



Episode 137: 9-1-1 Bishop

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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: Um. Yeah, let's slam one out. We're running on election anxiety and cupcake fumes.

Sally: That is correct. I've had a lot of sugar this week.

Emily: Yeah, I made a whole-ass cake yesterday that turned out, um, not quite as advertised but still fine.

Sally: Yeah, I think it's very tasty.

Emily: Yeah, I think the taste is fine. As, um, Paul Hollywood would say, "It looks a mess." But, uh -- (laugh) It is, uh -- tastes delicious.

Sally: I don't even think it looks that messy. But I understand your drive for baking perfection.

Emily: Yeah, I think it's the perfect -- I'm -- I'm not very, um -- I don't consider myself much of a perfectionist except when it comes to writing and baking.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And even with writing, I have learned over -- you know, the fifteen years, uh, that I've been doing it, to, like, let things go and let them into the world. Whatever. With baking, I'm still very protective when I make a -- make a snack.

Sally: Well. It was very tasty. Very -- I really like the texture of it. Um, it's got a little crunch to it.

Emily: It's called a bee sting cake. There's a German name for it that translates to "bee sting," but God help me if I can, um --

Sally: I mean, German is a fascinating language.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I went through a period of time where I was like, "I'm going to learn German." This is when I still had, like, aspirations for academia, where I was like, "I want to go to Germany and, like, study the Holocaust."

Emily: Germany would be a -- a really cool place to study.

Sally: Yeah. So I was -- when we were in New York, I did, like, a couple months of German on Duolingo.

Emily: Oh, you did?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's fun and sexy.

Sally: Yeah. And I've been thinking about doing it again. I also -- I mean, if I'm gonna learn any language, it should probably be Spanish. At this point, it's pretty embarrassing that I don't speak Spanish, so.

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, a constant struggle for me that I -- it's not a constant struggle for me. I'm just irritated at myself constantly for not choosing Spanish in --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, high school. You know, in the American school system -- I don't know how it is other places -- you basically, uh, can choose a language and most of the time you have to, like, take at least one year of one language --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And then, uh, if you want to go on with that, especially if you want to be an English major, um, then you are supposed to go on with that. And I chose French because everyone told me that was the only teacher who actually taught the language. Which, as far as I know, is true. Our French teacher was, uh, an incredible woman and an incredible teacher. Um, and I probably would have learned a lot if I were a better student. But I'm always like, I should've chosen Spanish because even though I would have learned less, like, in the long -- throughout my high school years, I still would then have the foundation, now, as an adult, to, like, pick it back up a little, you know?

Sally: Yeah. I had the same experience, but I was told to take French 'cause the French teacher was, like, a lot nicer. Like --

Emily: Oh.

Sally: The Spanish teacher had a reputation for, like, bullying her students and making them cry.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: Um, yeah. So I was like, "I'm not gonna do that," and the French teacher was very lovely, and I took -- I mean, I took five years of French between middle school and high school, and then two more years in college, so I took a lot of French. Do I know how to speak French?

Emily: Absolutely not.

Sally: No.

Emily: I took the same amount of French. God bless Madame. Whose last name I literally cannot recall.

Sally: Just Madame.

Emily: Yeah, we all just knew her as Madame. Um.

Sally: But anyway, yeah, I kick myself all the time for being like, why didn't you choose Spanish? 'Cause, yeah, then you would've, like -- when you went, as an adult, to learn it, you -- there'd be a baseline for you instead of just, like -- whatever. Anyway.

Emily: One of the summers after I graduated high school, like between, um, years of college, I would go back and work at Chick-fil-a, and one time my old French teacher came in with her kids and was like, "Oh my God, when do you -- do you have a break soon?" and I was like, "Yeah, I get my lunch break in, like, half an hour." And she was like, "I'll wait for you." (laugh)

Sally: Aww.

Emily: And then she just let her children loose in the playground and, um, ate Chick-fil-a with me. It was very weird and funny.

Sally: That's nice.

Emily: Because she -- that just shows how nice she was, because I was not a good student. And I like to imagine that I was, you know, friendly toward her --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and not bad in the sense that I gave her trouble, but. (sigh) What a lovely lady. She also carried twins for her sister, like as a surrogate.

Sally: Listen. Surrogates really are --

Emily: I know.

Sally: Doing a lot --

Emily: It's nuts.

Sally: Out in the world for the people. Um.

Emily: I mean, feasibly the only person I would ever surrogate for would be one of my sisters, but, like, twins!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Twins! She was on bedrest for forever.

Sally: Jeez.

Emily: This is a scintillating opening, just like last opening. Although at least this one has a narrative thread.

Sally: I don't --

Emily: I deleted most of, uh, the last one. Um --

Sally: Remember what we talked about last week.

Emily: We sort of just rambled about how tired we were --

Sally: Oh. Well, that was true.

Emily: And what our apartment looks like.

Sally: Last week was a rough one.

Emily: I deleted most of it -- (laugh) you guys will be happy to know.

