



Episode 127: Fantasy Jesus Has a Death Wish

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Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books. So if you're anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

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

(theme song by Glynn MacKenzie plays)

Emily: I mean, I've had a song from the Beetlejuice soundtrack stuck in my head for, like, a week, and I've never even listened to the Beetlejuice soundtrack fully --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Just this one song.

Sally: What song is it?

Emily: It's called "No Reason."

Tybalt: (meows)

Emily: It's nice. I'd sing it for you, but I'm not in the glee club, so. (laugh)

Sally: Barf.

Emily: Every day I thank God that "Glee" isn't still on.

Sally: Oh my God, literally, will the children ever know how --

Emily: Heinous it was.

Sally: Heinous it is when you have to sit there and listen to Mr. Schuester sing --

Emily: Oh, Mr. Shoe.

Sally: To his room full of socially awkward teens.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: He was such a cringey character.

Emily: Like, I'm so glad "Glee" ended before "Hamilton" came out --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Before "The Greatest Showman" came out.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I mean, "The Greatest Showman" was basically the movie version of "Glee" already --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: From what I can tell --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Based on who liked it. (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, thankful that they ended before Cardi B's rise to stardom. Just a variety of musical things happening.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That I'm glad that "Glee" couldn't touch with its grimy pubescent fingers. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I thought you were about to do the “live long and prosper” thing.

Sally: Should I tape my fingers like that?

Emily: I have to tape my fingers like this to do --

Sally: I know. It’s so weird to me that you’ve got that very springy finger.

Emily: We’ll have to do it on a livestream some time, just display the weird parts of my body.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: My fingers and my hips. Those are them.

Sally: Emily’s hips do not bend.

Emily: Emily’s hips, um, lack a certain flexibility that most human hips have. (laugh)

Sally: It’s OK. You can show off your hips, and I can crack my neck 77 times.

Emily: It is incredible how you do that.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And it’s so loud every time.

Sally: That was only one.

Emily: I don’t know if the mic can pick that up ...

Sally: I think I just have bad bones. (laugh)

Emily: (sing-song) Baaad bones ---

(censor beep)

Sally: Please don’t sing Taylor Swift on our podcast.

Emily: What’s the -- I’ve just forgotten what the real --

Sally: Bad blood.

Emily: Oh, Bad Blood. (laugh) I was like, “What was it originally? Oh, God.” You’re right. We can’t sing Taylor Swift on the podcast ‘cause not only are we not in the glee club -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But she would sue us to death.

Sally: Delete it!

Emily: Ahh! I'll bleep it out.

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: Um.

Sally: You'll never know what we were singing.

Emily: (laugh) Oh, Taylor.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: You abhorrent white feminist.

Sally: I know, literally everyone keeps trying to tell me that her new album is, like, "new queer canon," and I'm like --

Emily: Shut up.

Sally: Listen to an actual lesbian. Jesus Christ.

Emily: Yeah, oh my God.

Sally: They exist. (laugh) Believe it or not.

Emily: Ahhhh! OK, anyway. This is Everybody Hates Rand. Um ... we're a friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. (laugh) I can't cut myself off in the middle of the intro, like I'm doing currently, because I will forget.

Sally: (laugh) Why don't you start over?

Emily: No.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I refuse. I'm Emily. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, that's Emily Juchau. I'm Sally Goodger. We are at our table -- we're recording a little bit later than usual; is that why we're thrown off?

Emily: Maybe that's why. I don't know.

Sally: Sorry, I had to go dog-sit.

Emily: As referenced in last week's, uh, closing statements -- what is it? It's a sign-off. Jesus Christ.

Sally: Closing statements. My closing arguments.

Emily: Closing arguments to the court.

Sally: I feel like -- are the sign-offs even fun anymore? Should we just stick with "Be slutty, and don't do a war crime"?

Emily: I'd feel really weird if we just transitioned from talk -- fully talking about Wheel of Time to "Be slutty, don't do war crimes, end of episode," in the space of, like, 30 seconds, 'cause otherwise that's what we'd be doing.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I dunno, though. I guess other podcasts do it.

Sally: Yeah. Just, if they're not entertaining, weigh in, people on the internet. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I'm so sick of myself right now.

Sally: I could try summarizing the battle.

Emily: The battle --

Sally: That would go horribly; I have no idea what anything is.

Emily: Well, I mean --

Sally: Except for the -- the lightning.

Emily: The lightning.

Sally: They are the titular fires of heaven, in case anyone was wondering.

Emily: I mean, it's a classic Robert Jordan large-scale battle sequence in that, unless you, like Robert Jordan, have actively been in the Vietnam War --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: It probably doesn't make a lot of sense to you, just logistically.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, I mean, in a way, I find that there -- there's a certain verisimilitude to that. I think being in an actual battle would be deeply chaotic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Especially for, uh, our two points of view characters: um, Rand, who initially is watching the battle but is very confused by -- is sort of, like, focused on other things --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then eventually he sort of goes down this path of, uhhhh, I dunno what happens to him -- sort of a -- he has a mental breakdown, essentially.

Sally: Yes. He's using too much magic battery acid.

Emily: A physical slash mental breakdown, which, as we teach second graders in my, uh, publication that I work for, all of your various, um, aspects are connected, so if your physical well-being is suffering, so is your mental and emotional well-being. So it's sad that Robert -- that Rand never went to second grade, is what I'm saying. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Kindergarten dropout, baby.

Emily: Hhhooo. (laugh) If we're going with "Mat is illiterate, TM," then --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I would find it pretty easy to believe that Rand and Perrin are also second grade dropouts.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Those boys never learned how to write cursive; are you kidding me?

Sally: Do they even teach kids cursive anymore?

