



Episode 131: Titty Graveyard

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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 Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Emily: Yeah, now we can, uh, kick off back into Wheel of Time world. (laugh) This is Everybody Hates Rand. It's your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. Uh, I am Emily Juchau.

Sally: I am Sally Goodger.

Emily: And, um, here we are. We have entered -- and I really do need to get one of those apps that makes air horn noises -- I swear I say this every time, but --

Sally: I might have one. Hold on.

Emily: Um, we're in climax territory. And yes, you can smile because "climax" is a double entendre for sex stuff. (laugh)

Sally: I think I deleted my air horn app.

Emily: Oh, no. (laugh)

Sally: Because I needed to clear -- wait, hold on. I guess I can just search it. Air -- horn -- sound.

(air horn sound)

Sally: There we go.

Emily: That wasn't as exciting -- I wanted it to be like, "Ba! Ba ba ba ba!"

Sally: Sorry. That --

Emily: It's OK.

Sally: The app that I had, you could tap it, and it would do that.

Emily: Yeah, that was nice.

Sally: It was pretty funny.

Emily: I should get that app too. Except my phone's about to fucking die, so.

Sally: Well, Emily has, like, an iPhone 3, so.

Emily: I don't! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Emily's phone is old.

Emily: It's not that old. I got it two years ... ago.

Sally: I feel like that is a lie.

Emily: Three years, maybe?

Sally: I don't feel like you've gotten a new phone since I knew you.

Emily: Yeah, that was a new phone. I got it -- uh, I came back from New York and had to get a new phone. Not, like, from our two-year stint in New York, but a few months into my New York --

Sally: OK, so it's a three-year-old phone.

Emily: It's a three-year-old phone, I guess, and I'm pretty amazed that it's lasted this long. And technically, it's still lasted, and I, um, will -- Steve Jobs, this is for you -- get my money's worth out of that phone. I will keep it until it literally no longer turns on.

Sally: (laugh) You sound like my mom.

Emily: Huh! Well, I don't want to drop another thousand bucks on an iPhone right when we're moving. I mean, come on. OK.

Sally: OK, let's talk about Wheel of Time. Hi, Tybalt.

Emily: Yeah, so two chapters today. First one is "New Comes to Cairhien," and the second one is titled, ominously, "Choices." Um --

Sally: Tybalt looks so funny when he yawns.

Emily: He's just --

Sally: His eyes look so crazy.

Emily: A little bastard. Um. We're mostly occupying Rand's point of view, but notably, we bounce around quite a bit to other, like, short points of view. Uh, we catch up with Rand as he's been in Cairhien for a few days -- a few weeks, hard to tell exactly. Um, but he --

Sally: I think it's been ten days.

Emily: Does it? You probably --

Sally: I think he says at some point it's been ten days.

Emily: Sally's so good at remembering that type of thing. And literally, when the chapter starts, he's, like, standing out on a balcony to smoke -- to do his fantasy vaping --

Sally: Yeah, to vape. Yeah.

Emily: And a woman named Selande -- Selande? --

Sally: Yeah, she's pushing her titties up against his arm.

Emily: She's like, "Have you noticed that I have titties?" and he's like, "I did, thank you." Um, and apparently, she is one of many young women who has tried to, in Wheel of Time's world -- in Wheel of Time words, "bed him." Seduce him? I guess, is a more palatable way of saying that.

Sally: Yeah. Uh, yeah, she's, like, the -- he says she's, like, the twentieth or something insane.

Emily: He says she's not even the twentieth.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, what? It's been ten days.

Sally: It -- so that means, like, at least two to four women a day are trying to fuck him.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Like, it would -- it would be such a power move if Rand just fucked all of them. Like, in a different world, a different Rand al'Thor, he's like, "I'm gonna --" (laugh) "Turn the tables."

Emily: He's just like, "Sure," and then sends them all -- 'cause they're all sent by this, uh, woman --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Colavaere? Her name I always, um, forget. Colavaere, who's one of the high-ranking Cairhienin --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, nobility. Um, who's just trying to, like, you know, get her fingers on him, essentially. And Rand is resisting by, y'know, doing the least efficient thing possible, which is just sort of frightening these women whenever he can. He's like, "If I yell at them to go away, then, um -- if I, you know, assert myself and state clearly, then they'll just find ways to come back." And I'm like --

Sally: Consent means nothing in Wheel World, apparently.

Emily: Yeah, apparently. I mean, that's gross and disgusting, but also, like, you have the Maidens as bodyguards.

Sally: Just don't let them come near you.

Emily: Yeah. Just be like --

Sally: Make -- you make -- like, I'm sure Sulin would be delighted.

Emily: "Sulin, keep away any strange women, please." Sulin would be like, "Great. Love this." Especially because the Maidens are already turning away women who are trying to sneak into his bedroom in the middle of the night. Or Aviendha is violently assaulting women who don't necessarily have a choice in the matter --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: By the way.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. So it's just, like, a not-great situation overall. I definitely don't agree with Rand's method of just intimidating women. As we've talked about before, Rand has a bad habit of using his power and his height and, uh, everything about himself to just scare women willy-nilly. Sorry, Tybalt is playing with his fish, of course.

Sally: (laugh) It's just making, like, funny rustling noises. I doubt the mic even catches it. It's just making me laugh.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Um, yeah, Rand's just, like, really big into using his physicality against women.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And it's like, eww.

Emily: Did you want to play fetch? Hey.