Sally: This week has also been a rough one. (laugh)

Emily: This week has also been a rough one for entirely different reasons, I would say.

Sally: I am -- this is probably TMI, everybody, so I apologize -- but it's winter in Utah. I mean, sort of. Um, and that just means that the air becomes, like, horrifically dry.

Emily: Mm.

Sally: And when you're going through a pandemic and hopefully washing your hands the amount that you need to be washing your hands, your hands get really dried out. And I always have problems with my hands in the winter, but I'm having, like, full-body issues with my skin right now, and I'm, like, not sure if it is actually that my skin is that dry or if it's, like, some weird new symptom of, like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: What I am dealing with, health-wise, and it's very upsetting. And I was, like, getting, like, a red rash on my chest. I dunno. It might just be stress too. My body might be like, "We've cycled through everything. We need a new way to tell you to calm the fuck down."

Emily: That's what my body does. It's like, "Are you feeling stressed? Would you like a rash in this trying time?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'm like, that sounds great. (laugh) Um.

Sally: Sure, why not.

Emily: I'm surprised my nosebleeds haven't started yet.

Sally: Yeah. Ugh.

Emily: You guys all know I get nosebleeds constantly during the winter, don't you? It's so fun. Um. By "fun," I mean horrifying to everyone around me, including me.

Sally: It's sad, though. Nosebleeds are sad.

Emily: Nosebleeds are kind of -- like, there are people who are like, "I've never had a nosebleed," and I'm like -- what?

Sally: Yeah, I've never had a nosebleed.

Emily: Brah.

Sally: I dunno. It's just, like, not my body's particular --

Emily: It's just such a human experience that I consider, but I guess that's -- it's really just a me experience, and I'm trying to universalize it --

Sally: No, I --

Emily: To feel better about it.

Sally: Think it's very common. Um, my friend Brianna's mom has a blood clotting disorder, like a blood platelet disorder, so her blood doesn't, like, clot very easily, and she gets nosebleeds, and they're so bad that she just has to go, like, sit in the bathtub until they stop.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: Because she, like, can't use enough tissues --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: To, like, stop them up.

Emily: Mine aren't that bad.

Sally: So she just goes and, like, lays in the bathtub. (laugh) Which is horrifying, but. Um, we are -- (laugh) unfortunately here to talk about Rand al'Thor, so welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheely Time podcast. I'm -- I almost said "I'm Emily." (laugh)

Emily: Ahh! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm so used to hearing your name first.

Emily: I know.

Sally: Just be like, "I'm Emily Juchau."

Emily: That's why we're shaking things up, season six.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: You're the one who calls -- the -- shots now. Oops, sorry -- (inaudible)

Sally: I mean, that is a dangerous power to give me, because I -- I just would talk forever about whatever, so.

Emily: Yeah, I think that's what having a podcast is for, though.

Sally: (whisper) I mean. Correct.

Emily: It's just, you know, give a mic to people who can talk forever about anything. But we do have a topic. And it's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Lord of Chaos. (laugh)

Sally: I mean, we could be my friend's sister-in-law, who literally just started a podcast to talk about her life.

Emily: What?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is her life exciting or dramatic at all?

Sally: Mm. I mean, I wouldn't say that. She got married at 18 and had a whole podcast --

Emily: Ah.

Sally: About why she doesn't regret getting married at 18 and why people should stop bullying her for getting married at 18. (laugh)

Emily: "Stop bullying me for getting married as a child."

Sally: So ...

Emily: "My child marriage is sacred."

Sally: I mean, she did meet her husband when she was 16 and he was, um, serving a mission in her dad's ward -- I mean, her ward. So.

Emily: Like, he was -- oh, he was literally serving a mission? He was a missionary in their ward?

Sally: Mm -- mm-hmm.

Emily: Damn, Daniel.

Sally: Yeah, and he would, like, come over to their house to, like, you know.

Emily: Hang?

Sally: Do missionary stuff. Apparent -- and I am in -- I am assured constantly that nothing happened between them. They didn't even consider dating one another until he returned from his mission.

Emily: I mean, it would be pretty tough -- I, like -- missionaries -- I can imagine, if you're a missionary and you're, like, in Europe or whatever, you could kind of do whatever you want, theoretically, if you get, like, a chill enough companion.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But in Utah, it's like, everyone's fuckin' Mormon, so --

Sally: Oh.

Emily: If they see a missionary fuckin' around, they're gonna be like --

Sally: I mean, he was --

Emily: 9-1-1, bishop?

Sally: He was in Canada. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, this was in Canada?

Sally: Yeah, so she moved from Canada.

Emily: Oh, OK. (laugh)

Sally: We don't need to get into this. 9-1-1 Bishop? (laugh)

Emily: 9-1-1 Bishop, that's my new reality show. 8-0-1 Bish -- does that even work? Yeah, "bishop" is seven letters.

Sally: 8-0-1 Bishop? Ahhhhh!