Emily: I don't think so. I think we -- did you learn cursive?

Sally: Mm-hmm. I learned cursive.

Emily: I think, yeah, our few -- the years between us was, like, the drop-off point.

Sally: That's so weird.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Like, I don't use cursive a ton, but I'm glad that I know it.

Emily: I don't use cursive.

Sally: I -- like, that's how I do my signature and stuff. It's in cursive.

Emily: Oh. Yeah, I know how to write my sign -- well, I dunno. I just sort of do a big "E" and then a squiggle.

Sally: Yeah, Emily's got the doctor mentality.

Emily: I just -- (laugh)

Sally: Have you ever seen my dad's signature?

Emily: It's -- yeah.

Sally: It is so funny.

Emily: You've told me. It's just, like, a line.

Sally: Yeah, but it's also so small. It's, like, miniscule. He'll do, like --

Emily: It's like a dash.

Sally: A little "W," like the smallest "W" you've ever seen --

Emily: Right.

Sally: And then a line, and then the smallest "G" possible for man to make, and then a line, and I'll be like, did an ant do this?

Emily: It's a signature for ants. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) OK, anyway.

Emily: Well, I feel like my signature -- I have -- I -- I intend to put the letters in there, so there's, like, the spirit of the letters if not the -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron.

Emily: Shh. Remember how that's Matt Damon?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I think about that all the time.

Sally: Because my friend Julie, every time we say that fact, it's like the first time she's heard it.

Emily: Every time?

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) It's always the same conversation. I'll be -- we'll talk about the song from Chicken Little and the fact that that's the Barenaked Ladies, and then someone will bring up the fact that that's Zach Braff in Chicken Little --

Emily: Oh, right.

Sally: And then someone will have to bring up, well, you know it's Matt Damon in Stallion of the Cimarron, and each of these three subsequent facts blow Julie's mind, and this has happened, like, no fewer than five or six times.

Emily: I like that she immediately puts a mental block on them --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Because they're too traumatic to --

Sally: It's very funny.

Emily: To process. Oh, that is good.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, anyway, I was saying something about how the battle is confusing to Rand. It's also confusing to Mat because of course he's not in charge of the whole thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He has a very comparatively small group of men. And he, um, is just trying -- like, he has a goal, which, once he's got them, he's trying to get them out of the battle --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And the battle is just moving with him.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So he's sort of always in the middle of it. Um, in terms of warfare, this is also not your typical pitched battle in that it's mostly between the Aiel, who we haven't really seen, um, fight each other much.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Um, and also, generally, we're not seeing the Aiel fighting each other here. Still, we're seeing Rand with Egwene and Aviendha engage in magical warfare while Mat is on the ground with our more typical fantasy set-up of infantry and cavalry --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: While fighting Aiel. And also, neither of them is really in any, uh, actual, um, battle scenarios. They usually cut off before any actual violence begins --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: If that makes sense.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I don't know, really, what is the point of that, but that -- that whole formula is pretty typical of Robert Jordan.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Especially as you get into, like -- I don't know. There's a really extended battle sequence between Rand's forces and the Seanchan in book eight, I think, that you're about to get into --

Sally: No.

Emily: Not really extended. It's, like, a chapter or two.

Sally: I don't want to read about that. (laugh)

Emily: Sadly, it's there. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) OK. Fine, I guess.

Emily: Uh, and when we see Mat engaging in guerilla warfare, also with the Seanchan, in the later books, it usually cuts off before we get too deep into it. Or, because we're with Mat, we're far back from the --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Center of the violence. (sigh) I don't know why that is.

Sally: Yeah, I think it's interesting. 'Cause there are, like, other instances where Robert Jordan obviously doesn't, like, shy away from violence. Like, book two is very graphic --

Emily: Mm.

Sally: On, like, an interpersonal level. And, um -- but I also think it, like ... I don't even know how -- what I'm trying to say here, but, like, I -- I enjoy it, personally, a lot more --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: To get it from, like, the tactical level, which is kind of what happens when you're bouncing from, like, Mat's point of view to Rand's point of view and, like, getting pieces of the battle. And I think that, for Robert Jordan as a military veteran, it is probably, like -- like, all warfare is bad.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: But, like, the parts of warfare that are interesting are the, like, tactics. It's probably not as interesting or as enjoyable to write about men on the ground dying as it is to write about the tactics and, like, what's happening on a macro level.

Emily: Yeah, the, like, brutal reality in warfare and, if you're a military veteran, then there's really no way to get around this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is that if you're actually in the middle of a battle, it is -- you can describe it in, like, three words: it's hot, it's bloody, it stinks, and it's probably, on some level, kind of boring.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, your adrenaline is so high and it plateaus so high that it just sort of fades out, numbs out.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I think it's also, uh, sort of a character thing. I'm thinking that we do, um, get sort of into the battle when we're with Perrin.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But Perrin engages a lot more with, like, themes of violence and personal --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Like, violence and how he engages in violence and, you know, his whole berserker thing. Whereas, like you said, Mat just really has a tactical mind, and Rand's form of battle is almost always magic.

Sally: Well, yeah. Especially in this instance, Rand is literally elevated above the battlefield --

Emily: Yes.

Sally: And able to, like, see all of the pieces playing out in front of him. Um, and Mat has the opposite effect where he can only see, like, a very small part of the battle, so -- yeah. Just -- this particular battle I find to be very interesting.

Emily: Yeah. I think it's really, um -- I think it's well-written in that it's -- we might not technically have a clear understanding of what's going on, but we don't need a clear understanding --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of what's going on. Over-explaining warfare is, like, a huge mistake that a lot of authors make in fantasy, because it's incredibly boring.

