



Episode 113: We Are Not Condoning  
the Assassination of the Archduke  
Franz Ferdinand

Release Date: May 4 2020  
Running Time: 45 minutes



Generously Transcribed by Lauren Livesey

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

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

[Theme song by Glynna Mackenzie plays]

E: OK.

S: OK.

E: You look so cute today.

S: Oh, thank you.

E: She's got her little salty necklace on. Her lipstick, she's wearing sneakers with her cute dress.

S: Thank you.

E: Sally's a fashion icon. I am in shorts. [laughs]

S: I was just gonna say I like your outfit a lot, too.

E: And a muscle tank, so you could say we're both in our natural ... If we were cartoon characters who only wore one outfit, or, like, cycled through three outfits, this would definitely be one of mine.

S: It's a very good outfit.

E: Unfortunately, my mom did see me in it. She refrained from saying anything about it, though. I look very slovenly.

S: It's OK.

E: I know. Becky dropped by thirty rolls of toilet paper.

S: Yeah, it was alarming.

E: And also a six pack of Diet Coke, some popcorn, some apples and some cookies, so – she did live with me for eighteen years.

S: Yeah, a very funny care package. She was very cute.

E: And then she stood at the bottom of our apartment steps and chatted with us for a minute. She was like, *I just wanted to get out of the dang house*, which, I don't blame her, because my brother's living at home right now and he is – well, he keeps filming TikToks and roping my parents into them, so ...

S: My mom was like, *How are Emily's parents? They were home alone, right?* And I was like, *No, Emily's little brother's with them*, and she was like, *How old is he?* And I was like, *Twenty-ish?* And she was like, *Oh, no.* [laughing]

E: Yeah. And saying that Chris is "home" is a bit of a stretch.

S: Yeah, that's probably true.

E: And probably a good thing, because I feel like my mom would murder him if he ... My mom values her alone time –

S: So much.

E: A great deal. Traditionally, growing up, Mother's Day was a day when we left her the fuck alone.

S: Good for her.

E: She loved that. Anyway. So, this has been a fun chapter.

S: This is all the stuff we talk about when your life is in 1200 square feet, or whatever it is. I don't know how big our apartment is.

E: I don't know, either. I try not to think about it. It's a little depressing. We were like – How are we even going to fit this toilet paper? Into our home?

S: Yeah. Well, it was so much toilet paper [laughing], I opened the door and I was speechless.

E: It was so confusing because the doorbell rang and we – one of Sally's sweet friends tried to send us cookies, but our apartment is impossible to find in our complex. I mean, I've looked at the map that is in front of our complex, which has the buildings numbered, and it is impossible to follow. Completely arbitrary.

S: Yeah, and also, when you plug our address into Google, it sends you to a different apartment, so ... One time, one of my friends tried to come over, and she ended up over on, like, that side?

E: I did that, too, actually, the very first time I visited.

S: So, it's like we have to literally – Like, I have a note in my phone that's instructions I copy and paste when anything needs to be delivered.

E: Sorry – Devin just texted us, both of us, in our three-person group chat, a screenshot from Reddit that just says, *Hozier is just like, "I am a corpse in the woods, I have a complicated relationship with religion and I am tastefully horny", and we all collectively went, "Same."* So, he knows us pretty well.

S: Aw, sweet Devin. Hi, Devin.

E: Anyway, the cookies – we assume – were misdelivered, and whoever got them was like, "Ah, sweet! Free cookies."

S: Yeah, they weren't like, "I'm gonna try and get these to the correct address, which is..." – whenever anything gets misdelivered to us, I go on, like, a valiant hunt across the apartment complex to find where it goes, because I do *not* trust management to get it to people.

E: Oh, no, management.

S: Like, I wouldn't be, "Hello, this was misdelivered," because management would be like, *Great, I'm gonna throw it in the toilet.*

E: It would be like, *Fuck you. Hope you die.*

S: So anyway – I got up, because I was like – oh, it must be the cookies, they're finally here, someone brought them over. And then I open the door and there's this thing of toilet paper that's as high as my waist, and I was like – What? And then I look over and your mom's at the bottom of the stairs, and I was like - *Hi!*

E: *What's happening?*

S: *What's going on?*

E: I heard you chatting, and I was like – What the ...?

S: Well, she was, like, hiding a little bit, so I was, like, did she mean to not be seen, to do a little sneaky drop? Because that's something my mom would do.

E: My mom's a huge prankster.

S: And then I was like, do you wanna talk to Emily? [laughs] And she's like, *I mean, that'd be nice.* And I was like, OK. [whispers] Help, Emily! Help!

E: My mom loves nothing more than to hide around corners and leap out at one of her children and scare us. Preferably Anne, because Anne –

S: Will pee her pants?

E: - will pee her pants. [Sally laughing] Happy birthday, Anne.

S: Happy birthday, sweet Anne!

