, like, [laughs] fights fifteen guys and she's got, like, a cowboy hat on for no reason, obviously.

EMILY: Yeah, but because cool.

SALLY: Because she'd look cool in a cowboy hat.

EMILY: Ah, damn. It's really cool. That's sick. I really like all the Seanchan as cowboys.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's just...

SALLY: Tuon's just this tiny little cowboy.

EMILY: Although, cowboys have also been white-ified by the media. Cowboys were predominately –

SALLY: [laughing] White-ified. Gentrified.

EMILY: Yeah! Cowboys were predominately Mexican and Native American men.

SALLY: Cool.

EMILY: Okay, fun history chat. Okay, they go back to the inn. Egeanin's like, "Oh, you witches –"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing "are not what I anticipated. Your witchcraft [laughing] is so much less obnoxious than your actual personalities."

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: And Elayne's like, "Yeah, I get that a lot." [laughs]

SALLY: [valley girl voice] "They were obviously trying to kidnap me."

EMILY: [valley girl voice] "They were obviously trying to kidnap me." Egeanin's like, "You can learn how to channel?!" And Elayne's like, "Yeah, do you want to?" And Egeanin's like, "Absolutely the fuck –"

SALLY: Sign of the cross. Pulls out a vial of holy water, sprinkling it on herself.

EMILY: She's like, "Will it turn me into you?"

SALLY: "Because god."

EMILY: "Because god, you guys are awful. Literally the two least personable characters, and this is a series that includes Perrin so."

SALLY: No, like Elayne is truly the worst. I feel like we say that every episode, but Nynaeve could be an interesting character. She *is* an interesting character. I like Nynaeve, but when she's paired with Elayne, she just falls into this trope of, like, village woman must be headstrong and level-headed and can't do anything beside be a counterpoint to the most annoying white feminist alive.

EMILY: Like even Nynaeve's habit of talking down to people and assuming that she knows best, while not endearing qualities, could at least be interesting if she was paired with someone other than Elayne. Who, it's like, it seems as though she's frequently paired with Elayne – [laughs] E-layne.

SALLY: E-layne.

EMILY: With Elayne to, like, contrast their different ways of handling people when it's, like, I get that Nynaeve and Elayne have different ways of handling people. You don't need to through that in my face all the time. I'd be far more interested in seeing how Nynaeve does with a socially competent person kind of riding in the passenger seat. And, like, does everyone kind of, like, side-eye each other all the time like, "Uh, that's just Nynaeve being Nynaeve," because that's kind of how people actually are. If you have an obnoxious friend everyone's just like –

SALLY: Ah, that's just them. Yeah, everyone has that friend where you're like, "Oh, that's just them."

EMILY: The bossy friend. Yeah. Different from the mom friend.

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: That's Julin [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah, obviously. Um, but it's also frustrating that she's paired with Nynaeve – I mean when Nynaeve is paired with Elayne because the text, I think, does more to support the idea that Elayne is in the right than Nynaeve.

EMILY: Yeah, that's probably true. Like, Nynaeve is made the butt of the joke way more frequently than Elayne is.

SALLY: Yeah, which is upsetting. Because, yeah, Nynaeve doesn't always handle people correctly, but, like, Elayne's, like, patronizing way of handling people isn't right, either, but it seems like it's given more benefit of the doubt when it's a woman that's being kind and, like, palatable, as opposed to a woman who's like, "I need to do something for me and you're not doing it, and it's upsetting.

EMILY: I think the problem is that we've most frequently seen those two women, the other point of view we usually get is Egwene's, and Egwene also has a history with Nynaeve of being like, "Nynaeve's being bossy and really obnoxious," where she's so much more likely to be on Elayne's side and be like, "Oh yeah Elyane makes sense." Because she's your new friend. That's just sort of how friendships work.

SALLY: Yeah, and especially if you've grown up with someone. Like, I have a friend, who I've been friends with since we were, like, nine. And, so, like, I know every idiosyncrasy of her personality and when she's, like, just being herself and I'm like, "Oh, it's so frustrating," but when other people recognize it it's like validating.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, yeah she is being like that.

EMILY: Yeah, so what I'm saying is. Yeah. It's a terrible pairing.

SALLY: Terrible pairing.

EMILY: Anyway, Egeanin leaves, and after she's all panicked because they mentioned Bayle Domon, who of course she knows.

SALLY: And later marries.

EMILY: And later marries, because that's the text we're working with here.

SALLY: Because it would be just unforgivable for a woman to remain unmarried.

EMILY: Also, Egeanin just has, like, huge lesbian energy.

SALLY: HUGE lesbian energy.

EMILY: It's like, girl comes in, a ship captain, with her kung fu or whatever skills. And you're telling me that ain't a lesbian, Robert Jordan? I'm not blind.

SALLY: She's got, like, big top energy, you know?

EMILY: Oh man.