Sally: Yeah. I don't really need to know -- Mat's like, "Excuse me, Talmanes, can your soldiers do this battle configuration or whatever?" and Talmanes says, "Yes," and I'm like, great, competent war boys.

Emily: Yeah, like -- to just have --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: To just lay out the entire battle, first of all, would take pages upon pages upon pages, and this is, you know, the pitfall that the Last Battle chapter in *A Memory of Light* falls into. But also, it's -- like, it's not furthering character development, and it's not furthering the plot --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is technically what you always have to be doing as a writer.

Sally: Mm-hmm. And also, Mat, in the last chapter, pretty much laid out all of the --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: What's, like, happening play by play in the battle when he's like, "This is what I would do, and this is how it would function." So it's like, we already got that in an interesting way because it does further character development and plot.

Emily: Yeah, we got the macro stuff.

Sally: Yeah. So we don't need it. We don't need them to be like, "And then Rhuarc and his men moved here and did this formation and so many men died."

Emily: Yeah, like, who gives a fuck? (laugh)

Sally: "Everyone was shitting themselves."

Emily: One time my family --

Sally: (laugh) Can't wait to see where this goes.

Emily: (laugh) My family, several times in my childhood, went on, like, these East Coast trips.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And one was like, we landed in, um, New -- in Washington, D.C., I think, and we just, like, did a circuit of, like, stuff around Virginia, and then we left from Pennsylvania.

Sally: Classic.

Emily: Or something like that. 'Cause my mom's from Philadelphia, so I remember we stopped in Philadelphia. But we went to Gettysburg, and for some reason, my parents were like, "Here's what we'll do: we'll hire a tour guide." And what they do is you hire some guy, and he literally gets in your car and, like, directs you around the battlefield and monologues at you about, like, what went down at which parts of the battle.

Sally: (whisper) That sounds awful.

Emily: I can't even remember how old I was, but it was so -- it was so terrible. (laugh) Poor --

Sally: That just feels ...

Emily: I thought Adam was going to ritual suicide --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Because he was, like, seven at that point, I think. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. So he's like, "This is the worst day of my short life."

Emily: Yeah. We were all so miserable. And, you know --

Sally: Was Chris just, like, rapt? (laugh)

Emily: Oh, yeah, I'm sure Chris was intensely interested. (laugh)

Sally: That's something my dad would do.

Emily: But he was just this awkward old man, and we were all just like, "what is happening?"

Sally: It's so much worse that he's an old man. For some reason I was thinking, like, some college student --

Emily: Yeah, you'd hope. No, he was, like, in his sixties.

Sally: But of course, who else is obsessed with the Civil War but old white dudes?

Emily: He just was like, "And this is where this happened." The only thing that I actually remember from that tour is that we passed by, like, a herd of cows. And he was like, "Those are the beefalos." And we were like, "The what?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And he was like, "It's like a buffalo-cow mix."

Sally: Cool.

Emily: Beefalo.

Sally: They sound rad.

Emily: And we were like, “What?!”

Sally: “Get out. I wanna see the beefalos.” What else of interest happens in this chapter?

Emily: Um --

Sally: Mat is trying to run away. But lo and behold, he’s caught by the spiderweb of --

Emily: Fate.

Sally: Pitched warfare.

Emily: I mean, um, we are following the two boys, and it alternates between them, and we essentially get from sunrise to a couple hours after sundown, so the whole day. Uh, Rand gets three points of view; Mat gets two. Uh, Rand’s starts with him waking up, uh, talking to Lan, who’s like --

Sally: “Don’t go fight Couladin.”

Emily: Yeah. Lan’s like, “Why are you carrying a sword?” and Rand, essentially, is like, “In case I run into Couladin. And because I don’t want to defeat him with my magic powers that I have.” And Lan’s like, “OK, but have you considered this: Couladin has, like, 20 years of training on you or whatever? Fifteen? Uh, the Aiel are very good at their jobs. Just because you accidentally killed someone one time with your master sword doesn’t mean you’re ready to take him on.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And also, it is so fucking stupid, as the Jesus of this fantasy world, to put yourself in harm’s way like that.

Sally: Yeah. And even Lan is like, “What the fuck are you doing?”

Emily: Yeah. Lan’s like, “You’ve gotta be kidding me.” You know?

Sally: Yeah, this is one conversation where I’m like, “Lan: a good mentor figure.”

Emily: Yeah, Lan’s like, “What?”

Sally: “Why would you do that? Like, you need to stay as far away from him as possible.”

Emily: And Rand’s just like, “Well, I dunno, what’ll happen will happen.” This is when we also find out that Rand’s whole plan for the day was to just sort of wander around.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: It's shocking.

Sally: He's a dumb fuck.

Emily: Like, he walks out, and all the Maidens are around the tent, and they're like, "We're here to escort you to the tower with Egwene and Aviendha," and my initial thought, reading, this was just like, yeah. Because that's obviously where he should be, using his intense magical powers --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To fight with Egwene, who he asked to do the exact same thing. And he's like, "Oh," like it's never occurred to him.

Sally: That he wouldn't just literally be wandering around on foot, being like, "You good?"

Emily: Yeah, Rhuarc's like, "You're actually making this whole thing worse. 'Cause you're on a horse --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Makes you a pretty fucking easy target."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, ugh.

Sally: We literally see, later, the Aiel just, like, hamstringing all of the horses and --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Men falling and dying horribly.

Emily: And Mat's just like, "Euuggh."

Sally: Mat's like "OK."

Emily: "This is awful."

Sally: Like, "This is a mistake."

Emily: "This whole thing was a mistake." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um --

Sally: So Rand is literally the dumbest baby.