Tybalt: (meows)

Emily: (laugh) Um, notably, Selande -- or Selande -- will be one of Faile's weird hangers-on later. She's one of the young Cairhienin -- and Tairens, I guess -- who decide to pick up the customs of the Aiel, i.e., culturally appropriate everything that the Aiel do without really participating in the culture's nuances themselves. Um, so she'll be around is the weird thing. Colavaere will not. She'll be dead within two books.

Sally: RIP.

Emily: RIP her. Um, we find out Rand -- um, we kind of -- this was alluded to, I think, in the last few chapters -- but Rand is slowly setting the chessboard, as it were, in order to get an attack on Sammael. He's sending forces south. He's just kind of waiting for the moment to attack Illian once everyone gets into place. Which is obviously very slow, and Sammael is still killing and terrorizing people as this happens. But you know, such is life, I guess.

Sally: Tybalt did one run across the living room, and now he is exhausted.

Emily: He is so tired.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: God. (laugh) Uh, but Rand does his usual thing of dismissing the nobility. Um, he's basically like, "They're all plotting against me. Get out of here."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just like, 'kay. Yeah, sure.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then Moiraine, Aviendha and, um, Egwene enter, bearing two letters from Elaida and Alviarin, who is Elaida's Keeper, if you're having a tough -- if you're having a tough time keeping track of the millions of Aes Sedai names, like most people would be.

Sally: Listen, I read the sequence in Path of Daggers where they, like, use the Bowl of the Winds --

Emily: It's buck wild.

Sally: And it is like, there is, objectively, like, at least three hundred women named in these chapters. (laugh) And I was like, I -- no --

Emily: How could I possibly keep track?

Sally: What do you want me to do with this, Robert?

Emily: What -- how does it help me? It doesn't.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, we know Elaida isn't a Darkfriend, but she is deeply incompetent. Uh, Alviarin is fairly competent but is a Darkfriend.

Sally: (laugh) Pick your poison.

Emily: Pick your poison! Elaida has sent a letter to Rand being like, "Fuck you. I'm going to send you an escort to bring you to the White Tower."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Alviarin has sent a letter that's extremely flowery and reads like, you know, someone worshipping a cult leader. Like a -- you know. She reads like she's about to do a Manson murder or something like that. She's nutso. But she's also like, "I can guide you. Just let me help you." And Rand reads these, is like, "Well, fun."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Super great." And Moiraine's like, "Pop quiz: What do you think's going on here?" and Rand's like, "Well, obviously the White Tower is separating into factions already, and they're going to send some ladies, but I can't do anything about it except stay away from those ladies." And Moiraine's like, "Check. You pass."

Sally: Good job, Rand.

Emily: "Good job, Rand. You'll do OK." Moiraine, this entire -- these entire two chapters, is speaking to people like she's on her deathbed.

Sally: I know. And everyone's just like, "That's a little odd."

Emily: Everyone's just like, "Eh, Moiraine." She could only --

Sally: Cryptic.

Emily: Have made it more obvious if she started, like, giving gifts to people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, she gives Rand a letter.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And one for Thom, and she's like, "Just for when you have time to think." And he's like -

Sally: "When?"

Emily: What? What are you talking about?"

Sally: It would've been so funny if she was like, "Egg, I leave you my eavesdropping tiara."

Emily: "Egg, this is for you. Mat, nothing for you." (laugh) "You wouldn't want anything from me. My gift to you is that you'll never see me again."

Sally: Mat's like --

Emily: Oh, wait.

Sally: "Excellent."

Emily: Ha ha.

Sally: And then she's like, "Ha ha, actually you will come in and rescue me."

Emily: "Rescue me."

Sally: (singing) "Come on and rescue me."

Emily: What song is that?

Sally: I can't remember what it's called. It's in the Sister Act soundtrack, I think? Um.

Emily: Damn. So that's some of the news coming to, uh, Cairhien. And before Moiraine can really get into quizzing him a little bit more, Mat shows up, and they're like, "Mat's here to see you, per your request," and Rand is like, "I requested his presence four hours ago." (laugh) "Four hours. One, two, three, four."

Sally: He's like, "I can't wait to see what his excuse is." Mat is like, "Oh, I was fully gambling." (laugh)

Emily: Mat's like, "I was definitely playing cards. Fuck you." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Uh -- Asmodean, by the way, is here this entire scene. It's just sort of a -- a given at this point that Asmodean --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is setting the mood music, but you know. Uh, Mat comes in, is like, "Wassup?" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Wazzup?"

Emily: "Wazzup?"

Sally: Very Jean-Ralphio. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) And Rand's like, "I hear your Band of the Red Hand is doing astounding things," and Mat's like, "Yeah, I wish they wouldn't call it that. Some idiot --"

Sally: "I wish they wouldn't, though." (laugh)

Emily: "I wish that they --" Yeah, the whole, uh, subtext here is that Mat literally did try to run away on a horse to Andor, and Talmanes and Nalesean just were like, "Time to go to battle." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "He's leading us to battle." And so Mat just sort of, like, replayed what just happened in Cairhien --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But with Andor.

Sally: Yeah. Did actually get into, like, three different battles. (laugh) And won all of them.

Emily: Won all of them, and now there are tons of recruits coming in for the self-titled Band of the Red Hand. It's so funny.

Sally: Yeah, it's very -- it's deeply comical.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Mat's like, "Time to go," and his two boyfriends were like, "Yeehaw."