SALLY: Yeah! Anyway, she's like total cool dominatrix lady.

EMILY: Ugh, yeah you're right.

SALLY: But she's just like – [laughs] I was, I've been hyper fixated on *Star Wars* lately, we don't have to talk about it.

EMILY: Uh-huh.

SALLY: But, like, last night when I couldn't sleep –

EMILY: Yeah, we've been hyper fixated on *Star Wars* because we watched guess what? *Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones* on the same night.

SALLY: Yeah. I told my coworkers that, and they were like, "What'd you do this weekend?" and I was like, "Oh, I watched two movies." And they were like, "You watched them both?" And I was like, "Yeah, after *The Phantom Menace*, Emily told me that Yoda has a cool fight in *Attack of the Clones* so we had to watch it immediately" [laughs]. And they were like, "You're insane."

EMILY: And no one said [laughing], "Wow, Emily sure must love you."

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]. She does though!

EMILY: Ah, better watch *Revenge of the Sith* tonight.

SALLY: But, [laughs] when I couldn't sleep I was thinking about how, like, we'll also watched *The Force Awakens* last week and, like, the way that Poe and Finn interact is just, like, so gay. And I don't know if straight people just, like, don't realize what they're doing.

EMILY: Yeah, like is J.J. Abrams just ignorant of the fact?

SALLY: Yeah! It's just, like, I don't know. And maybe it's just Oscar Isacc's [laugh] will to power there or whatever.

EMILY: You need to watch the video where Oscar Isaac and Pedro Pascal answer, you know, the Google questions?

SALLY: What?!

EMILY: It's very funny. Pedro Pascal is very personable.

SALLY: Oh my god.

EMILY: He's hilarious.

SALLY: I'm so excited.

EMILY: At one point, one of the questions is like, "Is Pedro Pascal in Wonder Woman?" And he's "Yes, I'll be playing – EH!" And mimes falling off the chair like he's been shot.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: He's like, from the floor, "Warner Brothers put a chip in my head!" I'm like, "Pedro, I'm really into it."

SALLY: I know. He's so charming, and handsome.

EMILY: They're just...so cute with each other.

SALLY: We have to watch it immediately.

EMILY: Very wholesome.

SALLY: I love those two men. The point, being quasi *Wheel of Time* related, is I don't know if Robert Jordan just didn't realize it. Or if there's just so many centuries of subtext that people just... I don't know.

EMILY: Yeah, you have to assume that there's just a total ignorance, but in the...I don't know. I don't get it. You end up with these homoerotic pairings, or just queer coding, but then there's

things, like, the fucking *Lord of the Rings*. Of course there's queer coding in that, but you also have much that is, uh, interpretable. And I'm happy to interpret as just tenderness between men.

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Like Aragorn and Boromir, you know? Like, there's just like a very loving relationship there, and no one is – well, no one that I follow on the internet are like, "Aragorn and Boromir were fucking!" You know? It's just like...it's almost like if you lean into it a little bit, and allow it to be there, it doesn't become such a, like, I don't know, and eyesore [laughs] in the minds of straight creators.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] They're like, "God, what did I do?"

SALLY: No, but that's so true. Like, Frodo and Sam very much can be read in that way, and I don't think there's, like, the text in some ways does support that reading, and that's – especially the actors in the movies who did amazing jobs portraying the tenderness between those two men, but there's also just, like, yeah, there's just an authenticity to the fact that these two men can be tender with each other and care for one another without it having to be romantic. Whereas like, obviously J.R.R. Tolkien came from a different...era.

EMILY: It's almost like the fact that Disney and Marvel or whoever are like, "Oh! We'll give you gay representation. We'll give you a background set piece of two gay characters kissing" or whatever. Being like, "There you go!" Makes me be like, "Oh, that's super gay," with Poe and Finn more. As opposed to *Lord of the Rings* no one's telling me, "Shut up," so I'm never prompted to be, like, "Wow, Frodo and Sam? Married." You know? Like, ugh.

SALLY: Married. Yeah, no I just, like, it's this frustrating thing. I don't really know what I'm getting at, but I just...I just... I don't know. I just wanted to watch Oscar Isaac and John Boyega make out.

EMILY: I know. It would have been so fulfilling.

SALLY: It would have been the only good [laughing] part of that movie.

EMILY: And if you're like, "Oh god, we can't put in gays because of China or whatever," like you can just have them kiss and edit it out for those markets. I don't approve of that, but Disney, you can appeal to multiple sets of people.

SALLY: Also, maybe just don't bow to the fascists.

EMILY: Yeah. Der der der.

SALLY: Oh, wait Disney? An amoral company?