E: Or Sarah, because Sarah will also pee her pants. Adam and I have all the bladder control in the family. Go figure.

S: This opening has been so weird.

E: This opening is, like, ten minutes long. I'm not gonna erase any of it.

S: Excellent.

E: Fuck you all.

S: Perfect. We've told the same story, like, six times.

E: I know, I don't care. [Sally laughing]. Six weeks into quarantine, bay-bee!

S: I can't believe it's been six weeks – what is time?

E: I don't know, either.

S: Yesterday, the only thing I wanted in the world was to eat food that someone else had prepared, not myself. Like, it was so bad – I was on the call with my friends, with three of my friends, and two of them got takeout. Like, while we were on the call. And I was like – I'm gonna kill you. [whispers] I want those onion rings so bad.

E: I legitimately had this – this speaks to how well my mother knows me – last night, for dinner, I had an apple and popcorn. So ... I'm right there with you.

S: It's just become impossible to do any more.

E: OK, this is *Everybody Hates Rand, Wheel of Time* podcast. You know the drill. I'm Emily Juchau.

S: And I'm Sally Goodger.

E: Here we are. Back, again, with *The Fires of Heaven* [laughs]. Goddamn, they're so fiery. Excuse me, I have to go see if Tybalt is ...

S: He's probably attacking the vacuum, which is charging in my room. Because God forbid Tybalt just left something alone.

E: OK – this is a girls-centric – girls. Centric –

S: Yeah, the Spice Girls.

E: Spice Girls. I'm sure we've done this before –

S: We have.

E: - which one is Sporty Spice, which one is Posh Spice. Well, we know Posh Spice is Elayne. I can't believe I just got a Spice Girl.

S: I know. I'm going to use the fact that I have a headache as my excuse.

E: That's a good excuse. Anyway –

S: It's like my body, every week, is like, *You record EHR on Wednesdays, time for a really bad headache.* I'm like – Why? You could do it any other days of the week.

E: [speaking over] Maybe we could try to throw it off, and record on a different ...

S: Yeah, might be a good idea.

E: See if *EHR*'s really the problem? It follows.

S: *It Follows*: the movie.

E: One time, we were playing a quiz game on that, you know, Jack in the Box thing –

S: [laughing] Jack in the Box!

E: Jack in the – Jackbox? And there was a direction to draw your nightmare, or something, and Devin's was, like, two stick figures and there was, like, a little path showing that one was following the other. And we were like, *What does this mean?* And he's like, *It's the movie It Follows.* And we were like, *Oh, when did you see that movie?* And he's like, *Oh, I haven't.* [laughs] I think the very concept just terrifies him.

S: It follows.

E: Whether he just saw the trailer or something. So funny. Anyway

S: Jackbox games – Jack. Box. Games. Why is that so hard to say? Jackbox games are a very interesting way to learn *a lot* about your friends. [laughing]

E: Oh, yeah, I've definitely learnt a ton about my friends. So, we're picking up on the cliffhanger that we left off last week, with Nynaeve in the World of Dreams. She's just been lectured about exploring the World of Dreams, so her immediate response is to do exactly that. She heads over to the White Tower, cannot get to the Amyrlin's Office, which is her initial target, and instead takes herself to the Mistress of Novices, which is the first time we hear that Nynaeve visited this place a lot as an Accepted, which just sort of emphasizes to me the amount of time the girls spent in the Tower. And we got none of that. We got, like, three scenes from that, maybe. So, they had a whole life there that has just gone unremarked upon. But she heads up to – she changes herself to look like Melaine – heads up to the Amyrlin's Office and is immediately like, *What the fuck?* Because it is not the office she knows, owned by Siuan Sanche. Oh, and on the way up she runs into Elaida, you know, the way people dream themselves in? And Elaida's like, *I'm the Amyrlin Seat!* Going fucking nuts. And Nynaeve's like, *Ugh, god forbid.* Heads up to the office, is like, *Huh, this is an eerie display. This looks like it* – Who do you think was the designer of Elaida's office? You know, like, Property

Brothers versus ... Maybe it was the Property Brothers. We need to keep watching *Trading Spaces*, because –

S: [gasps] Yeah!

E: - I've forgotten most of the designers.

S: Are we about to get into the HGTV section of our quarantine?

E: Ooh.

S: Where we have gone through – We've gone through an anime section, which we're almost – I mean, we're never truly done with our anime section, but we're almost done with our rewatch of *My Hero Academia*, sort of.

E: Yeah, that's right, I guess we just have the rest of the testing thing, and then Bakugo and Midoriya fucking fighting.

S: And then season four, if we choose to rewatch that. Which – I liked season four.

E: I liked season four a lot, but I would apply the "Skip Episode" button liberally. A little bit at the end, there.

S: Yeah, like, goodbye. Anyway, who designed Elaida's study? I mean, it's very –

E: Minimalist?

S: - creepy.

E: Yeah, there's like a vase of red roses perfectly arranged in the corner.