Emily: Yeah, he's so fucking stupid. Um, and the Maidens are like, "No, you're going to the fucking watchtower whether you want to or not," and he's like, "Nyeeehh." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. He's gotta be a pissbaby about it.

Emily: Man tantrum.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mantrum. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Mantrum with Lantrum.

Emily: (laugh) And, I mean, obviously, this is, like, a version we're seeing -- the, uh, subplot with the Maidens start to crescendo.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In which we also find out that Rand had consigned them to guarding the tower with Egwene and Aviendha, and they were like, "You assigned us to be your bodyguards and you're telling us to not guard your body for the day?" So that's --

Sally: Mm-hmm. This very dangerous day.

Emily: On this day when we're literally in the middle of a battle.

Sally: Sidebar: The fact -- like, the first of these chapters is called, like, "This Place and This Day."

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: And they literally -- like, Robert Jordan, like --

Emily: I know, just sprinkles that phrase in.

Sally: Shoved that in the text as much as he can. And I'm like --

Emily: He's just like, "Ooh. Ooh. Love it."

Sally: I'm like, "What are -- are you referencing some dumb, like, Homer shit? What is happening?"

Emily: No. It was just -- he -- it was like, he liked the phrase --

Sally: Yeah

Emily: And was like, "Hmm."

Sally: I'm just gonna -- "I will pepper in the fact that I am gay." (laugh)

Emily: "I will pepper in the fact that I have been in the military." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Anyway.

Emily: Um.

Sally: Yeah, so then they're like, "You are coming with us."

Emily: It makes me wish that we got a point of view from one of the Maidens.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Sulin would be ideal because Sulin is such a badass.

Sally: I know, Sulin's such a fun character.

Emily: I know; she's great. Um, not because we can't empathize or understand --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What the Maidens are going through but because we are so often fed this excuse that Rand is culturally unaware, and so it would be nice to have someone who is culturally in the know just blatantly be like, "This is humiliating."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Because Rand is not sending us out the way he would send out -- he's not utilizing us the way the --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Men are being used." And it's, like, this isn't just affecting the Maidens. Everyone around them sees this.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That they're being, like, coddled and infantilized. That would be so humiliating.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just, like -- it makes me really angry. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, coddled and infantilized is such a good way of putting it.

Emily: And he's like, "Maybe they won't catch on to the fact," and Sulin's like, "No one's stupid except you."

Sally: (laugh) “You’re the only dumbass here.”

Emily: “You’re the only dumbass on this battlefield. You were going to go just ride around.”

Sally: (laugh) It’s so stupid! What is he thinking?

Emily: He’s just like, “Fate will bring Couladin to me.” And Mat, on the other end of the battlefield, is like, “You WISH.”

Sally: (laugh) He’s like, “Fate brought Couladin to ME.”

Emily: “To ME.”

Sally: Meanwhile, on the other end, someone’s like, “Please don’t go chase after Couladin,” and Mat’s like, “Do what now?”

Emily: Mat’s like, “Ew. Why would I?”

Sally: They’re like, “You’re young and hot-blooded.” Mat’s like, “No, I’m smart, and I’m going to stay away from the fighting.”

Emily: “I’m smart. We’re going to stay away from the fighting. Don’t get me wrong: I am very pissed at Couladin for starting this whole-ass thing.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “But that does not mean I’m going to seek him out --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And kill him.”

Sally: “Don’t get me wrong, I will kill him, but it’ll be by accident.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Next chapter: Mat’s like, “Ahhhh.”

Sally: “Ahhh, sorry, what’s your fuck.”

Emily: Like, if I were filming this, you know --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: It would be, like, a -- you’d get all the Rand stuff, and then we’d cut over to Mat, where someone is like, “Our scouts report Couladin’s with this next group,” or whatever, and Mat’s like, “Oh, OK, well, we don’t want to engage with him,” and they’re like, “Don’t kill Couladin!” and he’s like, “No, I won’t -- I’m not gonna kill Couladin,” and then smash cut to --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: The next day. (laugh) Mat just sitting with his head in his hands.

Sally: Next to Couladin's dead body.

Emily: Surrounded by partying soldiers. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Oh, Mat is so funny in these chapters.

Emily: I know. He's so good. Um. Anyway. (laugh) Uh, Rand, Egwene, and Aviendha go up to the top of this tower and just start channeling massive amounts of power, doing lightning bolts and earthquakes and shit.

Sally: Yeah, just doing, you know, a little chemical warfare, basically.

Emily: Yeah, it's a little --

Sally: It's, like, not a good look.

Emily: Yeah. It's, like -- it -- ah. You know, it's morally so troubling,

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because, like ... you know?

Sally: It -- well, it's just like ... I mean, I get it, they're using -- Rand literally has this whole monologue where he's like, "Every -- we have to think of everything in terms of how useful it is to me," and of course, having these three nuclear bombs or whatever is useful. But, like, the way Rand describes just, like, blowing off the mount -- like, the hilltops --

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: And just, like, killing hundreds of people at one time, it's like -- I dunno. It's just like, how much is really at stake that Rand needs to be killing hundreds of thousands of people and needs to be asking Egwene and Aviendha to kill hundreds of thousands of people for him?

Emily: I know, it's just, like, a terrifying escalation of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: War. It's like time-traveling a bunch of, like, soldiers from the American Revolution to now and having them get nuked.

Sally: Yeah, be like, "This -- here's a drone."

Emily: There's just, like, no -- you can't match it, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And obviously, eventually, Sammael, we're led to believe, starts, like, throwing shit back, but it's like, that has more to do with personal petty problems.

Sally: Yeah, it's not like Sammael's trying to, like, protect Couladin and the Shaido.