Emily: 8-0-1 Bishop. "Hello, this is your bishop after dark." (laugh)

Sally: No! That took a really -- I bet there's, like, so much weird porn about Mormons.

Emily: I one hundred percent believe that there is too. Because it's, like, a conserve -- like, I bet about missionaries specifically.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't want to think about it.

Sally: I bet -- yeah, I just feel like they're -- they hit that, like, everyone wants to corrupt them niche.

Emily: Someone not me -- but someone who has a Pornhub subscription or whatever, tell me if there's, like, a subgenre --

Sally: You don't need a Pornhub subscription. (laugh)

Emily: You don't?

Sally: I --

Emily: Are you just Googling missionary porn?

Sally: No, I'm just gonna go to Pornhub.

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: This is a fun new -- (laugh) This is a fun new, um, EHR thing.

Emily: Pornhub.

Sally: "State of Utah warning: Exposing minors to obscene material may damage or negatively impact minors." Whooo! (laugh) OK.

Emily: Oh. (laugh) What'd you see?

Sally: Do you want to see the homepage?

Emily: Ummmmm.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh, damn.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Just get right to it.

Emily: Just are like, hey.

Sally: Do you like to see this? "Mormons."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Masturbating Mormons, bad Mormons, lesbian Mormons, teenage Mormons, fucking Mormons.

Emily: No Mormon missionaries?

Sally: Let's see, that -- those were just the suggested categories.

Emily: Oh. I guess the problem with Googling -- or Pornhubbing -- (laugh) missionaries is then you have so much, like, opportunity --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's, like, a sex position, you know? Can you get missionaries doing missionary sex? You know?

Sally: (laugh) "Virgin Mormon teen Dolly Lee fucked during worthiness interview."

Emily: (gasp)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: This is changing my life. But also, it's -- it's probably not in a good way. (laugh) OK, we have to talk about Lord of Chaos. We can't just scroll through Pornhub. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What's this stupid energy?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I hate this blighted hellscape --

Sally: We've gotten several different types --

Emily: Over here.

Sally: Of Mormon punishment rituals.

Emily: Punishment rituals?

Sally: Yeah, like you have -- you get caught doing something, and so you have to have, like, sex with your bishop or whatever.

Emily: Oh. OK. Well, that's just, like typical --

Sally: Yeah, I mean --

Emily: Roleplay with the added element of --

Sally: You're right.

Emily: It's your bishop, I guess.

Sally: You are totally right. I have not seen anything about Mormons yet. Let's see.

Emily: My bishop was my dad for a while, so --

Sally: (disgusted noise)

Emily: Pornhub would go crazy over that one.

Sally: No-o-o-o. (laugh)

Emily: We can't keep -- you need to get off of Pornhub dot com -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Or you're gonna be there all day searching subgenres. (laugh)

Sally: You're so right. I would be. OK.

Emily: OK, Lord of fucking Chaos. Um, so we start with Rand practicing swords.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: This is also a great scenario for a -- a porno, is Rand fighting five men with their --

Sally: And they all start fucking.

Emily: With their swords. Yeah. They're, like -- something, something, swords. Something, something suggestive, phallic.

Sally: Oh, yeah, it's -- it's fair, yeah.

Emily: It's all there.

Sally: It's all there. Someone write the script.

Emily: Especially once you --

Sally: Ooh.

Emily: Zoom out to the extremely erotic Davram Bashere --

Sally: Yeah, just, like --

Emily: With one leg slung over the arm of his chair.

Sally: Yeah, like, holding a dagger.

Emily: Like, Bashere is the only literary character I've come across who both has dad energy and has extremely, like, sexual energy in a way that interests -- intrigues me. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, I get it. I get it. He's just, like, small and powerful.

Emily: Yeah, I think it's the height. As everyone knows, Sally's into tall men. I'm into short men. I just think that ... they're neat.

Sally: (laugh) Short men: I think that they're neat.

Emily: (laugh) I just think they're neat.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I feel like they aren't as threatening to me personally --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And I just -- I just think that the way they navigate the world is so different than tall men navigate the world. You know?

Sally: Yeah. That's fair.

Emily: That it -- it leads to some characteristics that I typically find attractive. Um, but we don't need to psychoanalyze -- (laugh) my sexual interests --

Sally: OK.

Emily: Right now. We've already been on Pornhub this episode. Um --

Sally: We can get back on Pornhub and look at short men.

Emily: Short men -- how would they -- never mind. I don't want to know. Nope! Put it down! (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, Rand has this new thing where he is paying people to come fight him, um, for, I would assume, an hour or two at a time, -- which I think we have said this before -- but for a guy who is governing three countries at this point, plus the Aiel, that seems like a -- an extraordinary amount of time to devote to sword-fighting.

Sally: Yeah, like every day?

Emily: Yeah, when, as Bashere points out, he doesn't really need it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Rand, you know, fights these dudes. There's the whole, uh, long monologue about the flowery sword forms or whatever --

Sally: Is that what sword forms -- are sword forms, like, in this world, actually named in this way? Like --

Emily: Yeah, I think so.