S: It's like ...

E: It's like a serial killer's office.

S: Yeah, it's very funny – not *funny* – but it's just interesting that, like, Nynaeve specifically recalls that Siuan always had a bouquet of wildflowers, multi-coloured –

E: She's like, *Siuan likes a pop of wildflowers*.

S: - yeah.

E: And Elaida's like, *Blood red in the corner*.

S: Yeah, and Siuan's got the multiple colors from multiple Ajahs, and it's also more humble, and natural. Whereas Elaida's is very curated, and only red. And it's like – OK, thank you for once again describing women's personalities via flowers, Robert Jordan.

E: Exactly.

S: It's the only way you know how to do it.

E: His hobby. Then Egg walks in, also in disguise, and Nynaeve's like, *What the fuck?* And Egg is like, *Nynaeve, I wish you would not do this.* And Nynaeve's like, *Oh, hey, it's you. Are you, like, allowed to wander the World of Dreams now?* And Egg immediately – because, as she tells us later when we switch over to her point of view – is so panicked that Nynaeve might find out that she's breaking the rules, and rat her out to the Wise Ones, which Nynaeve – you know, she could be a snitch – so, a reasonable worry. But then Egg immediately goes overboard in being like, *This is so dangerous.* Lecturing Nynaeve, essentially. To emphasize the danger she manifests a nightmare, which very oddly – and yet again indicating how little Robert Jordan understood women – is, like, some creepy men who immediately try to sexually assault Nynaeve. They rip open her dress and are holding her head to kiss her with their creepy monster mouths, when Egg makes them go away. So, it's like: OK. If you are presenting Egg as a heroine, with a sense of morality, she would never do that.

S: Yeah, it's also just not something I think any woman would impose on any of her friends. Even as a "lesson". And, of course, we've got the horrible underline that rape is a "lesson" for your immoral behavior.

E: To teach you to fear. Properly.

S: Yeah, Little Red Riding Hood syndrome, etc. Stay on the path, woman. Especially because Nynaeve has had the most, I think, instances of her body being attacked by men in some way. Like with Ba'alzamon, and her testing – not Ba'alzamon.

E: Oh, Aginor.

S: Yes, thank you. There's too many. Not that she's actually been assaulted.

E: In dream sequences, though, it does seem to happen to her a lot.

S: Yeah, to Nynaeve more so than to any of the other girls.

E: Elayne is constantly under the threat of sexual assault in the later books, because there's one particular dude who's hanging around, like a whole –

S: Gross!

E: - it's, like, a whole big thing, and yeah, it's disgusting. It's just – ugh. I don't even know how to talk about it yet, because I haven't –

S: Yeah, we'll get there.

E: Because I can't, yet. But with Nynaeve, and with – Yeah, you're exactly right, I didn't even think about that, that it is used to enforce a lesson, in particular, that women should be cautious about the things that they get into. And, you know, that's not even getting into the layer that Egg herself is crossing these boundaries, and just doing this to protect herself.

S: Yeah, which feels very out of character for Egg.

E: And, of course, this whole scene, overall, is meant to be comedic.

S: Of course.

E: We have Egwene taking Nynaeve down a peg, and as Nynaeve, I think, puts it, upending the balance of their relationship. Nynaeve is, like, *We've more or less been equals for the last little while. I've no longer quite been the Wisdom, but now Egwene has just somehow turned it so now I'm the one looking up to her and she's the one condescending to me.* And it's like, equal relationships are fine, I don't know why ...

S: Yeah, I was thinking about this when I was reading these two chapters. Because the past two chapters with the girls, particularly in *The Fires of Heaven*, have been – just throughout the entire chapter – about the subtle imbalances of power between Nynaeve and Elayne, and Nynaeve and Egwene, and Nynaeve and the Wise Ones, and Egwene and the Wise Ones, and it's like –

E: Weird, inter-personal drama.

S: Yeah, and I feel like a lot of this is supposed to be setting us up for when Egg becomes the Amyrlin and is raised politically above all of her friends, and she has to cope with that means, so it's like – But that is something that should be explored in her rise to power, not necessarily with her friends, on an everyday basis, because it's just like ... I don't know why Robert Jordan has such an emphasis, or fascination with the way people measure their relationships with others, by way of who is in power at any given moment. It's such an unhealthy way to think of any relationship, romantic, friend, mentor, anything. It's just so toxic, and it makes it really hard to read some of these chapters.

E: But it's particularly in his male/female relationships, or the female/female relationships.

S: Yeah, it's not necessarily in the male relationships.

E: [speaking over] Like, it never happens with the men. You don't ever see Rand or Mat going at it about who is in charge. And there's an implic – Like, what is it, in book seven, when Rand is like, *I have to send Perrin away, but I have to make it look like it's because we're fighting* or something? But it's fake. You just don't see Rand coming to – the nuances that are here, I guess.