EMILY: [clears throat] Meanwhile, Egwene and Nynaeve are – I mean, Elayne and Nynaeve are sitting there arguing, and then Moghedien comes in and is like, “Kneel to me, motherfuckers.” Or whatever, and compels them to tell her some shit, like what they know about the Black Ajah. And she just leaves. And, uh, Elayne and Nynaeve forget about it. Which makes for a very confusing reading experience.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Because it, again, plays into this idea, that Robert Jordan loves, that the reader knows something the characters doesn't. That the characters don't, whoop. Um, which, in my experience, is much better left implied than put so explicitly. Like, if you just had them have a weird moment, and, like, kind of have this woman come in and then their minds go totally blank? That would leave me so much more bewildered and intrigued, then just, like, what happens which is “hey let me put the Forsaken's incompetence on display again.” It's just, like, you know, we've tread this ground before.

SALLY: No, and I just, like, yeah. Not to, like, rehash everything but there's...like, if it had just gone blank and then you basically see Elayne saying the same thing written two times.

EMILY: Yeah, that's freaky.

SALLY: And she's like, “Oh, that's so weird, I feel like I just said this.” Like, that then then puts the reader – that then then. That then puts the reader in the same mindset as the character, which provides, like, a more immersive experience. Like, instead of being like – we basically sit at this god eye's level in *Wheel of Time* and know what all the – if you can keep it straight, which I can't – know what all the players are doing.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: With, like, some gaps. The way it's written there's some mysteries, but, like, very rarely are we allowed to just zoom in on one character and, like, embody their experience without sort of the baggage of everything else going on in Wheelworld. And I think that's kind of...detrimental.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: To just, like, sometimes it would be so nice to just be like, “What the fuck, that was weird, right, Elayne?”

EMILY: I know. I just think it would be a more pleasurable reading experience to have fewer characters, [laughs] that we're following for one thing. To be limited to the characters' points of view that we have, and then to be kind of be required to do some work as a reader to piece them together.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It just sort of feels like I'm being spoon-fed sometimes.

SALLY: Yeah, no.

EMILY: Which is not a great feeling.

SALLY: No. Emily and I have this conversation all the time about, like, where a text crosses the line to, like, thinking its readers are stupid.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And I just think *Wheel of Time* does that a lot.

EMILY: It does, yeah.

SALLY: Where it's just, like – in a way that's like...

EMILY: Whereas Brandon Sanderson texts often does the opposite.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: It assumes that readers want to do way more homework than most people want to do.

SALLY: Every time I picked up a new – the next book in the *Mistborn* trilogy I was like, "Brandon, I don't remember what *any* of these metals do."

EMILY: Yeah, you have to flip back to the –

SALLY: And he's like, "There's a –" and I'm not gonna do that.

EMILY: It's so complicated.

SALLY: [laughing] You gotta find a balance, my guy.

EMILY: I know. You've got to figure out the god damn metals.

SALLY: He'd be like, "Aluminum! Tin! Bronze!" And I'm like...

EMILY: I can't remember.

SALLY: I think tin makes you see good.

EMILY: I don't have a rolodex of [laughs].

SALLY: I don't just keep a note on my phone that's like –

EMILY: Here's how to keep Brandon Sanderson's dumb texts straight.

SALLY: Okay, we're now moving into the papal schism.

EMILY: Oh my god.

SALLY: Section of the podcast.

EMILY: Sorry, I pulled out my papers.

SALLY: Emily pulled out her lecture notes.

EMILY: I did prepare a report. Um, yeah, so away from Elayne and Nynaeve over to the breaking of the White Tower, which is only one chapter and I will argue should be at least five.

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah, for fuck's sake.

EMILY: What the fuck? This book spends so much god damn time with *Perrin*, with Rand –

SALLY: With an arrow in him.

EMILY: Yeah! With a god damn arrow in him! And Rand, just loitering around the Stone of Tear.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Doing God knows what, when we could be talking about the breaking of the White Tower, an actually interesting event in this world.

SALLY: Yeah. No, it's so crazy. At the beginning it's just Siuan flipping through her papers, and at the end it's like Gawyn has gone through a complete psychological turmoil.

EMILY: Yeah, what the fuck?

SALLY: Like, his political alliances have gone in every which direction.

EMILY: Where's Galad?!

SALLY: Yeah, is Galad alive? [laughs]

EMILY: He's never mentioned! He's mentioned twice. I counted! Min is like, "Galad's so annoying, how he makes me feel in my vagina."

SALLY: [laughs loudly]

EMILY: [laughing] Siuan is like, “I always thought Galad was the more dangerous of the two brothers, but, oh wait, it was Gawyn, the *unhinged one*.”

SALLY: Yeah, the one who’s had, like, a deep trauma done to him in the past three days that we’re just like, “Fuck Gawynn, right?”

EMILY: Okay.

SALLY: Anyway, it’s so upsetting that this is only one chapter.

EMILY: Yeah, should we talk about that first or the papal schism?

SALLY: I feel like that will be informed by the papal schism so you should talk about the papal schism.