Sally: That's so interesting. I just thought it was a dumb -- thing Robert Jordan did. When he's like --

Emily: Like, as a writing quirk?

Sally: Yeah. Just as, like, a Robert Jordan talking about swords -- 'cause I honestly thought it was 'cause, like, Lan, who is, um, Borderlander --

Emily: Oh, yeah. Is, like, coded --

Sally: Like, taught it to him as, like, a cultural thing, and it was, like, coded in --

Emily: No, we've seen other, um -- I think we see other point of view characters who use the same, uh, like, flowery language. Like, Galad definitely does it. Um.

Sally: But, like, if I were to meet a master swordsman --

Emily: Yeah, would they --

Sally: Out on the streets of Salt Lake City --

Emily: Would they all use the same --

Sally: Would I be like, "Tell me about your sword forms," and would they be like, "It's Sunlight on --"

Emily: In Salt Lake City? No. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I mean, I know people aren't sword-fighting. So, like, in -- I meant, like, in this world as in, like, our world.

Emily: Oh. Yeah. I think so.

Sally: As in, like, planet Earth.

Emily: I think there's two types of sword fighters in Wheely Time. I think there's, like, the martial artist swordsmen who are like, "It is an art, and it has forms --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And there are the people who are like, "I just picked up a sharp object, and I gotta whack other people with it to survive."

Sally: OK.

Emily: That's how I feel. Like, I don't think your -- your random soldier -- your random infantrymen -- are gonna be like, "Here's my Heron Fucks Over the Water," or whatever. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) “Sunlight on the Titties.”

Emily: “Sunlight on the Nipple.” (laugh) Mango. Dribbling down --

Sally: (laugh) Mangoes.

Emily: Your rack. Um --

Sally: Eugh.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) I hate the phrase “rack.”

Emily: I do too. It’s not a great phrase for boobs. Um. (laugh) But I don’t know. What do I know? Maybe that’s, like, taught to people in kindergarten. Here are the sword forms. And Rand just didn’t know them ‘cause there’s no school --

Sally: He didn’t go to kindergarten. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) He’s functionally illiterate. No, that’s Mat. Davram Bashere is like, “What books has Mat read?”

Sally: And Rand’s like, “Eeeeh.”

Emily: Rand’s like, “I’m sure he’s read a book at some point.” (laugh)

Sally: Can Mat read? No.

Emily: Question. Hmm. Anyway. Rand is being observed -- he’s in Andor -- by a group of Andoran noble people who, uh, represent, I believe, six of the eighteen or nineteen houses. This is going to be impossible to keep track of, but because we are a resource for you, I will do my best.

Sally: OK.

Emily: Essentially, what you need to know is that the people who are introduced in this scene, and I believe who will pretty much be with Rand throughout this book, are the same people who, uh, Rahvin slash what’s his -- what was his alias? Gaebril?

Sally: Gaebril.

Emily: Allowed to be near him throughout, uh, Morgase’s captivity.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Therefore, they are the bad ones.

Sally: OK.

Emily: They are not necessarily Darkfriends, although I think probably one or two of them are. But they are the ones who, once Rand is kind of out of the country and Elayne is trying to secure the throne for herself, they will, like, lead armies against her in an attempt to gain the throne for themselves.

Sally: OK.

Emily: So these ones, they'll be impossible to keep track of, but unfortunately in the later books, they will come up a lot, because Robert Jordan, for some reason, really wanted to make a big deal out of the war for succession with Elayne, which did not need to be a war. It just sort of happened because of how incompetent everyone is. But these guys are the bad ones, as also demonstrated by how gross and weird they are with Rand. They're just like, "You're so great. Can we lick your boots? Will you make us queen?" or whatever, and Rand is like, "Fuck off."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Meanwhile Bashere is like, "I'm going to throw a knife directly at you." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Bashere's lounging.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Again, it's extremely sexual. Um, he's like, "Why are you doing sword-fighting?" and Rand's like, "'Cause I wanna." And Bashere, like, throws a knife at him, and Rand channels to stop it, and Bashere is like, "You can do that every time. You, like -- it's not necessarily the same with swords -- you can't rely on swords to save your life. You gotta, like, hone your channeling. That's the real art that's gonna save your life." And Rand's like, "I'm so angry at you momentarily." But Bashere's like, "I'm very casual about the whole thing."

Sally: Mm. Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Alright. I'll chill out."

Sally: It's a very odd interaction.

Emily: It's a very -- Bashere and Rand have a weird relationship.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which I think, um -- I don't know, is dissected quite a bit in these two chapters as, like, Taim is introduced -- Taim, I don't know how to -- we're gonna say his name -- Mazrim Taim --

Sally: Yeah. Sounds good to me.