Emily: "Alright, time to go. Us and our armies."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Uh, Moiraine, of course, starts intimidating Mat, which, uh, Rand has designed.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: To have the women be here while Mat is there because of how he reacts to them. HE's just like, "This'll soften him up," and Mat's just, like, getting angrier and angrier like a tomcat. Uh, but anyway, during the course of this conversation, Mat says, "All I really need is for Nynaeve and Elayne to be here, but I'm glad Elayne's not here to hear the news," and Rand's like, "What news?" and Mat's like, "Oh, you haven't -- oh, you haven't heard?"

Sally: "Oh, you haven't heard?"

Emily: "You haven't -- Moiraine, you haven't heard about this?" and she's like, "Shut the fuck up. What's going on?" He's like, "Well, Morgase is dead."

Sally: Yeah, and then Rand goes into a brief rage dissociation 'cause he's like, "Oh, I can't believe I let Morgase die," and it's like, you fully could have not -- I mean, a) she's not actually dead, but b --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You fully could have made different decisions.

Emily: His whole thing is like, "Elayne will never forgive me for letting her mother die," and it's just, like -- I mean, first of all, it's the classic example of women's deaths or women's pain being used to further Rand's own emotional plot or, in this case, the literal plot because his instant reaction is, "Well, we've gotta go raid Caemlyn to kill Rahvin." And it's like, so, you could've been doing this the entire time, but you're just like, "Nah"? To Sammael, too?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, we have already discussed at length how gross Rand's decision was to not, uh, step in to help, uh, Morgase. It was just sort of, like --

Sally: He's like, "It's too predictable. It's what they think I'm going to do."

Emily: Yeah, and it's like, you're ta'veren.

Sally: You can -- the whole point is that you can do whatever you want.

Emily: Yeah. We've talked about this before, but it's, you know, frustrating that they don't weaponize their plot armor more ways. We do get a little bit closer toward it with Rand -- eventually Mat agrees to go to Caemlyn with Rand, and Rand's like, "Oh, that's great, because

two ta'veren in one place means we'll twist fate even further." Although Mat lasts about ten seconds into Caemlyn before he gets -- died.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Murdered.

Sally: And then undied.

Emily: And then undead.

Sally: Isn't that fun? Mat's technically a zombie.

Emily: Mat's technically a zombie. Discuss. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I think that's bold and sexy of him, to be technically undead.

Emily: The OG sexy zombie.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Poor Asmodean goes through a cycle of dead, undead, and then dead again within like three days.

Sally: I know, God bless him.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Asmodean. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, Asmodean. (laugh)

Sally: Rest in pieces, my good bitch.

Emily: Um, but Rand's like, "We gotta go to Caemlyn," and Moiraine's like, "Not tonight. Let's go tomorrow." And Rand's like, "Fine, that's sensible. We'll go tomorrow. You're all dismissed."

Sally: "Not you, Mat."

Emily: "NOT you, Mat." Mat gets up to go, and they're like, "No." Um, he's like, "Mat, stay. Stay."

Sally: "Good boy."

Emily: "Good boy." And then Rand -- (laugh) Rand's like, "OK, Moiraine can come with me, but Aviendha and Elayne --" I mean -- excuse me.

Sally: I know, it's so hard.

Emily: "Aviendha and Egwene, you obviously cannot go with me because I need you here." And Aviendha and Egwene do the classic Robert Jordan move of making all the correct points, and Rand is just like, "No."

Sally: Yeah, it's classic where Robert Jordan is like, "These are objectively the correct points," where Aviendha's like, "You can't control what decisions I make," or whatever she even says.

Emily: Egg is like, "Are you my dad?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Fuck off." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. But Robert Jordan has it written as such where it's obviously like they are being unreasonable because --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's through Rand's point of view.

Emily: Yeah. However many times you, um, make the correct points in your book, unless the narrative backs up those points, you -- it's -- might as well not exist.

Sally: (whisper) Yes.

Emily: It's ridiculous. So they're like, "You can't stop us," and Rand is like, "I mean, technically I can't stop them," and Moiraine's like, "I mean, it's smarter to let them come. They're both stronger than I am, and what if one of the female Forsaken is there?" and he's like, "Fine, Mom. I'm only stupid." Then the ladies do leave. And Rand is like, "Mat, I need you to stop running away." And Mat is like, "NO." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Never."

Emily: "Shut up and listen," Rand says. "You have to stop running." Mat says, "Burn me if I will!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Absolutely not." Um, and Rand is like, "Listen, I know you have shit in your head that -- but I have to use it now, so." Basically no longer is Rand even pretending to give Mat a choice. There's been this whole, like, ongoing thing between them where Rand is like, "Do whatever you want," and has never outright said to us that he just sort of trusts fate to bring Mat back to him or that he cares what happens to Mat. But now, as soon as he has designated a useful set of skills that Mat has, he's like, "I do need him, and I am going to physically force him to stay." So

their friendship has turned into a horror show. Um. Then we switch over to Egg for some reason, and basically all we get from her is that she's nervous about tomorrow. And it's like, OK, bye. Great. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I am also nervous about tomorrow.

Emily: I am also nervous about tomorrow. Mat could be in danger. (laugh) That's all I care about. Uh, but actually, Mat's in danger right now. Because he returns to his rooms -- more implying that he was trying to run away when he accidentally ran into a battle. We have his absolutely iconic line -- because Rand has instructed him that he needs to ride south and sort of head up Rand's forces that are going to go eventually attack Illian -- "Good morrow, High Lord Weiramon, and all you other High Lords and Ladies. I'm a gambler, a farm boy, and I'm here to take command of your bloody army." It's incredible.

Sally: It's a great line. Also especially 'cause he says it to himself.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's classic Mat, just, like, talking to himself.