S: And it kind of underpins this series – women are always out to do some sort of manipulation. They're always out to be on top, whereas men can be trusted more.

E: Women are power-hungry, whereas men are just so simple that they understand themselves and each other in just the most simple terms of their places in the world. And it's just like, that's a really toxic thing to say about both genders.

S: Whereas it's, like, most struggles for power that I have witnessed in my life come at the hands of men who –

E: Are denying it to me.

S: - are denying it to me, or determined to assert it over other men or, usually, over women. It's not usually women are like, *Wow, I would love to have power over this man.* Most women's desire is just to have –

E: Any power!



S: - any power and agency. So, I don't know – I really dislike this aspect of *The Fires of Heaven*, and the way that it casts the girls' relationships with one another to be not really friendship at all.

E: It feels like they start as a group of friends in, you know, *The Great Hunt*. There's that cutesy moment where Egg is like, *Let's all just be friends*, with Elayne and Min, and they're all like, *Great*. By the time we get to these middle books it doesn't even read like friendship any more. These are women who are comfortable with each other, but now it's beginning to read more like Moiraine and Siuan. It's a relationship built on the sharing of secrets, and the mutual experiences. But it has little to do with enjoying each other's company.

S: Yeah, they never seem to be having a good time with each other.

E: Happy to be with each other.

S: Yeah, which, again – not to just keep harping on my real-life experiences as a woman, most of my friendships have been with women. I was just reflecting the other day: I have close male friends for the first time in my life. It's a very weird experience, And right now, two of my closest friends are people I work with, so there's some, I don't know ...

E: Professional stuff, as well as personal.

S: Professional, yeah, as there is here with these ladies. My friendships with my female friends are the most important in my life, and they bring me so much joy, so for Robert Jordan to be like, *Look at all these friends*, it's like: no!

E: Look at all these catfights.

S: They *hate* each other!

E: These are people who do not like each other.

S: So, stop – Like, it's OK if they don't, but stop trying to play it off as –

E: I mean, it is so rare, to begin with, in *The Wheel of Time*, to see people genuinely enjoying each other's company.

S: That's true.

E: There is usually so much conflict or drama involved. I think it's why we see things like Mat and Birgitte's relationship, where they're just genuinely pleased to be around each other, as so refreshing.

S: Yeah!

E: Of course, it's a break also in gender stereotypes that have been throughout the entire series, but it's also, like: people who like to be around each other? There's a shock!

S: What?

E: Even in the romances, it doesn't seem like they're happy to be around each other.

S: No, Perrin and Faile are cranky all the time.

E: All the time. Rand is – don't get me started on Rand and Aviendha. Rand and Elayne? They're all just at each other's throats, constantly, and not in a sexy way.

S: Not in a sexy way at all.

E: I think it's probably why I was affectionate of – and I think it's changed a lot in the last year and half, since we started this podcast – of Mat and Tuon's relationship, because we do see a lot of them having downtime, and just chatting.

S: Yeah, which sounds delightful.

E: And just being with each other, playing fantasy chess or whatever. It's just, like ...

S: That sounds so nice, as opposed to these people who allegedly love each other.

E: Does anyone in *Wheel of Time* like each other? It seems to be not the case.

S: Unlikely.

E: I mean, given, most of the time I don't like any of them either, because they're written that way. So anyway – Egwene and Nynaeve have this little power struggle, that's pretty boring, and yeah, I agree with you that Robert Jordan probably thought, *Oh, if I'm going to have Egg be as immediately successful as she is as the Amyrlin, then I'm going to have to set that up in a few ways*, and this way obviously not the way to do it.

S: I am totally behind Egwene's really interesting skyrocket to power, and how that affects her interpersonal relationships, but not in this way.

E: Yeah, you need more stuff like when we switch over to Egg's point of view at the end of this chapter, she has a conversation with Moiraine. And she leaves thinking, *Oh, Moiraine and I just had a conversation between equals. Moiraine wasn't condescending, we were just chatting*. And it's like, yeah, I need more stuff like that. Egwene just feeling capable and confident of handling Aes Sedai, who seemed so scary and powerful, seemed when she was a farmgirl, but now she's a little more world-wise and understands they're just people, with desires and ambitions and weaknesses, etc., etc. But Nynaeve and Egwene search the office, it doesn't take Egwene long to be like, *Oh, my god, Elaida really is the Amyrlin Seat*, and for them both to be like *Ee, ee, ee!*

S: Yeah, horror.

E: Just the slow zoom of horror. Meanwhile, Nynaeve, just at the point of this revelation, had picked up a piece of paper which said, *Oh, there's a gathering of the Blue Ajah at X place*, and Nynaeve is like, *I cannot remember*, which is a kinda funny, because it's realistic, that there's a plot point you have access to that you immediately forget? And so I kinda think that's funny, but I also do think that's a strange way to delay Nynaeve and Elayne with the circus as long as he does. Like, he could have skipped the entire circus affair by just having Nynaeve be like: Salidar.