EMILY: [clears throat] Okay, here’s what you need to know about the papal schism.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] First of all, there were many papal schisms. In fact, it was pretty much *unending* papal schisms in the Middle Ages, because someone would become Pope, and then some king of the Ottoman Empire, or whatever, would be like, “Fuck you, this is the Pope! Because he likes *me* better than *you*, the King of France.” And it would just like – it was so complicated. But anyway, the papal schism to which I am referring, the big one, also known as the Western Schism.

SALLY: The big cheese.

EMILY: The big cheese, as it were.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Started in 1377. Background knowledge you may need to know is that, um, in the early 1300s there was this big kind of fight over, uh, whether Popes should have any, like, authority over secular matters. Basically, kings were like, “Can you please keep your grubby hands out of our stuff?” And the Popes were like, “Never.”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, [laughs] in November 1302, Pope Boniface – is that how you say that?

SALLY: I thought so? Bon-uh-face.

EMILY: Okay, Boniface the Eighth –

SALLY: Bone – uh - fah-chi!

EMILY: Bone-uh-fah-chi!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Decreed that it is necessary to salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff. This was directed primary to King Philip of France, who responded by saying quote, “Your venerable conceitedness may know that we are nobody’s vassal in temporal matters.” Which, like, [laughs] cool, King Philip.

SALLY: I know. You gotta love the French.

EMILY: I know. So neat. Anyway, then the Pope followed that up with something that would excommunicate the King of France [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: But before he could do that, Italian allies of the King of France broke into the papal residence and beat him. [laughing] He died shortly thereafter.

SALLY: [laughing] Jesus Chris!

EMILY: Then, Nichola Boccasini was elected as his successor and too the name Benedict the 11th. He absolved King Philip and his subjects of their actions. Um, but then he died within eight months of being elected to the papacy. Which is a recurring thing, because all these popes are old men.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Who, it’s, like, they die after two months.

SALLY: Especially in the Middle Ages.

EMILY: Yeah! So, after that a Frenchman got elected to be the new pope, and he moved the papacy to Avignon, France. So this became the Avignon Papacy. All of the, like, seven or eight popes after Pope Clement were, um, based in Avignon, which became a problem. So, we get then to Pope Gregory in 1377, he goes back to Rome, just to, like, hang for a little while. Um, basically because everyone hated the Avignon Papacy because it had developed a reputation for corruption that estranged major parts of Wester Christendom. This reputation can be attributed to reputations predominant French influence.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Basically, everyone was like, “The French are so dang horny! They’re ruining the papacy!”

SALLY: [continues laughing]

EMILY: So, anyway. [laughs] Pope Gregory goes to Rome, but after, like, a year he's like, "Yeah, fine, I'm gonna return to Avignon just after Easter." This was as the entreaty of his relatives, his friends, and literally everyone in his retinue. Everyone was like, "Get back to France!!"

SALLY: Yeah, we want to go back to France.

EMILY: "Gregory!" But, unfortunately he died before he could go back to Avignon. So, on 27th of March, 1378 the Romans put into operation a plan to ensure the election of a Roman pope. Basically they, like, go their mob to make a bunch of dudes elect this guy named Urban the 6th.

SALLY: Urban.

EMILY: Urban had been a respected administrator in the papa chancery at Avignon, but as pope he proved suspicious, reformist, and prone to violent outbursts of temper. Sound like anyone? Many of the cardinals who had elected him soon regretted their decision.

SALLY: Dun dun dun!

EMILY: The historical parallels.

SALLY: They're uncanny [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah. So the same cardinals who elected him, then went back to Avignon and elected a new guy.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: They were like, "That other guy? That was invalid because we were pressured by the mob." Whatever.

SALLY: [laughing] That we created.

EMILY: So then everyone in the church is like, "What the fuck? [laughs] Nothing is scared anymore."

SALLY: Who was the pope they elected in Avignon?

EMILY: They elected Robert of Geneva and it doesn't say his pope name. Let me see.

SALLY: Dammit. I love the pope names.

EMILY: Bon – I think it was Boniface 9.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: Yeah. So there had been, as I said, lots of anti-popes in the past, but most of them had been appointed by various rival factions. In this case, a single group of leaders had created both the pope and the anti-pope.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: So now you've got a pope in Rome and you've got a pope in Avignon, and no one knows what to do. And neither of them will fucking shut up about it. They're like, "I'm the Pope!" "No, I'm the Pope!"

SALLY: [laughs] It's that Spider-man meme.

EMILY: Yeah. Um, and there's like all this effort to end the schism either through force or diplomacy. The French crown even tried to coerce Benedict the 13th, whom it supported, into resigning. [laughing] But, none of these remedies worked. They, like, try to have a council and no one will show up, because they're all afraid of getting assassinated or something. Finally, a church council was held at Pisa in 1409, um, to try solving the dispute. They, [laughs] the council attempted to depose both pope and anti-pope as schismatical, heretical, perjured and scandalous, but it then added to the problem by electing a second anti-pope, Alexander the 5th [laughs].