Emily: Mazrim Taim. Um, as Taim is introduced and he is talking to Bashere and things and Rand has, sort of, like, a little bit of a breakdown when Taim gives him one of the seals, um, and Bahsere stops him, and Rand is like, "You must have thought I was going crazy. How are you so calm?" and Bashere's just like, "It be like that."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Well, he tells a hilarious story about another Saldaean general who was batshit crazy.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. And, like, made them cut down oak trees because --

Emily: And give them funerals. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Amazing. And Bashere's like, "Once -- until you do that, I'm good."

Emily: Yeah, Bashere's just like, "Listen. People be crazy."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "You might be crazy, but I will deal with it because you are the Dragon Reborn. It's just -
- I don't really have much of an option here."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know?

Sally: So he's really the only taking, I think, the appropriate route.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: When he's just like, "It's chill."

Emily: Like, he's not stupid about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's fully aware that Rand might go insane and kill the people closest to him. He's just kind of like, "That's sort of a risk you gotta take --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "At this point."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's a military guy. I mean, he takes risks like that all the time, so. He's just so sensible in that way.

Sally: A very sexy man, yeah.

Emily: He's very sexy. He's also riding around -- Rand tells us that all the Saldaean, like, generals and most of their captains bring their wives campaigning with them, that this is a traditional thing; obviously Rand does not improve -- approve, 'cause he's a huge misogynist, but, um, this is a cultural thing in many, many countries. Not in modern eras, really, but in the ancient world, a lot of the times, women went campaigning with, uh, the men because military camps often don't really function when they're just left to men. Um. But. It -- it sounds like Bashere's wife, Deira, is, like, his second in command. (laugh)

Sally: I know.

Emily: 'Cause he's like, "If I die, she takes over the entire army."

Sally: And Rand's like, "What?"

Emily: "R-really?"

Sally: And he's like, "Yeah. And you don't want that. Trust me."

Emily: He's like, "Yeah, she --"

Sally: "She's very mean." (laugh)

Emily: "She will not like you."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "So you can just -- the whole agreement will be off."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "She'll be very pissed that I'm dead." Um.

Sally: Oh, hi, sir.

Emily: Hey, Tybalt. Come to join us again?

Sally: You scratch my chair, I will throw you out the window.

Emily: Tybalt, you better not.

Sally: You'll be thrown out. You would do very poorly on the streets.

Emily: Just like Oliver and Company.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Artful Dodger.

Sally: Tybalt is not the Artful Dodger.

Emily: He's not. I --

Sally: Tybalt is the un-Artful Dodger. (laugh)

Emily: The Fartful Dodger. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) That was the stupidest thing I've ever said.

Sally: (laugh) So good.

Emily: Um. Christ. Um. I can't even remember. There's just, like -- it's just, like, a long conversation, it feels like, these two chapters.

Sally: Yeah. And then one of Bashere's soldiers walks in and is like, "Um. Mazrim Taim is here?"

Emily: (laugh) Oh, wait, before that, um, Rand and Bashere are just talking, and Rand says something about, like, the Forsaken --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And literally, one of the Andor noblewomen just faints --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Dead away.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're all just like, "The Forsaken?"

Sally: "Ahh!"

Emily: "And one of the Forsaken was ruling us?" And Bashere is just like, "These wimps."

Sally: Yeah. "Babies."

Emily: "Babies."

Sally: "Eat the Forsaken for breakfast." The Forsaken are not scary, and no one should be afraid of them.

Emily: No, they're honestly just the stupidest people.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But they are talking, and it is sort of revealed that Bashere and Mat have created this plan, presumably to attack Sammael in Illian; that's kind of the context that we're given, is Rand says something about getting Illian from Sammael, and Bashere's like, "Well, with the plan we put together, it should fall really quickly." And this is what leads to him being like, "What books has Mat read?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Who has he studied under?"

Sally: "Smart young lad."

Emily: And Rand is just like, "I can't -- I -- I don't know. I don't know her."

Sally: Yeah. He's like, "Also, you're wrong. Mat is very stupid."

Emily: "Also, Mat's the stupidest motherfucker alive."

Sally: Yeah. "Very dumb."

Emily: "He just -- he tried to open fireworks once."

Sally: Yeah. Very stupid. For some reason, good at war.

Emily: But good at war.

Sally: Don't worry --

Emily: That's the one thing he's got going for him.

Sally: Don't worry about it.

Emily: Um, but this will sort of explain, like, why Mat is not in Rand's coterie anymore.

Sally: Yeah. It would be very funny to watch Mat -- have the scene where Mat and Davram Bashere are planning the siege.

Emily: Yeah, it would've been nice. Finally, a military planning, like, moment that I would be interested in watching.

Sally: Yeah. And Davram Bashere's just, like, looking at him.

Emily: Mostly I just want Bashere and Mat, like, interacting more. I -- I feel really robbed of interactions that Mat might have had with, uh, with military leaders who are already kind of stable in their positions.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, we don't see him interact with Agelmar, really, until, you know, long after book two.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I mean, book two is the only time they interact, as far as I know. Um, we -- all the interactions with Bashere pretty much have been off-screen.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He never talks to Gareth Bryne, God help him. Until maybe the Last Battle. Um, who are the -- Pedron Niall.