S: Yeah, they could have – in their convoluted way – used the circus for three chapters, to get out wherever the fuck they are, and then just have gone to Salidar. Not spent the whole book in the circus.

E: They're all like, *Great, we have some intel*. Egwene's like, *I'm gonna go back now, make sure you never speak of this to the Wise Ones*. Nynaeve's like, *That's not suspicious at all*. Leaves. Egwene wakes up, and, as I said, basically goes and looks in Rand's tent.

S: Yeah, like a creeper.

E: Like a creeper, and he's just chatting with –

Both: Asmo-deen.

E: Asmodean's, like, strumming his instrument and being emo as hell. And Rand's reading a book.

S: What nerds.

E: Avi's like, *Look at this. It's so funny*. And Egg's like, *OK*.

S: *That's about as expected*.

E: She's like, *Aviendha, why are you just sitting outside?* And Aviendha's like, *They can't have their man talk* [Sally laughing] *if I'm in there*. As though anyone would want to have a “man-talk” with Asmo-deen. Look at him.

S: Yeah. Just bros being bros.

E: Fucking Mozart. And then Egwene goes and chats with Moiraine, she's like, *Uh, bad news – Elaida is the Amyrlin Seat*. And Moiraine's like, *Well, that stinks. Definite –*

S: Definite L. Nothing to lecture.

E: *That's one for the “L” column, guys, but, uh, I will be dead in, like, three weeks, so I'm not too worried about it, y'know?*

S: Big shrug.

E: *That sounds like a “you” problem, Egg*. And Egwene's like, *You're not even, like, concerned about Siuan?* And Moiraine's like, *Siuan and I have just been doing this for so long, we've always known it was probably gonna end badly*. Again, sort of the idea that they're not technically friends the way they were, they're just sort of comrades. Fighting this weird war. And Egwene's like – predicting the future – *Well, this means Elaida could capture Rand, take him captive*. And Moiraine's like – also predicting the future – *Well, it is really hard for a group of women to hold onto a shield for a man, so presumably even if they do catch him, Rand can break out*. It's like: Aaaah.

S: Wow, that's the plot of book six.

E: Hello, welcome to book six. [Sally laughing] *Lord of Chaos*. Indeed.

S: Yeah, what a weird fucking book that one is.

E: So bizarre. And Moiraine's like, *Have you been Dreaming?* And Egg's like, *Yeah, but I don't get any of it. It's a bunch of weird shit, like Perrin making out with Faile, and a Tinker with a sword right next to him, but every time the Tinker gets closer to Perrin there's like [gasps] a dramatic –*

S: Yeah, like the *Psycho* knife noise.

E: There's like the "Du-DAH" from *Law & Order*. [Sally laughing] Executive Producer Dick Wolf.

S: Yeah, it's all just like Egg – it's very funny, because it's stuff like Mat's eye is bleeding, while he's dicing –

E: [speaking over] Yeah, the very creepy image of Mat with his hat brim pulled so low you can't see why he's bleeding, but blood coming down his face? That's, like, an iconic image.

S: And then – so, it's, like, stuff like that, and then it's just like Perrin and Faile making out.

E: Because it's all-important that Perrin and Faile are making out. [whispering] I'm like, why?

S: It's not.

E: It's not!

S: Good for them, but it's not.

E: It's gross.

S: It's not as important as Mat saving Moiraine from the Tower of Ghenjei.

E: Yeah, Thom reaching into a fire to pull out Moiraine's little gem, which – I think Thom literally does reach into a fire to pull out Moiraine.

S: That's his wife, though.

E: That's his wife, though. What if they were just, like, professionals who respected each other?

S: [speaking over] What if they were just, like, lads?

E: What if he was like, *This is my colleague, and I will put my hands in the fire for her*. I'd be like, huh, a ground-breaking relationship. I appreciate it. That's my head-canon, anyway.

S: Yeah, they are not romantically involved.

E: But Egwene leaves, is like, *Thanks for the late-night chat, Moiraine*, goes back to her tent. Meanwhile, Nynaeve and Elayne wake up, go down to breakfast, are eating breakfast, and then [both laughing] who should fucking appear, but the man, the myth, the legend – Galad Damodred. Just, like, slides into the booth next to them, and is like, *Wait!*

S: *I knew that was you!*

E: *I knew that was you.*

S: *Your bad dye-job can't fool me.* [laughing]

E: Finally, we've reached actual comedic genius. There's a line that's like, *Galad smiled*, and Nynaeve has to physically force herself to start breathing again. [both laughing]

S: It's very funny.

E: Galad's hotness, as a point of comedy, is so fucking good.

S: I know. Especially from Nynaeve's point of view, because she's so aware of it?

E: And so pissed about it.

S: She's like, *I know what's happening to me, and I'm so mad*.