SALLY: [laughs] I know what will fix this! Another pope!

EMILY: Another pope!!! He reigned briefly from 1409 to his death in 1410, when he was succeeded by anti-pope, John the 23rd, who, if you're keeping track, is still part of the third, now, papacy.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: But, anyway, finally they all figure it out. There's another council and a few of the popes are like, "Yeah, whatever. We'll step down." Um, including Gregory the 12th, resigned in 1415, which was the last time a pope resigned until Benedict the, um, 16th in 2013.

SALLY: Yeah, that was crazy.

EMILY: Yeah, so go figure.

SALLY: So who remained the pope? Who remained the big cheese out of those three?

EMILY: Oh, I can't even keep track, because so many popes died and then a new one was elected.

SALLY: [laughing] There's been so many popes.

EMILY: Yeah, basically let's see [mumbling]. Yeah, they got the resignations of John the 23rd, the guy who was elected by that council, and Pope Gregory the 12th, who, uh, and [laughing] excommunicated the second anti-pope who refused to step down. So basically they got rid of all three.

SALLY: Okay.

EMILY: And we're like, "We're electing a new guy." Pope Martin the 5th.

SALLY: That seems like a reasonable solution.

EMILY: Yeah, and I imagine that he was then based in Rome, because this was, by then, the mid 1400s, so. So that's some, uh, fun historical parallels for you.

SALLY: That shit's crazy.

EMILY: I know. It's buck wild.

SALLY: I can't – I really, truly don't understand how Western civilization survived the Middle Ages.

EMILY: It's super crazy. The thing about the papal schism is that it seems to have been, besides that one guy getting beaten up, relatively bloodless. It was mostly just popes excommunicating each other. Which, like, sure.

SALLY: [laughing] Which is just so sassy.

EMILY: I know. They're so mean to each other. Whereas this is a bloody conflict. So, I also, like, looked up various historical coups d'état, but, um, none of them stood out to me as either something I knew a lot about enough to draw parallels, or, I don't know, something that seemed directly to be a parallel. It did make me think of the animated *Anastasia* movie. You know, where she's like a little girl and suddenly you don't really get it, but the palace is getting attacked. And it's really scary and there's a bunch of shattering glass, and everyone's just running. It made me think of that. I don't know why.

SALLY: I could see that.

EMILY: I think it was, like, an influential childhood memory. But also because we're getting it mostly through – not mostly through, primarily, since we're only getting two points of view here, through, like, Min's perspective. And Min is largely ignorant to, like, the politics taking place here. Whereas Siuan does know what the politics are, but sort of isn't great about clarifying for us what's going on.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah.

EMILY: Here's my – here's what I think they should have done, if you're asking me. I'm fine with the initial Siuan scene, where you've – it's just sudden and jarring and she gets escorted out of her office and arrested, and her Warder's dead on the floor. Like, that's really brutal. But then I think, instead of just flopping back between Min and Siuan, we should have gone out to, like, five or six different points of view. I'd be fine with Gawyn, because, as we've stated, this is the only influential moment for him in the entire series, but I'd also like some Aes Sedai who are going to be important later. Like, this would be a great time to introduce some people on both sides of this schism and, like, get into the politics of what's happening and the social breakdown. And just, like, I don't know be – like, the violence.

SALLY: Yeah, it's, like, a huge historical moment. They talk about how the Tower has never been broken, and there's only been one Amyrlin Seat who's had a problem in all of history. And the fact that it's just this one *huge* cultural moment that will then effect the plot and all of our main characters for the next ten books, is just condensed into twenty pages. And is like, "Okay, well we got that out of the way."

EMILY: Yeah, like, we don't understand, because we're not given to understand, the, like, significance of this, except in, like, little asides that Siuan gives us. Like, "Oh, we did it ourselves. Even – what's his bucket – Artur Hawkwing couldn't bring down the White Tower, but we just have done it."

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And it's like...we learn from Egwene in later books that, like, it's not – it's not *not* common to depose an Amyrlin Seat, or even assassinate an Amyrlin Seat, but it's usually done, like, super quietly. And it's just, like, the cycle continues. And so, the fact that violence happens in the White Tower is what's super unprecedented. And also, you can't understand that what Elaida did, which was to call the Hall of the Tower, but only the bare minimum required to get this act passed, is also so whack.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because we have to sit with Egwene for six books where she's maneuvering the Hall of the Tower and you're, like, learning how that works.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And it's, like, yeah of course this would lead to something terrible.

SALLY: Yeah, but it's, like, again this is where we would have benefited from the point of view maybe Elaida herself, which we are subject to too many times in later books. Um, or, like, Siuan references at the beginning, she's like, "There's just all this weird stuff happening that I just can't put my finger on like this woman who is letting a stonemason hire way more workers than he needs."

EMILY: Which, spoiler alert, that lady is Mesaana, the Forsaken in disguise.