Emily: Yeah, he doesn't give a shit.

Sally: Or, like, give them even ground, you know? And it's just, like -- I dunno, it's one of those things that's supposed to feel, like, natural to this world. Like, of course, like, these magic users are -- this is, like, a natural escalation of -- we can see how far they've come in their training. This is, like, the natural arena for them to have, like, a big theatrical show of how powerful they are. But it's like, really unsettling.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And, like, I feel like it's not -- like, I'm honestly surprised that Egwene agrees to it.

Emily: It's like, we get so much, later in the series, when Mat introduces cannons to warfare, where everyone is, like, watching them and seeing their destructive power and being like, "This is terrifying and horrifying."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, we never quite get that, um, moral retrospective on what it means to engage in warfare with your magical powers?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I don't know. It's interesting because, as the series goes on, we see really creative ways to utilize magic in terms of warfare that aren't inherently violent, like Traveling --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To, uh, reduce supply lines; Healing, of course, is a huge thing. There's a lot of shit that you can be doing. But, like, instead we're just, you know, gonna pepper in balefire and people throwing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Bombs at each other. And it's like, yeah, I get it, fantasy series.

Sally: Yeah, like -- but it's just, like, I dunno. I just, like -- I was thinking when I was reading Path of Daggers this week -- I read, um, a couple of chapters where Elayne is engaged in the constant, you know, Aes Sedai, "I have more power; like, I have the ability to channel more Power than you and therefore I am, like, inherently in charge," and it just, like, felt very yucky in the context of, like, all the police violence that is happening.

Emily: Mm.

Sally: Like, the person who possesses the most firepower shouldn't necessarily be in charge and able to, like, exert their will over people. I don't know. It's not -- it's not a very coherent thought, but I've just been thinking a lot about irresponsible uses of the One Power.

Emily: I mean, yeah, it's just, like, our world and we, as readers, have grown beyond this very straightforward --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, warfare but make it fantasy by sprinkling in some magic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, that's not really interesting because we live in the 21st century where, uh, we have enough news coverage and enough people around the globe on Twitter and Instagram showing us, like, how destructive these really terrifying weapons are --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In battle. I don't know.

Sally: It just seems odd that there's not, like, a single person who's like, "I am opposed to you throwing lightning bolts at people."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Everyone is just like, "Yep, gotta go out here, win the battle, kill the Shaído, invade fantasy France."

Emily: (sing-song) Doo doo doo.

Sally: It's just, like, a checklist. What are you gonna do this Tuesday?

Emily: Invade fantasy France. It's on my -- it's in my planner. Oh, do you wanna talk about your planner deal? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) We can do that at the end, I guess.

Emily: Yeah. Um --

Sally: It was kinda gonna be my sign-off. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, good.

Sally: Although I did have another very funny moment happen to me as I was walking into the apartment. So maybe I'll do two. (laugh)

Emily: But sticking with Rand, Sammael eventually punches back, around noontime, when they're now exhausted from, I guess, exerting themselves to the fullest in the morning.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which isn't, like a great use of resources, but --

Sally: Again: Stupid. (laugh)

Emily: To each their own. Um. Sammael blows up the tower, so RIP Kin Tovere's, you know --

Sally: I know.

Emily: Telescopes. At least Mat has one.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Apparently from gambling. (laugh)

Sally: He has, like, a little baby one. (laugh)

Emily: Mat was like, "I will get a telescope. Excuse me."

Sally: Mat would want a telescope.

Emily: I know, he would love that. He's like, "I'm just gonna add this to my little pouch of shiny things."

Sally: Yeah, my raven's cache.

Emily: Ugh.

Sally: Weird boy. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He's so funny. Um. Excuse me. Um, but the tower falls, and then Egg and Aviendha are like, "OK, well, we're -- you know. Ugh."

Sally: "We're cooked, man."

Emily: "We are cooked," and Rand's like, "We gotta get back out there." He's, like, been unconscious recently.

Sally: Yeah, Rand --

Emily: Which means that he has a concussion.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) So he should get --

Emily: So already not doing great.

Sally: Immediate medical care.

Emily: He also knows that the wound in his side has opened again and so he is bleeding. Um, and it's just, like, stupid after stupid. He's like, "I'm just gonna hop on my horse and, you know, get out there."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Again, not really with any purpose or destination in mind. So -- whatever. But Egg and Aviendha are like, "Yeah, fine, we'll come along," probably because they're like, "Fantasy Jesus is going to die today." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Fantasy Jesus is determined to die today."

Emily: "Fantasy Jesus has a death wish." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Rand's like, "I do."

Sally: It's like, you're boring.

Emily: "Now that I've had sex, I have nothing left to live for."

Sally: Oh my God, while he's unconscious, Aviendha is, like, kneeling next to what she assumes is his dead body and is like, "You can't die because me and Elayne love you." (laugh)

Emily: And it's like, UGGGGHHH.

Sally: It's so cringe-worthy. (laugh)

Emily: I know. I'm like, dear Christ. The male fantasy really pops out in this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Do you know what I'd be doing if someone was unconscious next to me?

Sally: CPR.

Emily: CPR! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: CPR, baby! No more love laments.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I would break into song; that's what I would do.

Sally: Yeah, start beating your chest like an Ancient Greek woman.

Emily: Ahhhh!

Sally: Wailing. (laugh) Stupid.

Emily: (laugh) Uh, Christ. Anyway.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Mat, meanwhile, is trying to get away, has had his coat sliced by an arrow.

Sally: I know.

Emily: No mention, by the way, of how that little subplot played out. He's like, "I almost got killed by an arrow," and I'm like, "So then did you kill the person who shot the arrow? Or did you just run very fast away?"