E: She's like, *Galad*. Elayne's like, *What are you wearing?* Nynaeve's like, *He's wearing clothes?!* [Sally laughing] *I forgot to even look at that part*.

S: *His face ...*

E: *I was still on the face section*.

S: *I hadn't even gotten to the full-body scan yet*.

E: She's just [gulping sound]. But Galad's like, *What are you doing here? What's going on? Oh, FYI, the Tower's split*. And Egg's [sic] like, *What are you doing as a terrorist? As a religious terrorist?* And Galad's like, *Oh, it just seemed like a good idea at the time, you know. Whitecloak*.

S: Making bad fucking choices.

E: *Just, yeah, that's what I'm doing. You should see what Gawyn's doing*. [Sally laughing] *Equally terrible choices, I should say*. And Elayne's like, *Great. This is so reassuring*. But he's like, *I'm sure my commander will give me leave to escort you home*. Which, one wonders how this book would have gone if Elayne had been like, *Yeah, let's skip the whole Salidar and Ebou Dar adventure and go become Queen*. Like she will eventually anyway.

S: Which she has to do, so ...

E: Yeah, and Elayne's like, *No. We're, like, doing shit*. And Galad's like, *Well, you really shouldn't be here doing shit, because I don't know if you noticed, but this is Whitecloak territory. And you are a lady who can channel good*. And she's like, *Eek*. I don't really remember the content of their conversation. I was too – I was laughing too hard about how Nynaeve is like, *He's so fucking hot*.

S: *He's so HOT!* [growls]

E: But, eventually, Galad's mate – comrade –

S: Trom.

E: - named Trom: legend. Who, you've gotta be a fucking good sport to be friends with Galad, right? It was, like, the only tally in Gawyn's favor, in the early series, that he could stand to be around someone who looks as good as Galad.

S: And is as good at everything as Galad is, and is just nice.

E: Trom's like, *I literally cannot get any girls when you are around. Because they're just, like, "just look at Galad."* But he still hangs out with him.

S: I know. I wish Trom joined our party.

E: Trom, literally, where I am in *A Memory of Light*, just perished –

S: Aw.

E: - and I was like – who the fuck is this guy? Because he just comes up randomly in Galad's point of view. Now I do feel kinda bad about Trom dying.

S: Yeah, as soon as you were like, *Trom, in where I'm at ...* And I was like – he's still around? And then I'm like – of course he's still around, it's Robert Jordan.

E: He's still around. Yeah, and I just don't know who this guy is. Can't be bothered.

S: [speaking over] Eleven books later. Trom?

E: Trom? Huh. Anyway, now I do regret his death. But Trom comes over and is like, *Hey, we gotta go*. Galad's like, *Please, Elayne*, and she's like, *I gotta go think about it*. So, she and Nynaeve pile up upstairs, get Thom and Juilin, and Elayne is like, *We have to go. Immediately. We have to sneak out*. And Nynaeve is like, *Why?* Elayne's like, *Because right now – she's so dramatic about it – she's like, Right now, Galad is struggling to decide which is more right – helping me, his sister, who he loves despite how much I hate him, or turning me, his sister, who he loves, in to the local terrorist group who will probably execute me horribly*. And she's like, *He's definitely debating between those two things*. And anyone with a working brain is like –

S: No, he's not.

E: No, he's not, you asshole! Like, I think they run into Galad later, and he literally is like, *Just get on this boat and get out of here. Of course I'm not going to turn you in!* She's like, *Galad always does the right thing*. He's like, *Yeah, turning my sister in to be MURDERED is not the right thing!* [both laughing]

S: I mean, maybe.

E: Yeah, it is Elayne.

S: And she's, like, judging him like that. She's so rude to him, all the time.

E: I know! And it is so baffling. We've spoken about this before.

S: At length.

E: It is just mind-boggling how much Elayne is like, *I do not trust Galad*.

S: And when Nynaeve's like, *He's your brother*, she's like, *He is NOT. MY BROTHER*.

E: *He is not my brother! We have the same father, but he is not my brother.* And Nynaeve's like, *That is the definition* [Sally laughing].

S: She's like, *Legal, moral.*

E: Elayne's like, *Emotionally, he's not my brother.* And Nynaeve's like, *Emotionally, you're his sister, which is what matters in this moment.*

S: So, anyway, they conduct – concoct this convoluted plan to sneak out the back entrance.

E: Oh, by the way, as this all is going on – another hilarious moment [laughing] – Elayne sort of blurts out in front of Thom that she remembers Thom was the court-bard. Which, apparently, she's been pretending to forget this whole time. Which I sort of got muddled –

S: Yeah, which makes it somehow *more* disgusting, everything that's happening?

E: - yeah, it's somehow worse. And they have their whole “gazing into each other's eyes, oh my God, you remember” thing. And Elayne tugs his mustaches, and is like, *I remembered*, and then Nynaeve is like, *Can you all snap out of it?* And yanks on Thom's mustache! She's like, *Can you please focus on the task at hand?* Thom's like, *Could you not?*

S: And she's like, *No, I must.*

E: *I must! You can continue to act – behave like this around a woman one third of your age.* [both gag] But anyway, yeah, they concoct this horrific plan.