SALLY: Oh, fuck [laughs]. I didn't know that.

EMILY: So – well, yeah! Cause nothing really gives you the subtext to realize who it is. And when she's finally revealed in Book 13 or whatever, you're like, "Well, fuck. I don't know who that is, because I don't remember nine books ago."

SALLY: Yeah, the name that he threw out at me.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: So, there's just like so many players that it would just be interesting to see.

EMILY: Yeah. I'd really love, like Elaida would be kind of interesting. Alviarin, the Black Ajah viewpoint, since Robert Jordan fucking loves his villain points of view, but it's also, like, um, you have other people on this side of the conflict. Joline and Teslyn are both gonna be important in the Ebou Dar storyline a little bit later. I'd love to see Sheriam, who is also Black Ajah, but on the quote unquote rebel side of the Tower.

SALLY: Yeah [glass clinks].

EMILY: Any of the other ladies that end up – it's that important, what is it? Six women who kind of control Salidar later?

SALLY: I think so.

EMILY: It just – it feels like I've been cheated a little bit, because this could have been such an interesting sequence. I'm a little, like, you get a little tired of these sequences in *Wheel of Time* and other fantasy that's just like armies kind of going at each other, or even just channelers, groups of channelers kind of going at each other. But having it happen here in this setting is interesting.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. I know. I'm honestly surprised that this isn't, like, *the* climax of *The Shadow Rising*.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: As opposed to, like...it's, like, I guess arguably the beginning of a long climactic period.

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: But like this, to me, should be on the same level as the breaking of the Stone of Tear.

EMILY: Oh yeah.

SALLY: Like, that's the type of shit that's going on.

EMILY: These are *big buildings* we were talking about getting broken [laughs].

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah.

EMILY: [laughing] Either physically or metaphorically.

SALLY: Yeah, and so it's, like, I don't know it just seems odd to me. I know Rand is our main character, unfortunately, and we have to go listen to him talk to the Aiel or whatever.

EMILY: Well, I think Robert Jordan wrote himself into a corner where he thought, "Well, I can't linger too much there, because there aren't any major points of view there." Which is dumb, first of all, because Robert Jordan you linger on points of view that no one asked for all the time.

SALLY: [laughing] Yes.

EMILY: And also, what a great way to bring characters into the spotlight. Like, if you're going to inflict Gawyn on us later in this series, you might as well start making him a point of view character now.

SALLY: Yeah! And, like you said, this is truly like the only thing that seems to happen in Gawyn's character arc that, like, has meaning. Like, literally at all.

EMILY: Yeah. It's, like, the only thing you can vaguely sympathetic for him about.

SALLY: Yeah, that, like, gives him some sort of depth, and it's just, like – even if, for some reason, we got all five chapters from Gawyn's point of view, that would be more satisfying to me than one chapter.

EMILY: Yeah, because, again, Gawyn would have such an interesting perspective. I just – there's so many questions I don't know. How did Gawyn find out that this was going on? How did the Warders come to the knowledge that, "Oh, the Aes Sedai are fighting?" Like, that's freaky.

SALLY: Yeah, and at the end Min, or somebody, references how, like, Gawyn and his fellow Warders in training were, like, fighting their teachers.

EMILY: Yeah, what the fuck?

SALLY: And Gawyn, like, killed his mentor. And Gawyn was also like, "I'm not on the side of Suan Sanche," and it's, like, how did you come to that decision? Like, I know you hate Suan because she took Egg away from you, but, like...?

EMILY: But that is such – it's just interesting, because that must have been such a, like, moment just one moment where you have to make that decision and then you have to stick with it,

because you've shed blood over it, basically. So what are you going to do? Say, "Whoops, wrong call."

SALLY: Yeah, and when all this is happening, they're basically living in a very contained, like, police state.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, it's probably, like, I don't know how big the Tower is. Like ten acres? Five acres? This island that's just there's the potential of violence just hanging in the air after so much blood has been shed and you – there's basically just a new dictator who's extremely violent. Obviously Elaida, or she wouldn't have broken the Tower in this way. Like, that must be so frightening. And to be, like, a young man on this Tower – in this island, whose only currency is your body and your ability to fight, like...it would have just been so interesting.

EMILY: Oh my god. It's so frustrating.

SALLY: And meanwhile Min is just like, "la de da da da."

EMILY: "La de da da." Like, I remember reading this as a much younger person and being like, "This is so cool and interesting." Like, even then it's one of the standout moments in *Wheel of Time* for me is the breaking of the White Tower.

SALLY: Yeah, of course.

EMILY: But it could have been so much cooler. I'm really, really hopeful that the show does it the justice that it deserves, because this is an interesting sequence.

SALLY: It really is.

EMILY: And you want to know what is going on behind the scenes, because then we're having characters reference it later. And it's, like, that's not enough. I could have been there. [laughs] God dammit, Robert Jordan, I could have been there.