Sally: It's very funny. He's like, "I would have admired the shot if it wasn't aimed at me."

Emily: "If it wasn't aimed at me."

Sally: Mat has some very good one-liners in this -- (laugh)

Emily: The crucial -- yeah.

Sally: Chapter.

Emily: And he, from his position on a -- his vantage point on a hilltop, sees, um, the Tairen slash Cairhienin forces walking along the road and, um, some Aiel, Shaido, lying in wait. And Mat is like, "I really do not want to get involved with this. Like, super do not want to get involved with this. But I am moving before I can do anything about it." He's got one of those classic Mat lines, where his body moves before Mat's brain can catch up to it. Um. That's what happens when you're a creature of raw instinct, baby. We love our king. (laugh) Um.

Sally: He also just doesn't want to let three thousand people die needlessly.

Emily: Yeah, like, morally, it just takes him a minute to catch up to --

Sally: Yeah. And he's like, "Ew, morals."

Emily: He's like, "Ugh, I hate it."

Sally: "Ugh, gross."

Emily: "Ew. Gotta wash my hands after this." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But he approaches the column, uh, gets them to stop, and has three separate interactions with the three factions that we described last time. The Tairen nobles are the most insufferable. They're just like, "What? We -- yay, we get to fight the Aiel? You want us to use strategy so most of us don't die?"

Sally: "Gross."

Emily: "Gross. We would just -- we're just gonna kill all the Aiel." And Mat's like, "Alright. Great."

Sally: "Good luck with that."

Emily: "Good luck with that."

Sally: "Let me know how it goes." (laugh)

Emily: We also find out that these guys have disobeyed orders, too.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That they're not where they're supposed to be, essentially.

Sally: And it's like --

Emily: Looking for a fight. And Mat's like, "Gross." He then has a conversation with, uh, Daerid --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Who is leading the pikemen, the infantry. Uh, just a common Cairhienin guy, very sensible, very straightforward. We love Daerid. He then has the infamous interaction with Talmanes, who I guess is leading the Cairhienin cavalry?

Sally: I think so, yeah.

Emily: Yeah, 'cause he and -- they both take --

Sally: Yeah, then they go, "Bloop."

Emily: Yep. OK. (laugh) You guys should see the hand motions we are doing. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) This is how warfare works.

Emily: It's a lot of hand -- it's a lot of gesticulating. Um.

Sally: (laugh) I mean, yeah. Mat does also do --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Military commands that he doesn't remember learning.

Emily: He's like, "Ah, duh duh duh." Mat approaches Talmanes, lays out his entire plan, and it's hilarious because Talmanes says absolutely nothing --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Until the end, when he's like, "Alright, I'll lead half if you lead half." And Mat's like, "OK."

Sally: "Now we're married."

Emily: And that's when they fell in love, dear reader. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh --

Sally: It is very funny, though, 'cause Mat's like, "No. What?" in his head.

Emily: "Ew, no." (laugh)

Sally: Like, "Fuck! No, I don't do fighting."

Emily: "Fuck. I hate it."

Sally: But then out loud he's like, "I'll meet you there."

Emily: Mat also notes that most of these men are incredibly young, which I always forget because Talmanes has such huge 60-year-old woman energy. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) But Talmanes is, like, three years older than Mat.

Emily: Talmanes, that means, is, like, 24.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And a head -- a full head shorter than Mat, and just --

Sally: Yeah. Oh, I love him.

Emily: I know. He's one of the great characters. Again, slightly ruined by Brandon Sanderson in the late books.

Sally: Yeah. I do not like to think of Talmanes' haircut, though. Where the, like, front of his head is shaved.

Emily: I know, you just can't think about it or it will ruin all.

Sally: (laugh) I just like to think of Talmanes being, like, so beautiful. And small.

Emily: We can -- we can have hope for the television series.

Sally: Rafe, if you're listening, do not give him a half-shaved head.

Emily: Rafe, don't do the --

Sally: Unless it's an undercut.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: That would be a fun twist on the Cairhienin, if they all had, like --

Emily: They're like, all shaved head --

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause I know the Seanchan have the, like, half of it is shaved.

Emily: Yeah. If they just had, like --

Sally: But if all the French people just had undercuts. Yeah.

Emily: And Mat's like, "Cool."

Sally: Mat's like, "Hot." (laugh)

Emily: Mat's like, "Oh my God. The sex appeal."

Sally: "Of this very small man."

Emily: Right.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, but anyway, Mat leads this first charge successfully.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: More or less.

Sally: They make something called a hedgehog, which I didn't fully understand the first time I read it, because I'm like, "What is Mat doing?" But I feel like I have a better grasp on it this time.

Emily: It's just a bunch of dudes with their pikes facing out. Mm. Hedgey, like.

Sally: Like a hog.

Emily: Like a hedgehog. And, like, half --

Sally: Which, I mean, now we have to assume that hedgehogs exist in the Wheel of Time universe.

Emily: I mean, badgers do, so. (inaudible) Badgers.

Sally: Yeah. Badgers, hedgehogs, hummingbirds.

Emily: Hey. Woodland creatures.

Sally: These are the things that have been named. Also, like, dogs and shit. And cats.

Emily: (laugh) "Also, like, dogs and shit." Um. We then skip to Mat a little later in the day when it's now raining because the girls manipulated the weather --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And, uh, lost -- (inaudible)

Sally: Sounds miserable.

Emily: I know.

Sally: If you have to fight, why in the rain?

Emily: In the rain.

Sally: Like, gross.

Emily: Like, Mat has to keep wiping off his telescope, which just, like, encapsulated so neatly for me how miserable the whole experience is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As someone who used to walk dogs in the rain.