Emily: Lots of Mat chatting with himself. He throws his spear at one point. Just sort of, like, physically, you know --

Sally: Unhappy.

Emily: Working through his --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, emotions.

Sally: (singing) In your fantasy, dream about me ...

Emily: Yeah, Carly Rae Jepsen is playing as Melindhra walks in --

Sally: No. Ugh.

Emily: And is like, "What's up?" Um, and we find out now that Kadere is, uh, in the shipyards, essentially waiting for ships, it says, but we also know he's spying on Rand. This is only relevant because of geographical positioning later in the next chapter. Uh, but Mat's like, "I'm going away, uhhh, to Tear," and he says something about Rand going to Caemlyn, so Melindhra's like, "Rand's going to Caemlyn?" and Mat's like, "... No?"

Sally: He's like, "No, I just made that up."

Emily: "I -- no, you're not supposed to -- you know, you're not supposed to know that."

Sally: "You're not supposed to ask me questions."

Emily: "Please don't." (laugh) And, um, she very quickly attacks him -- like, kicks him super hard.

Sally: I know, she kicks him in the damn head.

Emily: She kicks him in, like, the stomach and then the head, so he just kind of goes sprawling. And when he gets his vision back, he sees she's pulling out a knife, so he, uh, pulls out a knife and throws it at her first. So she is dying. He goes over to her. She, uh, once again tries to stab him while he's leaning over her, but it catches his medallion. The knife literally breaks, and she says, "You have the Great Lord's own luck."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: So that later, Mat is like, "Ah, fuck, only Darkfriends call him the Great Lord. That's what this was. It wasn't just, like, a -- she suddenly snapped and decided to --" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, betrayed or whatever that joke is.

Emily: "Murder me." Yeah. Uh, crazy lady. Um. So he sort of pieces together that it's that she is from Sammael and that he has attracted the Forsaken's attention. I think piecing together what's going on with the Forsaken, it was probably like -- Sammael was like, "Go kill him because that will maybe finally motivate Rand to come after me in vengeance." We know the Forsaken do want him to go after Sammael the way he's about to go after Rahvin. So it's just kind of a hilarious turn of events that instead, he's like, "RAHVIN!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Rahvin!"

Emily: "Aaaahhh!"

Sally: And Nynaeve is like, "Could you chill?"

Emily: Nynaeve is like, "Oh my God. Bigger frish -- fish -- frish to fry."

Sally: Bigger fries to fish. In the fry ocean. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: You catch the French fry by putting a fish on your fry pole.

Emily: What, and then the fish, like, gets it in its mouth, and you pull it out and there's fries? Or, like, the fries are sentient and are like, "Eat the fish"?

Sally: (laugh) I dunno. What's more horrifying?

Emily: I've learned to fish in Final Fantasy. It's very fun.

Sally: OK.

Emily: (laugh) Sally didn't look that impressed.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, next chapter we get to "Choices," literally. Uh, we wake up and there's, you know, some of the classic sitcom Rand and Aviendha being attracted to each other and blah blah blah blah blah. Um, then Asmodean shows up and is like, "I want to go with you." Rand's like, "I don't think that's a great idea," and Asmodean's like, "Well, how else am I gonna prove that I'm, like, on your side?" and Rand's like, "Fine, but I'll be watching you." And Asmodean's like -- (whisper) "You're always watching me, Mike Wasowski." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Nothing has changed. You can watch me die, Rand."

Sally: Twice.

Emily: Twice. God. Well --

Sally: I guess Rand doesn't see the second time.

Emily: I think he's alone the second time, yeah. He just is like, "Where'd Asmodean go?"

Sally: Ooh. "Where'd Asmodean go?"

Emily: "Where does -- what the." Then Rand walks out and finds Mat hanging out there. Uh, Mat is like, "Melindhra's dead. I had to kill her last night. Blah blah blah blah blah, Forsaken stuff." Rand's like, "Aw, dunk. Sorry, Mat." And Mat's like, "Well, I mean, it was her or -- or me, so." Mat is, I mean, torn up about the fact that he had to kill, quote unquote, a woman. I think it would've been interesting if the book had emphasized the fact that she was a woman who he was having sex with.

Sally: Yeah, because that -- I was gonna bring up the same point. That is a much deeper trauma.

Emily: Yeah. That's, like --

Sally: I assume. A woman I've had sex with has never tried to kill ME.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I dunno. But it sounds pretty traumatizing.

Emily: (laugh) Um. Yeah, I mean, that would be horrifying. And it's like, there's a difference -- obviously -- between a random woman trying to kill you and a woman who you have a relationship with trying to kill you. Like, that seems to be the more important factor here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But of course, because it's Robert Jordan, the emphasis is that she's a woman. And Mat's like, "I've never killed a woman before," and it's like, you've also never killed anyone who you were fucking before. That's a big deal.

Sally: Yeah. That's really freaky.

Emily: So again, it's like, we finally have someone whose reaction to killing a woman is justified, but it is -- the reaction is justified for the wrong reasons in the text.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of course it's acceptable that Mat is upset and grieves this in his way because he was having sex with her. But, uh, Robert's like, "It's just 'cause she had a vagina." Gotta love it, Robert. Uh --

Sally: Two titties equals tragedy.

Emily: (laugh) It's really just the fact that the titties are now lost.

Sally: Yeah. We lost two titties today.

Emily: Today --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Like Napoleon inside his -- but it's someone inside their bra, clasping their titty.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) We lost two titties today.

Emily: We lost two titties today in the service of -- (laugh) the nation.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Ah, man.