SALLY: I could have seen it.

EMILY: I could have seen it!

SALLY: Yeah. I don't know. [pause] I think we just contradicted ourselves where we're like – well, I did anyway. When I was like, "I want to be close up on a character," and then I was like, "No, I want a thousand points of view on the breaking of the Tower!" But.

EMILY: Well, I think it's not weird to say, "I want a close up of a character" for the most part, but when you're covering world events, which I think Robert Jordan's overarching idea is: I'm gonna present this as though it's sort of historical, you know? But it's like – so, if you're having

this moment where you're just zooming in on then yeah, it's appropriate to take the lens to multiple people.

SALLY: I agree.

EMILY: Like, he did such a good job with, like, the cleansing of *saidin* for example. That's a great sequence because it bounces between a lot of different people, and that just makes you feel like you're there, in a way you don't for the [laughs] god damn breaking of the White Tower.

SALLY: But, um, getting away from that criticism, it is very, um, upsetting, obviously, when you get – wake up in Sivan's point of view and she's, like, naked and she's been tortured. She and Leane both, and they've been stilled, and there's just this horrible...I don't know. It's just, like...

EMILY: They just have to make such brutal decisions.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: In those few moments. And again, that's something I wish we weren't in Min's point of view for. I wish we'd stick with Sivan a little bit, because I'm intrigued by how she decides the condition I'm in currently statistically leads to suicide, and the only way I can avoid that is by choosing something to focus on. And so what I'm going to choose to focus on is this, like, um, almost the exact same thing she got in trouble with to begin with. The idea that she can step in and manipulate world events like she's god. And, I don't know, it's just interesting.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah, and another interesting part about the breaking of the Tower is that it's not, like, Elaida, our villain, versus Sivan, our, like, obvious champion of the hero's side. Like, Sivan is a shitty person.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: [laughs] Like we – the more I read, the less pro Sivan Sanche I get. She's just, like, yeah, really just not a good person and is, like, kind of a perfect representation of a politician.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: In that she just thinks she's got the right to manipulate, and just has a power complex. And so that, in and of itself, is interesting. These two women against each other. Like, as you move on it becomes more like Egg versus Elaida as our two Amyrlins, but it's, like, I wish – even if we just got more of the breaking of the Tower, we could see Sivan v Elaida a little bit more. Not that I want to watch Elaida torture her or whatever, but.

EMILY: Yeah, no I'm grateful we skimmed over that part, because I think, as usual, trauma is more impactful when it's covered from the after rather than the moment.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Um [blows lips].

SALLY: Anyway, they escape the White Tower and then they meet Logain just, like, in the road.

EMILY: Which is another point of view that I wouldn't be mad to have. I know we don't like Logain, but dude just like escaped – [laughs] like saw his chance and took it.

SALLY: And was like [laughs], “Yeet!”

EMILY: [laughs] Was like, “Later. Later days.” Like, that's pretty interesting.

SALLY: Literally just in the road, the side of the road.

EMILY: Yeah, just lurching along. And Siuan's like, “Imma get this man.”

SALLY: “Hold on, I've gotta get this boy.”

EMILY: And Min's like, “What? Could we not?”

SALLY: “Could we get literally any other man?”

EMILY: “Could we get someone other than a war criminal?”

SALLY: “Yeah, I don't know. Just, like, a thought.” [laughs]

EMILY: “Just perhaps!” Oh my god. Also, Min offers – she's like, “Gawyn, come with us.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And that is another interesting, like, alternate plot that I would have been interested to see. If Gawyn was just like, “Yeah, this is my best chance at being reunited with my sister.”

SALLY: And the love of my life.

BOTH: Egg.

EMILY: Whatever.

SALLY: Listen, I would do anything for Egg.

EMILY: But then Gawyn and Elayne would have met each other in Salidar, which would have been so interesting. Because we never get anything between Elayne and Gawyn.

SALLY: She's like, “Yeah, I have a brother or whatever.”

EMILY: “I have a brother and I forget about him all the time. Much more important is my hot half-brother.”

SALLY: “Galad, who I HATE.”

EMILY: [laughing] “WHO I HATE. For no reason!”

SALLY: “He’s so hot he makes me so angry!”

EMILY: “He’s hotter than *me*. And I can’t stand that!”

SALLY: [laughing] “That’s unforgivable.”

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Anyway, but Gawyn’s got his male pride or whatever, and is like, “I have to stay with my warriors.”

EMILY: Bleh bleh bleh.

SALLY: “As opposed to chasing my own happiness.”

EMILY: Which, spoiler alert, he doesn’t do that in nine books anyway.

SALLY: Yeah, he just yeets off.

EMILY: He’s just like, “Later.”

SALLY: “Later.”

EMILY: “I have to go rescue Egg against her wishes.”

SALLY: She’s like, “Don’t fucking rescue me.”