Sally: Oh, it was so sad.

Emily: The, like, frequency that you would have to just, like, wipe off your face in order to see.

Sally: And the poor doggos.

Emily: Yeah. The poor dogs are like, "I don't want to be here either."

Sally: Yeah, Mat's poor horse has gotten used to the sound of booming thunder.

Emily: Yeah. Poor Pips, traumatized beyond belief.

Sally: Yeah, Pips is a real --

Emily: And let's pour one out for Pips for surviving this entire series, as far as I'm aware.
(laugh)

Sally: Good for you, Pips. I love Pips. What a good horse.

Emily: Yeah. Uh, but Mat has -- tells us that they've now engaged in, like, several more battles, and he's like, "The Tairens think that we're doing better than we are," but in Mat's head, it's like, a draw, and then, like, narrow wins, sort of.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He's just like, "It's not going great, and really I just want to, like, leave here."

Sally: Mm-hmm. "I want to try and get these fellas out of here."

Emily: But obviously the other side of this coin is that they all would've been totally massacred if Mat had not stepped in.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So. Heee. Um, but yeah, he's continuing to have relationships with, uh, various officers. Nalesean -- Nallis --

Sally: I have no idea how to say it. Nal -- Nalesean? Like Taliesin? Nalesean?

Emily: Nale-shawn.

Sally: Naleshawn.

Emily: Naleshawn is what we're gonna go with.

Sally: Nalesean.

Emily: Nalesean is, Mat tells us, the second to take command after the original guy died.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So there have been -- there was another guy in between him. Um.

Sally: (laugh) Poor Nalesean.

Emily: Which -- Christ. Y'know. So, Nalesean, Daerid, and Talmanes.

Sally: These are our babies.

Emily: Yeah, who -- all of whom will be more prevalent throughout the series, although sadly, Nalesean bites it in book seven.

Sally: Oh, no, it's really sad.

Emily: It is a really brutal --

Sally: Mat's -- yeah.

Emily: I can't remember what happens with Daerid. He might die too.

Sally: I -- yeah, I can't remember. I just remember Nalesean's death being, like, really sad. I was like, why am I so sad to lose this boy?

Emily: It's very gruesome.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But yeah, we have -- it's great how much camaraderie is established in --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: These very few chapters.

Sally: It's also so funny because Talmanes goes from not speaking to Mat to being like, "I would follow this idiot anywhere."

Emily: Daerid's like, "I have never heard Talmanes compliment a person before, but he just told me that he'd follow you anywhere." And Mat's like, "OK, I don't know what to make of this." And Daerid's like, "He's given you his heart." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I need you -- I'll be needing you guys to schedule the wedding for late autumn."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) It's so funny.

Emily: Mat's like, "OK, great." Uh, but again, that scene sort of cuts off with them reporting that Couladin's group is approaching and Mat being like, "Well, I'm certainly not going to fight Couladin." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "That's what dummies do."

Emily: "That's adorable." But he's also like, "We're going to provoke them into attacking us so that we can, you know --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because there aren't really any other options.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He says it's a matter of being, uh, caught or catching, so.

Sally: Yeah, so they play a trick.

Emily: They play a trick. Very classic Mat Cauthon.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "We'll just -- we'll all be shouting, 'Protect the Lord Dragon!'"

Sally: And then Couladin will be like -- Kill Bill sirens. (laugh)

Emily: Dun dun! It is very funny how, uh, Mat utilizes Rand's name throughout this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because that, initially, is his only, um -- ooh, what's the word?

Sally: Cache?

Emily: Currency.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is that he's friends with Rand, and they have no other reason to trust him, you know?

Sally: Yeah, and just luckily, one of the people from the Stone of Tear recognizes him.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So, like --

Emily: And then luckily, after that, it's a matter of talking to sensible people who, like, understand --

Sally: Yeah. Warfare.

Emily: Tactics when they hear it. Um, but yeah, that is the infamous beginning of the Band of the Red Hand. (laugh)

Sally: Absolutely insane.

Emily: Insane. Can't be emphasized enough.

Sally: Yeah, and then, at the end, all of them are just like, “Yep, this is our leader.”

Emily: “This is our dad. Boogie woogie woogie.”

Sally: (laugh) And Mat’s like, “No. I cannot emphasize enough.”

Emily: He’s like, “Ugh.”

Sally: “I do not want to be your dad.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Poor Mat. Um. Meanwhile, we cut back to Rand, who is fully in a fugue state, wandering around on horseback, muttering nonsense. Finally the Maidens are like, “OK, we’re going back to camp. We have to go find --” You know. Rand’s like, “Where’s Egg and Aviendha?” And they’re like, “They’re back at camp. Why don’t we take you to them?” (laugh) “Why don’t you go talk to the Wise Ones?” and he’s like, “Yeah, OK, fine, whatever.” Gets back to where Moiraine is healing people, sees the Wise Ones are now collaborating with the Wise Ones from the other four -- septs? Clans? Can’t remember.

Sally: Clans, I think.

Emily: The other four clans that have been approaching throughout the day. So yippee, now they’re unifying under Rand, we assume. Uh, but Asmodean, hilariously, is, like, giving water to people. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Moiraine made him into a literal water boy. He’s got, like, jugs on his neck.

Emily: I have to imagine that Moiraine has some vague sense of who she is --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And that this is just the greatest prank she’s ever pulled.

Sally: Yeah. She’s just like --

Emily: She’s like, “Forsaken who? Carry water, you idiot.” (laugh) And he’s like, “Fine.”

Sally: Asmodean’s like, “OK. She’s really scary, Rand.” (laugh)

Emily: “She’s very scary, Rand.” Rand’s like, “Shut up.”