Sally: Ugh. Lord.

Emily: God. (laugh) Graveyard for tits.

Sally: (laugh) Horrifying. All the tombstones look like boobs.

Emily: Titty graveyard. (laugh) It's like the elephant graveyard in fuckin' -- (laugh) OK, I will not title this episode "Titty Graveyard."

Sally: Or will she? (laugh)

Emily: Too on the nose. (laugh)

Sally: I mean, we do lose a lot of titties in this chapter.

Emily: We do.

Sally: Lanfear's objectively very good titties.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Spoiler alert, I guess. (laugh)

Emily: So -- so they're walking out. Mat, again, is like, "I'll go to Caemlyn with you." They walk out to meet the other, uh, ladies. Moiraine's like, "Here, have some letters. And just think about them." And Rand's like, "What's happening?"

Sally: She's like, "I think we should go to the water."

Emily: She's like, "There's something I need to show you down by the docks." And Rand's like, "We're sort of on, like, a time-sensitive mission here." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And sort of the others convince him, you know, it's probably better if Rahvin's spies --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: See you out and about so he doesn't suspect you're about to attack him. He's like, "Fine."

Sally: "Only one hour though."

Emily: We then cut to Kadere, the gross Darkfriend sister-murderer fella, who's down by the docks. He alerts us to the fact that Rand and co. are around --

Sally: Around.

Emily: Going past the docks. And he's thinking about how he wants to kind of corner Asmodean to get some, like, intel on what he needs to be doing, what his next orders are.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: When who should appear but, uh -- I don't even know how to pronounce her name -- Kelly?

Sally: I guess. (laugh)

Emily: Kelly, his former partner, who we know was just Lanfear in disguise, but he just thought disappeared, I guess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She shows up and is like, "Let's chat." He's like, "Yeah, great." She turns into Lanfear. He's like, "Eugh." And she's like, "Tell me what's going on." And he starts to tell her, and all we know as the readers is that she's getting progressively more upset. Then we cut back to Rand as Kadere's wagon blows up -- (laugh) and Aviendha -- not Aviendha, excuse me -- Lanfear walks out, like, "WHO'S AVIENDHA?"

Sally: (laugh) She also throws up the skin that she ripped off of Kadere into the sky.

Emily: She's dragging his skin --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Behind her, which is -- okay, like, it's so disgusting.

Sally: Yeah, it's foul.

Emily: It is horrifying. But it's also, like -- I mean, that's a striking visual.

Sally: It is a striking visual.

Emily: We'll give it that. It is, like, pretty -- it's pretty nice, in a way, to see Lanfear unhinged --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a way that, uh, we recognize, I guess. It's not -- Lanfear's whole thing, Lanfear's whole schtick is annoying, her obsession with Rand, her, um, possessiveness of Rand, the fact that she goes off the chain as soon as, um, she finds out that Rand has fucked somebody else. That's all very annoying.

Sally: I mean, allegedly.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's just, like, what Kadere --

Emily: One dude's --

Sally: Is saying, yeah.

Emily: One dude's report, yeah.

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "I'm pretty sure they're fucking based on the way Aviendha looks at him."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And Lanfear's like, "That's enough for me."

Emily: Lanfear's like, "Time to blow things up --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And skin the messenger alive, literally."

Sally: Don't skin the messenger. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Don't skin the messenger.

Sally: Please.

Emily: And then drag his skin through the streets as, like, a grotesque, like, "Look what I do."

Sally: And Rand is like -- (gagging noise)

Emily: Rand's like -- (laugh) it would've been so funny if Rand just puked.

Sally: (laugh) I bet Mat, somewhere, is puking.

Emily: Yeah, I know, that's the classic Mat move. But if Rand was just like, "This is it. I'm throwing up now." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "That's disgusting."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Moiraine immediately charges at Lanfear.

Sally: Yeah. So does Lan.

Emily: And Lanfear kind of smacks, uh, her and Lan out of the way. Moiraine goes rolling under a wagon, which I think is kind of funny.

Sally: John Wick style.

Emily: Yeah, John Wick style. And is like -- Lanfear's like, "Which one of these women is Aviendha? I'm going to fucking murder her." Does some, like, you know, pain shit -- we don't really know what's going on since we're in Rand's point of view. We can't see the weaves.

Sally: Yeah, also, I don't think it's, like, super of note, but Rand puts up, like, a bubble because Lanfear has lit stuff on fire.

Emily: Lanfear has lit stuff on fire -- I -- sorry, I thought he -- I don't remember when --

Sally: I don't remember when it happens, but I just, like, wanted to note that, like, Mat and Asmodean --

Emily: I think they get --

Sally: Are on the outside of the bubble.

Emily: Which, yeah, that is hard to track.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because it all happens very quickly, which --

Sally: Yeah, within, like, seconds.

Emily: Makes it a good action sequence --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know. Lanfear's kind of torturing Egwene and Aviendha; Rand manages to cut her weaves and so she sort of refocuses on him. And then it -- somewhere in there, he creates this bubble because there are literally people on fire --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: 'Cause she's just sort of blown a ton of shit up.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, this would be a very cinematic sequence, although one must hope that the skinning scene is edited to something a little more kosher. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, like -- he's just gone.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: She's covered in blood. There we go.

Emily: She's just like, "Blegh." (laugh)

Sally: Carrie style.

Emily: (laguh) Walking out of a Quentin Tarantino movie --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Like, "Heyo."

Sally: "Who's Aviendha?!" (laugh)

Emily: “Who’s Aviendha?!” (laugh) Absolutely -- mascara running down --

Sally: Yeah. Just unhinged.