Sally: And Ituralde.

Emily: Ituralde, yeah. He also doesn't really talk to Ituralde.

Sally: I think Ituralde -- Ituralde was just name-dropped in the Path -- chapter of Path of Daggers that I read.

Emily: Oh, was he?

Sally: Yeah. By Graendal of all people.

Emily: Well, he might be, um, in Path of Daggers. That might start. You'll love Ituralde. He's just so delightful.

Sally: I'm very excited.

Emily: Also short. I just love him and Bashere. I feel like they could be in love.

Sally: Yeah. But they both love -- I mean, they could both love their wives and still be in love.

Emily: I feel like, yeah, they could both have open marriages --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then they could, you know, be like, "We're in love. Our wives are in love with each other."

Sally: Yeah, ethical non-monogamy is an option, kids.

Emily: God. I think that would be beautiful.

Sally: Don't forget it.

Emily: Um, especially because Bashere gives off, like, really strong bisexual energy.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: It's the way he sits on a chair.

Sally: (laugh) It's the way he sits on a chair. It's the way he throws knives at people.

Emily: It's the way he -- he just --

Sally: It's the way he loves his horses.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I just love him. Anyway, yeah, then one of Bashere's men comes in and is like, "Uh, Mazrim Taim is at the door." And Rand's like, "Mm."

Sally: "Could he not be?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "Could he not be there?"

Emily: Bashere is like, "Oh, let him in, and I'll murder him." (laugh) And Rand's like, "No, he's probably here for the amnesty," and Bashere's just like, "So, this --"

Sally: "Whose amnesty?" (laugh)

Emily: "Amnesty accounts for, like, war crimes and things like that?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Yeah."

Sally: Bashere is like, "No."

Emily: No, it don't work like that. You know, like, Rand's amnesty is fine and functioning for, like -- it means, literally, we're not going to arrest you or send you to the authorities for the ability to channel.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Mazrim Taim, known war criminal?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Fully could do that.

Sally: Yeah. He, like, literally, in this scene, is just, like, talking about some people he had, you know, captured during a parlay --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or whatever.

Emily: And, like, put -- it sounds like he put them under Compulsion.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is a big no-no and a big indicator to Rand, if he was paying attention, that this guy is bad.

Sally: Yeah. And Bashere's just like, "Mm. I gotta kill him."

Emily: Um. Yeah. Taim enters the room greasily.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He basically slithers in --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Like a slug, leaving a trail of slime behind him. So terrible.

Sally: (laugh) His own slip 'n' slide.

Emily: But, uh, the first thing Bashere says is, "You're Mazrim Taim?" or something like that. Which, again, is fuel for the fire that is Robert Jordan trying to convince us that Mazrim Taim is Demandred in disguise.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, but it is not actually unrealistic to think that Mazrim Taim and Bashere never interacted closely --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Face to face. They were on opposite ends of a battlefield.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, and I don't think Taim -- uh, Bashere was the one who necessarily, like, arrested --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Mazrim Taim. I think that was Aes Sedai. So.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, but Taim's like, "Uh, yeah, I shaved. What's something only you would know?" Which is when he drops this info about some of Bashere's, uh, men -- and women, because their wives were also involved -- who tried to kill Taim under, like, a flag of parley, which, you know, is a no-no, but you can't really blame 'em.

Sally: Yeah. He's --

Emily: This guy.

Sally: Disgusting.

Emily: And, he, I guess, put them under severe Compulsion and sent them back to Bashere basically, um, different people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Bashere tries to draw his sword, and all the Saldaean guards are like, "Ah rah rah," and they're kind of, like, poking Taim --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: With their swords, just a little bit. Rand, like, has to grab Bashere to keep him from drawing his sword the whole way. Um, but he's like, "You all need to calm down. War crimes? They happened in the past. And also, his war crimes were not as big as the Forsaken's war crimes. Lesser of two evils? It's fine. We should always grant the lesser of two evils the capacity to teach men how to channel." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) To teach men how to do those lesser of two evils.

Emily: Yeah. It's fine. He basically -- his whole argument is like, "This is how bad the Forsaken are, so we've really gotta stay, like, on task with murdering each and every one of them, um, to ensure that the world does not fall. And if having Mazrim Taim on my side to teach the men, uh, who have come to me seeking amnesty will further that goal, then so be it." And again, this is, like, not logical because, um, it's a little bit ridiculous to compare the crimes of the Forsaken to Mazrim Taim. Like, there's a reason we don't say, like, when someone is convicted of murder, "Well, you're not as bad as Ted Bundy was, so three to five years."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, we don't sentence people based on the crimes of other people.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's ridiculous. Mazrim Taim did bad things in his own right, of his own volition.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That makes him a bad person. Is he a redeemable person? Well, I dunno. Perhaps he could have been. Who are we to say? But he is very clearly, in this scene and throughout the rest of the books, a bad and slimy person. He has no interest in --

Sally: Mm-hmm. Redemption.