S: Yeah, to sneak out the back entrance, and go join [laughing] –

E: Go join the circus.

S: - Valan Luca himself, in order to get away from Galad.

E: Who's a *huge* threat!

S: Yeah, obviously.

E: It's a huge fucking threat.

S: And this whole time Galad's standing across the street with Trom, and Elayne's like, *He's watching us*, and I'm like – he's probably on patrol, bitch?

E: Or he's worried about you doing this exact thing.

S: Yeah, you doing this exact stupid shit.

E: Oh, my God, also, on the subject of Thom and Elayne, which I know is a terrible subject – Nynaeve has this whole thing where she's like, *Oh, it's the Electra complex.* And is like, *It happened several times in the Two Rivers.* And I'm like – did it?

S: Nynaeve, you gotta – it's your job to smash that shit.

E: It's not a thing, also! Freud was full of shit.

S: When she's like, *I've seen a lot of girls who just start flirting with their fathers*, and I'm like – you've seen what?

E: You've seen what, now? Can we rewind?

S: Beg pardon?

E: Or, like, pursuing the guy that their mother is pursuing, and it's like – if you have seen this frequently, I will chew off my own arm, because that is not a thing. If it happens, it happens once, in total. In a lifetime, that you see.

S: And it's with Elayne and Thom.

E: And it's with Elayne and Thom, and you're like, *What the fuck is happening?* You're not, *Oh, yes, I do get it – girls just be like that with their – you know, coming into their sexuality.*

S: Yeah, she's like, *It happens when a girl becomes a woman and she feels she need to compete with her mother.*

E: Never felt like that.

S: And I'm like – Robert Jordan had the Freud book open next to him as he composed that line.

E: He was like, *Ah, yes – a brilliant man.*

S: Sigmund.

E: *Psychologically respected in the appropriate fields.* [Sally laughing] And every therapist ever was like –

S: *Noooo.*

E: - *Actually ... he's been debunked! Like, ninety-eight times!* God. OK, anyway, so they're like, *We're gonna go join the circus.*

S: It's literally so buck-wild.

E: I know! Like, the zero – I don't think I ever really processed before how zero-to-sixty this is? Zero to one hundred – I mean, you see Galad, *Ah, there's a good hot boy, guess we have to join the circus.*

S: It's like, *what?*

E: *You do, now? Why?*

S: Even better is that Thom and Juilin are like, *Yeah, OK.*

E: *Yeah, sure, this seems like a totally normal thing to do with this particular –*



S: Elayne's like, *Thom, you remember what a monster Galad was as a child.*

E: Oh, yeah.

S: And Thom doesn't say anything in response to that, because he's too busy staring at Elayne in nostalgic fondness.

E: Yeah, wouldn't it have been hilarious if he didn't really process it, just like, *Galad was not a monster as a child, Galad was a totally normal boy. It is you who exhibited the behaviors of a sociopath.*

S: Yeah, who was like, *I hate my brother!* Who is just trying to be a good person, albeit a misguided good person.

E: Again – not excusing the terrorist group thing, but also? Galad is not the guy who is gonna turn in a family member to the terrorist group.

S: Yeah, I don't think I fully ... The Nynaeve and Elayne and Galad and Whitecloak and Masema plot in book five becomes so convoluted that I think I just forgot how crazy the impetus was?

E: Yeah, that it's this. So often, this is like – Robert Jordan sets up so many weird things in *Wheel of Time* that you think eventually are going to come to fruition. Like this whole “Galad will always do good, even if it's wrong” ... “will always do right even if it's not good”, or something like that. Which, you are setting up a scenario in which you are telegraphing this thing where Galad is eventually going to do exactly that. And sort of the pay-off, I guess, is here, later in this book, where he's like, *I will get my sister out of this warring country, although that means technically starting a war myself. Or contributing to the start of a war.* But it's, like, that is so convoluted that it just doesn't come across, so the whole series you are waiting for the other shoe to drop. It's like Min thinking Logain is destined for greatness, or whatever. The entire time, you're like – so, where is it? When's it gonna happen?

S: Show me the receipts, Robert.

E: [chanting] Show me the receipts. It's bad writing, I guess, is what I'm saying.

S: Yeah, because the whole thing with Galad and quote-unquote “doing the right thing, no matter who it hurts” or whatever Elayne always says. If it's supposed to pay off at the end of this book, Galad is just making a choice that is shitty, based on the political context of where he's standing. Not shitty in that he made the shitty choice, but shitty in that there's no good choice.

E: Shitty in that he's not operating in a vacuum. He's also operating alongside Masema, a morally corrupt person. And just, like, a whole terrible scenario, where whatever choice he makes is going to end up horrible.