Emily: Rand’s like, “Eugh.” Um, I mean, this is such a tonal shift for Rand. He’s just on a walk.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not even thinking about Lanfear. (laugh)

Sally: He’s just like, “La dee da, gonna go kill Rahvin,” and then he’s like, “Oh my God.”

Emily: “Oh! Ah!”

Sally: “Another Forsaken!”

Emily: Um, so yeah, I guess Mat and Asmodean are on the other side of the bubble so they cannot interfere, although --

Sally: Like, what could they do?

Emily: What could they do immediately -- which I assume is Robert Jordan’s thought process --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like -- they can’t --

Sally: Gotta keep them alive.

Emily: They can’t do anything anyway, and they need to be alive.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, I don’t think Lanfear would care enough about either Mat or Asmodean at this point to do anything.

Sally: Yeah, she has already pushed Mat to the side as not worth her trouble --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: When she first saw him naked and skeletal in the White Tower. (laugh)

Emily: Did she -- she didn’t quite appear as herself then, right?

Sally: No, I think she was --

Emily: ‘Cause it would’ve been so funny if we were in Mat’s point of view and he was just like, “That lady saw me naked in the White Tower one time.”

Sally: "And now she's blowing up --"

Emily: "And now she's blowing -- OK?"

Sally: "Who is she?" (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, you gotta -- Mat's like the lady doing geometry gif.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Oh, and Asmodean's just like, "Eugh."

Sally: Asmodean's like, "Time to go."

Emily: Asmodean has a flashback to that scene at the end of the Shadow Rising where he's like, "She's gonna kill me. She's gonna kill us."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "She's gonna kill you; she's not gonna kill me. She loves me." And Asmodean's like, "What did I say?"

Sally: Asmodean's like, "Told you so." Pulls out his cold brew.

Emily: He's -- (laugh) limp wristing it.

Sally: Slurping. (laugh) Slurping his iced latte.

Emily: Ah, yeah, you gotta love that. Mat's like, "Let me in," and Asmodean's like --

Sally: "Do NOT let me in."

Emily: (laugh) "No. Stay over there. Please."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, but Rand and Lanfear sort of engage in some little Power shenanigans where they're just sort of cutting each other's weaves. He's trying to force her back. She eventually climbs onto the wagon behind her and grabs, um, uh, an angreal, which we find out that Moiraine intentionally put there for her. Um, for them, I guess. To both of them to use --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Later. Um. And she is attacking him, then, just sort of torturing him.

Sally: Yeah. Rand is, like, laughing maniacally.

Emily: Yeah, Rand is having some identity crises here where he is like, “Mierin, I’m not yours, and I would, like, literally rather die than be in love with a -- an evil lady.” And she’s like, “No!” (laugh) But he is, like, telling us -- he tells us this repeatedly -- that if he were to open himself up to what Lews Therin is offering him that he would be able to defeat Lanfear, presumably without killing her --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is his main roadblock here.

Sally: Ugh.

Emily: Um. But that he’s worried about losing his own identity should he do that.

Sally: Yeah, which is, like, totally fair and valid, but it does lead to this, like, disgusting little paragraph where he, like, lists off all the women that have died, and he’s like, “Even if she’s gonna, like, blow up the whole planet, I can’t kill another woman,” or something like that.

Emily: Yeah, which even, like -- the list isn’t even that long. It’s just, like, this woman that he killed back in book three, when he was, you know, on his post-Vietnam tour of Randland --

Sally: Yeah, when he was -- yeah.

Emily: And Ilyena and Mat. Mat, who has just killed a woman and looks understandably upset about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he’s like, “I don’t want that to happen to me.” And it’s like, what?

Sally: You weren’t -- what? You have no brain cells. (laugh)

Emily: He says, um -- “He was going to die, perhaps the world would die, but he could not make himself kill another woman,” which is just, like, the height of insanity. Like, why -- if you’re going to diagnose Rand, then here’s the moment, I posit, where it’s like, Rand’s off his rocker. There is, to some extent here, not just -- like, we progress into the territory of, like, you know, what’s that famous quote about insanity? If you keep doing the same thing over and over again and it’s not working?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This is what’s happening here. Rand’s whole stumbling block about not killing women is the same thing over and over again, and his inability to change it is just insane.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. But, you know, that isn't necessarily the point.

Sally: Yeah. It just becomes so obsessive.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: This, like, "Cannot kill woman."

Emily: It is obsessive, I would say, in the same way that Lanfear herself is obsessive figure over Rand's body and Rand's choices.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Rand is possessive about literally just feminine, um -- how women move through his sphere, how he allows them to move through his sphere -- by the way, none of the Maidens are with him because he walked out and they were all gone.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Aviendha's like, "What the fuck did you do?" And we can put together, he didn't invite them on his little raid to Rahvin, which is fuckin' stupid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rand wasn't even, by the way, planning to take, like, soldiers with him.

Sally: He was like, "I'm just gonna go."

Emily: He was just gonna go and then Moiraine was like, "Well, you're taking people with you, aren't you?" and he was like, "Oh, yeah. I guess." Stupid.

Sally: Yeah. So, like, I dunno. The Maidens are, at this point in the series, also pissing me off because --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's like, they're just doing these big dramatic gestures and, like, they're not working, obviously, so maybe you guys should have, like, a more productive adult conversation or something.

Emily: Well, it's like, either have a productive conversation or leave his ass.

Sally: Yeah. There are plenty of people who can bodyguard Rand.