Emily: Like, Rand's like, "You just need to submit to me, and we'll all be good," and Taim's like, "I'd rather not do that. Why don't we have a partnership?" and Rand's like, "BAAAAHH!"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Challenging MY power?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "My man power?!"

Sally: My man power.

Emily: And Mazrim Taim's like, "No, sir, I will not challenge your man power. I -- you're -- I'll submit." (laugh)

Sally: Rand's like, "Meh, that was --"

Emily: Rand's like, "That was a quick turnaround," and Taim's like, "I mean, I had to try to not be, you know, in a subservient position, but clearly that's not happening because you're crazy." And Rand's like, "Fair enough. Fair enough." Um, around this point, Taim is like, "I brought you a present," and gives Rand the -- according to Rand's own accounting -- seventh seal. Well, Rand says that there are three that he knows are broken, two that are whole and he has in his possession. This one is the third.

Sally: Yeah, so the sixth.

Emily: And he's like, "I don't know about the seventh one." We know from the last book that Nynaeve actually had the seventh one and that it is broken.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: So four down, three to go, I guess, is the math. And Taim's just like, "I just brought this to you to just prove how devoted I am," or whatever, and Rand's like, "Where'd you even get this?" Taim's like, "Some randos on the side of the road," and Rand's like, "Sounds reasonable."

Sally: (laugh) Right? He's like, "I stopped to get some water or something from a farmer, and a farmer was like, 'Do you want this?'"

Emily: "What?" He's like, "His family, um, said that they had been protecting it for generations, so they gave it to me because they thought I was the Dragon Reborn." And I'm like, I mean, if I - - if a random man claiming to be the Dragon Reborn stopped at my house, I would not give him my most treasured possession until he'd done, like, some of the -- you know, prophecies.

Sally: Yeah. Especially if he was greasy and disgusting and --

Emily: Especially if he looked like Mazrim Taim.

Sally: Full of his war crimes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Poke him, and his war crimes fall out.

Emily: (laugh) Just full of war crimes.

Sally: I hate -- he's -- it's fine.

Emily: Take a cookie cutter. War crime -- a war crimes-shaped cookie cutter.

Sally: There'd just be infinite cookies out of Mazrim Taim. (laugh)

Emily: War crime cookies.

Sally: Infinite war crime cookies.

Emily: Stupid. (laugh) Um --

Sally: This episode is dumb. (laugh)

Emily: I know. Uh, but they have, like, a brief conversation about the difference between them. Like, Mazrim Taim's basically like, "I could've been the Dragon Reborn. No one would've known until I fulfilled one of the prophecies."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Well, you definitely weren't born on Dragonmount. Like, wasn't that an indicator to you that you weren't?" And he's like, "Meh, prophecies are kind of loosey-goosey. If I had done a different prophecy, then people would've, you know, warped the past to, uh, fit what is going on." And Rand, of course, has basically fit all the prophecies to a T. So that's not really been his experience.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um. But this is just, like, an ongoing submission into the, uh, catalogue of Robert Jordan fiddling with prophecies as a theme. Um. Let's see. But having given Rand the seal -- Rand has been struggling this entire time with Lews Therin's voice in his head. He's -- hears it a lot, especially as the Forsaken come up. And he's pretty good at, like, compartmentalizing it --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Just being like, "I'm not listening to you right now," but Lews Therin takes over a little bit when he gets ahold of the seal and is like, "We gotta break it. We've gotta break them all." And Rand sort of comes back to himself, realizing that he is muttering --

Sally: And Davram Bashere's, like, holding his arms.

Emily: Yeah, he's got the seal raised above his head -- remember, Rand is about six-foot-five --

Sally: Yeah, and Davram Bashere is -- only goes up to Rand's shoulder, so.

Emily: Yeah, Bahsere is literally standing on his tiptoes --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, again, sexy.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I find it sexy. Um, yeah, to, like, keep Rand from just breaking this. And he's like, "I don't know what the fuck --" He doesn't even know what it is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "I don't think you want to break that yet." And Rand's like, "Uh, you -- you're correct, sir. I do not want to break this yet." Um. And then that's where they have their conversation about how Bashere is so casual about serving an insane person. (laugh) But Rand officially gives the seal to Bashere to keep safe, which is an interesting expression of trust that he doesn't really, like, dissect.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He is not, like, explicitly in the text, like, "I trust Bashere," even though everything we've seen indicates that he trusts Bashere. But for Rand, a person with such intense trust issues -- and we are introduced to the theme of his inability to trust Aes Sedai, um, also in these two chapters, because there used to be an Aes Sedai in Caemlyn, who I believe was one of Elaida's spies --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Um, that Gaebril found immediately and took over. That was sort of a -- a -- a -- a “z” plot in Fires of Heaven. Um, she immediately fled. So now there are no Aes Sedai in the city to heal Rand if he cracks his head open playing with swords, is Bashere’s point. But Rand’s like, “Well, I might have all these rebel Aes Sedai who are gonna help me,” and Bashere’s like, “Well, that’s not really as good as, like, the actual White Tower.” And Rand’s like, “It doesn’t really matter. They’re still Aes Sedai. And I still can’t trust them, but I will use them.” But it’s like --

Sally: Bashere’s like, “OK, fine.”