S: Yeah, there's this poem that I can't remember the title of, but I read it in my Holocaust poetry class, where the whole poem is basically – it'd be like, *They stayed in place and they got murdered, and they moved and they got murdered.* It's just opposite scenarios basically being like, *When things are this monstrous around you, there's not a right choice. No matter what you do, you can't necessarily make the, quote-unquote, right choice.*

E: Yeah, it is so weird and irresponsible to pin the war that is about to start in Amadicia on Galad being, like, *Gotta get my sister out*.

S: Yeah, this war has been brewing.

E: For ever.

S: And it's just, like, World War One.

E: You know? Just because Franz Ferdinand –

S: Just because the Archduke Franz Ferdinand – Archduke of Ferdinand! Just because Franz Ferdinand got assassinated, that was just the shoe finally dropping, you know? It wasn't like everyone just loved Franz Ferdinand so much.

E: No one gave a fuck about Franz Ferdinand. If Franz Ferdinand hadn't died, it would have been something else. Which I mean, don't shoot people.

S: We're not condoning the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

E: You know, I'm thinking about it, and it was fine. [both laughing] Really come around on the whole murder thing. Oh, man.

S: This episode has gotten too [inaudible through laughter]

E: I know.

S: Because the Galad plot in book five doesn't make any sense!

E: I know, it makes me wanna start screaming whenever I think about it because it's so buck-wild.

S: Galad's just like, *I would like to help my sister and her pretty friend, Nynaeve. Also, where's Egg?*

E: *And also, where is Egg?* And they're like, *Don't worry about it*, and he's like, *I am worried about it!*

S: *She's just vanished!*

E: *She was with you! Sort of leads me to believe she's dead somewhere.* Well, she's in the Aiel Waste. *Oh, OK, seems –*

S: *That makes sense.*

E: *Sure. Why not?*

S: Anyway, these chapters, man.

E: These chapters. Next time, we are reading three chapters –

S: Barf.

E: - I grouped the girls getting into the circus with a terrible Liandrin chapter and then a really awful Morgase chapter, to give us some light in the darkness. So, hopefully we'll get through all of that in a reasonable amount of time, but that's what's on the horizon. Then after that, we'll get back to the boys.

S: I wanna get back to Mat, but I don't wanna get back to the other boys.

E: Yeah. It's relatable. Sort of the constant mood. I don't believe we have any housekeeping, just the usual. You want some extra content? Check it out on Patreon. Or on my Twitch channel, which is free to all people, if you have any interest at all in watching me do the world's slowest *Wind Waker* walk-through. But, uh, that's that!

S: That is that, indeed.

E: Do you have a sign-off?

S: So, this comes from Sarah, who says [laughing] – sorry, I just got a text from Devin. Sarah says, *Hi Emily and Sally – I am an avid listener based in Sweden. I once tweeted you the ridiculous Swedish Wheel of Time covers, so you could –*

E: Oh, yes!

S: - *embrace the international failure of all Wheel of Time cover art*. If you guys haven't seen those, they're hilarious. They're so funny. Maybe I'll tweet them again after this episode, because they are so funny. Sarah writes, *About an hour ago, I had such an epic life-fail that I just had to share it with the world. I was in a video-conference call for an online class with the professor and one other student, neither of whom I'd met before, the topic being statistics and using the programming language R, which I'm trash at –* I don't even know what that is, Sarah, so ...

E: Yeah, Jesus.

S: *I was putting in a real effort to seem like I understood exactly what was going on. Thinking I'd take some notes, I tried to take off the lid of my pen – a basic human skill that even children have mastered. [both laughing] Somehow I managed to flick the pen as I was taking off the lid, throwing it like a throwing knife. It spun in the air and hit me right between the eyebrows, point first. Having exclaimed, "Ouch!" in pain, I knew there was no pretending it hadn't happened, so addressed it by laughing and apologizing. Luckily, this broke the ice and led to jokes of, "No need to hit yourself, it's not that hard." The poor quality of my laptop camera meant I couldn't surreptitiously check if there was a ridiculous line of ink on my forehead, but I took comfort in the fact that if I couldn't see it, neither could they. After the call was over I'd forgotten this slightly embarrassing incident until I went to the bathroom. A small bead of dried blood on my forehead with a smear of ink leading to it brought it back to my mind. The pin-point actually left a small, perfectly round puncture in my forehead. Only time will tell if I now have a tiny dot-face tattoo. [laughing]*

E: What a perfect story, Sarah. Beautiful prose.

S: Very well-written.

E: It had ups, it had downs.

S: The perfectly constructed sentence, *Thinking I'd take some notes, I tried to take off the lid of my pen – a basic human skill that even children have mastered.*

E: Incredible. So many of our sign-offs are video-conference call-related these days. Surprise!

S: That's the world!

E: Alright, everyone, have a good week. Don't do war crimes. Goodbye!

S: Byeee!

ENDS