Emily: Yeah, just be like, "Whatever, we're gonna do something --" Like, I get it. There's all this, like, honor system at play. But it would be kind of hilarious if the Maidens just, like -- the Maidens are a big chunk of the Aiel, right --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: If they're just like, "Sorry, not fighting for you anymore. We're gonna go fight for Egwene or something."

Sally: (whisper) Ah. That'd be amazing.

Emily: "Like, we're gonna go find someone who actually respects us."

Sally: "We're gonna join the Band of the Red Hand." (laugh)

Emily: "We're gonna join the Band of the Red Hand." And Mat Cauthon will -- Mat would love to have, like, an elite band of warrior women.

Sally: Mat would be like, "Yes." (laugh)

Emily: Mat would be like, "Fuck yeah. Hell yeah." (laugh)

Sally: "I'm gonna use these ladies to assassinate everybody."

Emily: 'Cause then on Mat's little council of war would be Talmanes, Nalesean, and Sulin, which would be, like, the most powerful group of people.

Sally: Yeah. Mat would be like --

Emily: And I would love it.

Sally: "You're my mom." As we all know, old women love Mat, so Sulin would be like, "Hell yeah."

Emily: Sulin would be like, "This is my son," and Mat would be like, "Yes."

Sally: "This is my mom and my boyfriend and my boyfriend's boyfriend."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "They are my war council."

Emily: "Ta da." God. Fixing Wheel of Time, one very long book at a time.

Sally: Fires of Heaven is so long.

Emily: I know it's --

Sally: I forgot how long this book was.

Emily: It is nearly a thousand pages.

Sally: The circus just goes on for so long.

Emily: (inaudible) Um, we then cut to Moiraine as she's getting up, wiping blood from her mouth, which is just, like, so fucking edgy and cool.

Sally: She's like --

Emily: She, like, spits some blood and is like -- climbs up on the wagon. She's like, "OK, well, Rand is fully nuts." He's, like, laughing --

Sally: (laugh) "Not my problem, though."

Emily: While crying. She's like, "Alright, well. Someone else's problem for now."

Sally: Yeah. Good luck.

Emily: Um.

Sally: Cadsuane. (laugh)

Emily: She tells us now that this is -- this whole visual set-up is something she's seen multiple times in her dreams. Which really, like, brings up, like, self-fulfilling prophecies. Presumably Moiraine, this entire time, has been working on this, like, vision, this visual --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so she has manipulated, in a way, this entire set-up.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Rand wouldn't have gone to the docks where Lanfear was unless Moiraine dragged him there.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Y'know? Lanfear wouldn't have access to this little angreal if Moiraine didn't put it there.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It just is very, like -- odd thing.

Sally: Yeah, the way people respond to, like, what they see in Rhuidean is very fascinating, 'cause Lanfear -- Lanfear. Pft. Moiraine's like -- didn't she say, like, "I saw this in Rhuidean --"

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: "And then I keep seeing it in my dreams." So she's, like, actively bringing it about, whereas, like, Mat is like, "Err. Goodbye." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And Aviendha is also like, “Goodbye.” Like, “I’m going to avoid it.” And I think we talked about this in an earlier episode too, where it’s like, you can either run towards prophecies or run away from prophecies. Like, they’re gonna happen.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: But, like, yeah, it is very much like, would this have happened at all if Moiraine wasn’t -- I dunno. Just odd.

Emily: Yeah, it’s just, like, I mean, like, the nature of future, because how could she see -- you know. It’s a whole paradox. How could she see a future set in stone when it requires her own actions to set it into stone?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It’s wild. But it is also very characteristic of Moiraine. Of course she would see her own death and be like, “Great, I will set it up perfectly.”

Sally: “I’m gonna stage manage the fuck out of my own death.”

Emily: (laugh) “I really am going to stage manage it. Gonna write letters beforehand. I’m going to be wearing this fly outfit.”

Sally: Yeah. “I’m gonna be talking very cryptically and odd to everyone for days.” (laugh)

Emily: So buck -- she’s like, “You’ll do well, Mat.”

Sally: And Mat’s like --

Emily: “You’ll be fine, Mat,” and Mat’s like, “What?”

Sally: “What? I’ve never done well in my life. Don’t insult me.” (laugh)

Emily: “How dare you accuse me of doing well?”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uh, but she, as, you know, goes out in a blaze of glory, body-slamming into Lanfear. Tackles her into the doorway, grapples the angreal out of her hand --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: By the way, first. And Lanfear, we know, is a tall lady, and --

Sally: Yeah. And Moiraine, we know, is a small lady.

Emily: Yeah. Moiraine's tiny, and she just, like, totally takes Lanfear off-guard.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just, like, side-swipes her --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Into oblivion.

Sally: Yeah. God.

Emily: It is so powerful. So good.

Sally: It's one of the, like, top five Wheel of Time moments for me.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where Moiraine is just, like, bleeding. Small. And is just like -- (claps hands) Beep.

Emily: Ha. (claps hands) Like a truck.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) She's like, "All the weight of my one hundred and twenty pounds --"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Is going into this woman."

Emily: Like, I mean, hats off. Here's hoping that the Wheel of Time show manages to get here, at least. Because I wanna see Rosamund Pike just -- (laugh, claps hands)

Sally: Tackle someone.

Emily: Tackle some lady --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Into, y'know, an alternate dimension.

Sally: This would be such a fun scene to film.

Emily: I know, wouldn't it?

Sally: Like, we've got Rand crying, Mat and Asmodean in the background. (laugh)

Emily: Like, "What the --"

Sally: Lan is knocked out somewhere.