Sally: He’s like, “No, she’s not. Shh. Told you --” (inaudible)

Emily: Lan comes up, again, in one of his few --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Good moments as a mentor and is like, “It’s been over for fully two hours.”

Sally: Yeah. “Where the fuck have you been?”

Emily: “No one could find you. That’s the only reason --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “You haven’t known before then.” And Rand’s like, “Oh. Cool.” Lets go of the Power, immediately gets slam dunked by how --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Exhausted and fucking wounded he is and concussed and just collapses.

Sally: Falls off his horse. (laugh)

Emily: And Lan’s like, “Ahhhh!”

Sally: Like, “Moiraine, he’s bleeding a whole lot.”

Emily: And we see, as Rand’s vision fades, Asmodean trying to channel, probably to save Rand’s life.

Sally: Yeah. Plot twist: What if Asmodean murdered Rand in this moment?

Emily: Just right in this book?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It would be so funny. What a hilarious end for Rand.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Wandering around a battle -- I mean, ‘cause he legitimately looks insane here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To everyone around him. He even starts mumbling about his past lives, very directly -- his past life, very directly, to Asmodean. Um.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Talking about Sammael. He’s like, “I remember when he became the Betrayer of Hope,” or whatever, and Asmodean’s like, “Euugghh.”

Sally: Like, “Ahh!”

Emily: “This is very frightening.” It’s, like, got the same energy as when Mat was like, “Lews Therin?” earlier in the series.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Earlier in the book, I mean, and Rand was like --

Sally: That moment was chilling.

Emily: "Si, senor?"

Sally: And Mat was like, "Shit."

Emily: Mat was like, "Eughh."

Sally: "That's not what I was hoping for." (laugh) "Si, senor?" What if Lews Therin --

Emily: "Si, senor?"

Sally: Only talked in Spanish? (laugh)

Emily: That would be great, and I think the TV show should -- (laugh) So Mat's just -- Rand's just speaking in Spanish sometimes. Um, but yeah, this is a very obvious, uh, step downward in Rand's, at least, projecting sanity.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You'd think -- you'd think it would have a few more repercussions, that people would find it a little harder to trust him after this, but we don't really see that happening too much.

Sally: Yeah. I guess they can kind of, like, blame this one on, like, battle fatigue, 'cause he's been, like, running around on his dumb horse all day. I dunno. I mean, it is very frightening when he's like, "Blah blah blah, Ilyena, blah blah blah."

Emily: "Ilyena," and Asmodean's like, "Oh my God, shut up."

Sally: He's like, "I hate that dumb whore."

Emily: "I hate that dumb bitch."

Sally: (laugh) He's like, "If I hear -- have to hear Ilyena's name one more time --"

Emily: (laugh) Plot twist: Asmodean was like, "Oh my God, I've been to dinner with you and Ilyena as the third wheel; it's very obnoxious."

Sally: Yeah. "It is not pleasant."

Emily: "You guys are the worst."

Sally: "Fuckin' heterosexuals." (laugh)

Emily: "Ughhhh." (laugh) So anyway, that is the battle for Cairhien, I guess.

Sally: Yep. Mat gets some boys. Rand gets a concussion.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: And also fantasy France.

Emily: Fantasy France is within his grasp now because Couladin's dead and the Shaído will have scattered. Uh, but that's that. We'll cover kind of aftermath next time, including Mat, hilariously, now acquiring an entire army.

Sally: (laugh) They, like, literally can't take the army away from him.

Emily: (laugh) And Mat's like, "I don't want it."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh --

Sally: It's very funny.

Emily: And Rand, you know, recovering and actually going into fantasy France. Being like --

Sally: Fanta-France.

Emily: "Ollo, this is mine now."

Sally: France -- France-asy.

Emily: OK.

Sally: I'm trying to make it work. (laugh)

Emily: So that's that. Any other things to add?

Sally: I don't think so.

Emily: Alrighty. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Thank you all for, uh, listening, supporting us, giving us money on Patreon. And everything you do.

Sally: I bit my lip. Sorry.

Emily: What?

Sally: I bit my lip. I'm sorry.

Emily: Oh, I'm sorry.

Sally: It hurts. (laugh)

Emily: Do you need me to keep talking while you prepare a sign-off?

Sally: Yeah, what else do you have to tell the people, Emily?

Emily: I don't have anything. I would have to start making things up. (laugh)

Sally: Um, you can, as always, join us on Fridays at 5:30 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, for our weekly video game livestream.

Emily: OK, do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Uh, yes. As I was walking into the apartment today, my phone connects, you know, to the bluetooth in my car, and I was, like, listening to music, and I guess I didn't realize that the next song cued up was Mr. Brightside by the Killers. And, like, sometimes when I get out of the car, my, like, music app won't always, like, close on my phone. It'll just be, like, open. And I, like, went to put it in my pocket and Mr. Brightside started playing really loudly. (laugh) And this guy, like, whipped around. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh, singing) "Jealousy ..."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, and I was like, "Sorry!"

Emily: "Whoopsie."

Sally: It was very funny. And then I -- of course, I was just, like, cackling because why am I even listening to Mr. Brightside? A, it's the best song ever.

Emily: It's a good song, yeah. We all know. (singing) "Jealousy ..."

Sally: (singing) "Jealousy, turning saints --" Don't sue us, Brendan Flowers.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Is that his name?

Emily: I don't think so? Brendan Flower. We're gonna have to look that up. Don't be slutty -- wait. Do be slutty. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Don't be slutty.

Emily: Don't be slutty. Do be slutty! Sex positive!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, uh, don't do war crimes.

Sally: There we go.

Emily: War crimes negative.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Goodbye. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Bye.