EMILY: “I’d rather you didn’t. I’m doing something here.”

SALLY: He’s like [laughing], “If I don’t save a woman I’ll die.”

EMILY: [laughs] *Wheel of Time* be like.

SALLY: My man battery will run out [laughing]. It’s powered by saving women.

EMILY: Bleggh. Or feeling bad because they died.

SALLY: Bleggh.

EMILY: So that's the breaking of the White Tower.

SALLY: It's wild. I'm excited to get to Salidar though. I think that's interesting.

EMILY: Yeah, it is interesting. There's a little too much of it in the next book.

SALLY: Yes, that is true.

EMILY: Like, I could stand to not have it.

SALLY: Could stand a little less –

EMILY: Once Egg gets there I'm very interested.

SALLY: I think that's what I like. I think Egg's raising to be Amyrlin is so fascinating. To be raised to being the pope in exile.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Fascinating.

EMILY: Like odd.

SALLY: Like what the –

EMILY: Egg, the anti-pope. Oh, that's nice.

SALLY: Wot?

EMILY: Nothing. My family. Um [claps three times, buzzes lips] So. That's those chapters. Next week we'll be back with Rand al'Thor.

SALLY: I don't want to.

EMILY: I know, tragic. But Mat will be there.

SALLY: [gasps] I love Mat.

EMILY: And Egg

SALLY: And Egg!!

EMILY: Yep. As they get to, uh, I think that might be another three chapter, but hopefully three shorter chapters and hopefully more interesting, because it's with the Aiel.

SALLY: It's true, Rhuarc will be there.

EMILY: Rhuarc will be there. America's dad.

SALLY: Gaul won't be there, though.

EMILY: That's true. But not even Gaul can redeem Perrin's plotlines. So upsetting.

SALLY: I know. It makes me so mad.

[crosstalk]

SALLY: Robert Jordan wasted the best character on the worst plot.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: It's like you could have given Gaul to literally any – imagine if Gaul went with Thom and the girls instead of Julin.

EMILY: Oh my god.

SALLY: It's just Thom, [laughing] and this random Aiel in the circus.

EMILY: Just our friend.

SALLY: Just our friend Gaul. He's very tall.

EMILY: In the circus! He'd do so good in the circus, too.

SALLY: I know. He'd love it.

EMILY: He'd be like, "Yes. Love this."

SALLY: "This is what I was trained for."

EMILY: Just fight people. And that also could get into the interesting dialogue around fetishizing other races, and how –

SALLY: As part of the freak show.

EMILY: Yeah, and how circuses used to do that. Looking at you – what's his name?

SALLY: Uh, PT Barnum.

EMILY: PT Barnum!

SALLY: Yeah, he was gross.

EMILY: He was super gross. But anyway, that would have been –

SALLY: We could have had a whole parallel. It's like the Irish Giant.

EMILY: Yeah! Oh my god. Gaul is the Irish Giant. [pauses, laughs] Okay, our energy is peaking so it's time to go.

SALLY: Time to go watch *Revenge of the Sith*.

EMILY: Ah!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Thank you so much go Glynn Mackenzie for our theme song.

SALLY: [continues laughing]

EMILY: Thank you to all of you for listening. You, uh, oh. You already know. Our stickers – our sticker designs are already available to look at on all our social media. We, happily this last week, ordered some tests of those. We're excited to have those come so we can inspect them, and then get ready to sell them!

SALLY: Very exciting!

EMILY: Thank you also to our artists for the work they put into that. Both those whose submissions are going on to this last stage, and those who, uh, voted on. Everyone, you all are great.

SALLY: The best!

EMILY: Um, any other announcements?

SALLY: No, but our sticker tests did ship today.

EMILY: Oh, they did!

SALLY: So they might be in by Thursday.

EMILY: Damn, homie!

SALLY: Then we could see them with our own eyeballs.

EMILY: Our own eyeballs?

SALLY: Our own eyeballs.

EMILY: [laughs] Do you have a sign off?

SALLY: Um, yes. This is a really lame one, but I burned myself really bad on some tea this weekend, because I was trying out a new thermos [laughs] that I got for free at work, so I didn't know how it worked. And I, like, tried to open it and the, like, hot, boiling tea came out of a different side of the thermos than I thought it would. It's hard to explain. But anyway, it, like, hurt so bad and I have [laughs] these little bumps on my lip [laughing] from where I burned myself.

EMILY: Awwww, baby.

SALLY: And, like, my chin was really red, and I was, like, covered in hot water. [laughs] and I was on my way to therapy, and my therapist was like, "Okay. [laughs] Let's do this." And I was like, "My face hurts so much. My chin hurts so bad!"

EMILY: Ohhh.

SALLY: So anyway.

EMILY: I'm sorry.

SALLY: Happy week! We love you! Don't pick up war criminals on the side of the road.

EMILY: [laughing] The real message.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Goodbye.

SALLY: [laughing] Goodbye.