Emily: Yeah. Poor Lan.

Sally: Everything's on fire.

Emily: It'd be a great scene -- it's a very --

Sally: And here comes Rosamund Pike.

Emily: You -- we've said this before, but Robert Jordan, for the most part, does great --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, ending sequences.

Sally: Yeah, all of his climaxes and climactic sequences are, like, so good.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Even the scenes in Caemlyn that we're coming up on where they're, like, running around the dream palace in Tel'aran'rhiod, and it's very, like --

Emily: Yeah, the fact that those two things happen in the same book, that we have Moiraine doing this absolutely iconic --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Legendary move and then it is immediately followed up by this whole fantasy sequence in Caemlyn, where Mat and Aviendha are dead, we think --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's just like, oh, man, we really --

Sally: Yeah. It is a funny, like, couple of chapters 'cause it's like, Lanfear down, Rahvin down, Moghedien down -- (laugh)

Emily: All at -- Asmodean down.

Sally: Yeah, Asmodean down. It's like --

Emily: We have four Forsaken knocked out of the game --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In this --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, fuckin' two of them will be back --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is so annoying, but --

Sally: But, like, for the time being, we have knocked out --

Emily: Like, Fires of Heaven is the most --

Sally: A third?

Emily: Efficient Forsaken-killing book --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: That we have, I think?

Sally: The elite Forsaken kill squad is doing a great job.

Emily: So yeah, that's what I'm saying, is five is the -- one of the best books purely for this climactic sequence alone. It is very good.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we'll talk about it more next week, I guess.

Sally: Yeah. We've got two episodes left in this season.

Emily: Two episodes unless, for some reason, we find a shit-ton more to talk about and it's gonna take us forever. But, uh, per the reading schedule, two more episodes. And then we will -- I dunno, usually do an extra, then we usually go on a hiatus --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Between seasons, which we might have to do anyway, 'cause we're moving.

Sally: 'Cause we're moving.

Emily: And then on to season six. God bless America.

Sally: I don't really remember a lot about -- is it Lord of Chaos?

Emily: It's Lord of Chaos, and I can tell you everything you need to know about it: boring.

Sally: Rand gets put in a box.

Emily: It's so boring.

Sally: Egg is made the Amyrlin in a very transphobic scene.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: And, um.

Emily: There's only, like, three Mat sequences. That tells you everything you need to know.

Sally: I think Perrin's there?

Emily: Perrin is there. Briefly. He meets the in-laws.

Sally: Oh, yeah. (gasp)

Emily: So Bashere is there.

Sally: Davram Bashere is coming.

Emily: Yep. Good news. Dad!

Sally: (laugh) Dad! (sing-song) You're my dad. Boogie woogie woogie.

Emily: (laugh) Uh, but that's that.

Sally: That's that.

Emily: RIP Moiraine until, uh ... eight books from now. Sorry, I had to do some math.

Sally: A long time without my mom.

Emily: Yeah. But what a way to go.

Sally: What a way to go.

Emily: You can't see us, but we're holding our fists aloft in victory.

Sally: Yeah, in solidarity, yeah.

Emily: Yeah. OK. Uh, thanks for listening. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Thank you -- uh, we said this already, but in case I edited it out -- thank you to all of our patrons.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You make many things possible, including the fact that we're moving into a bigger space.

Sally: Yeah, and also if we edited it out, which we probably will 'cause it was kind of an odd little sidebar, but, um, right now our goal on Patreon -- Patreon -- Patreon -- is to get to six hundred dollars. Um, which would help us pay rent. We said at that point we were going to get a studio, but with Covid impacting things and our lease coming up, we are going to go ahead and move, so we will switch that goal just in the notion of transparency, and we'll find something

else, but we would -- we're gonna keep it as, like, a way to help pay rent, getting up to six hundred dollars.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: That's kind of confusing. If you have questions, just email us.

Emily: Umm. Join us for our many various things happening on Patreon. The, uh -- excuse me -- Final Fantasy fifteen livestream. Tons of stuff going on. Um. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Yes. I wanted to tell you guys, following up on a sign-off from a few weeks ago, that the infamous fundraiser rat has returned. (laugh)

Emily: Ahhh! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) We were having another fundraiser on the same lawn at the Aviary -- this one was, like, a movie series, uh, with, like -- I think there was, like, fifteen people there or something -- but there was, like, a bunch of kids. And, like, right towards the end of the movie -- it was dark, but me and my coworker just saw this, like, quite large shadow run out of the bushes, and her and I just, like, looked at each other. And I was like, "Oh, boy. Here we go." So I had to pull out my flashlight --

Emily: (gasp)

Sally: And go, like, shuffle over. And, like, shine my flashlight at him until he ran back into the bushes.

Emily: God. Wait, so he, like, came out to watch the movie?

Sally: Yeah, probably.

Emily: That's kind of nice. But also, like --

Sally: I was also, like, I can't really have you, very big rat, around my -- (laugh)

Emily: Around the children.

Sally: Around the children. People will start screaming. It will be chaos.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Lord of -- let the Lord of Chaos reign. (laugh)

Emily: Oh my God, the rat is the Lord of Chaos. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Hot take.

Sally: So anyway, fundraiser rat, Lord of Chaos, has returned.

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: Stay tuned. I have another fundraiser on the nineteenth.

Emily: Dun dun!

Sally: (laugh) We'll see if he comes back.

Emily: Thanks for listening, all! Have a good one.

Sally: Bye.

Emily: Bye.