Emily: Bahsere’s like, “I don’t even care. I just want to, like, exit this conversation now.”

Sally: Yeah. “I would like to leave.”

Emily: “I’ve only been talking to you for 30 seconds, and it’s already as exhausting as it always is.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, anyway, yeah. So Rand is like, “Here, take this seal to the Dark One’s prison.” And Bashere’s like, “Sure.” (laugh) Um, and pretty much leaves. Rand’s like, “OK, we’re gonna go to the farm.” Mazrim Taim’s like, “What farm?” And Bashere’s like, “I’ll stay home. Thank you, though.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Come see my horses do stunts later.” And Rand’s like, “Yeah, of course I will. See you, Dad.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) “Bye, Dad. I want to see your ponies.”

Emily: “Bye, Dad. I’ll come by to see the ponies doing tricks.”

Sally: Yeah, the horses are out there just doing sick flips.

Emily: Yeah. And Taim’s like, “What farm?” and Rand’s like, “This is the farm where I’m gonna use you.” And Mazrim Taim’s like, “To -- to pick weeds? What are you talking about?” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, he’s like, “I don’t love that phrase.”

Emily: I don’t love “the farm.” The farm does have, like, ominous --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Connotations.

Sally: I'm gonna send you to the farm.

Emily: I'm gonna send you to the farm.

Sally: Where all the lesbians are gonna kick your ass.

Emily: Heh heh heh.

Sally: I mean, that sounds amazing, actually.

Emily: Yeah, sign me up.

Sally: If, like, I got to watch a bunch of lesbians beat up Mazrim Taim.

Emily: Oh, I would fully allow a bunch of lesbians to kick my ass.

Sally: OK, that's fair too.

Emily: I deserve it. (laugh) Um --

Sally: No, you don't.

Emily: I think we all do on some level. You know?

Sally: Not me. I'm perfect, baby. (laugh)

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: No, I'm a terrible garbage can and also need my ass kicked.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: So do you, Tybalt.

Emily: Especially you, Tybalt.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: But those are those two chapters. (laugh) Um, it's a typical Wheel of Time opening. Not a lot is going on in the first, um, few chapters. This is, uh -- let me think -- the second book in a row that has opened with Rand essentially surrounded by advisors --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Of some kind and pretty much ignoring them. He's still more or less struggling with the same things that he struggled with in book five. Um. The challenges of, uh, who he trusts and how he's going to get the job done and how he's going to do it while staying sane. He finds it remarkable that Mazrim Taim is apparently sane after, he estimates, fifteen or so years, probably,

channeling. Um, he says that it's been about two years for him -- which, again, this timeline is so wacky -- I guess that makes it, like, three years between -- never mind. Um, but, uh ... and he clearly is already starting to crack quite a bit.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, so that's just sort of, like, where we're kicking off, I guess. Mat is off on some unknown Illian-related mission.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, Rand is expecting, I guess, some sort of, like, indicator that the rebel Aes Sedai are on his side. He has to deal with Taim, he has to deal with "the farm," and he has to deal with Mat's secret mission to Illian, which, do not worry, will be totally disrupted when Rand is like, "Could you actually escort my girlfriend home?" or whatever. (laugh)

Sally: (whisper) Mat's like, "I will literally kill you."

Emily: Mat's like, "I have a certain set of skills."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And you're having me bodyguard a woman who does not want to be bodyguarded. In fact, she is actively running towards a cliff."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "With, like, sharp spikes at the bottom."

Sally: "You're just gonna, like, waste this beautiful military brain guarding this dumb ho?"

Emily: Yeah. And Rand's like --

Sally: Rand's like, "Yeah, absolutely."

Emily: "Yes. I absolutely do not want you to have a plot appropriate to your characterization."

Sally: That would be silly.

Emily: Robert Jordan has never heard of those. Um. OK, I don't have anything further to add.

Sally: I don't either except that Rand's introduction in Path of Daggers is also him surrounded by a bunch of advisors that he's ignoring and then yells at, so. (laugh)

Emily: It probably happens in a Crown of Swords -- oh, no, in Crown of Swords, it's him on the battlefield, the Dumai's Wells battlefield.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: But I think he's also surrounded by advisors in that.

Sally: That he's probably ignoring, so.

Emily: It's just, like -- he doesn't need to be in this position for eight of the fourteen books, you know? Something's gotta change, Robert.

Sally: Something's gotta give. (singing) Ch-ch-ch-changes.

Emily: (singing) Turn and face the strange -- ch-ch-changes.

Sally: (singing) Just gonna have to be a different man.

Emily: (vocalizing the tune)

Sally: (singing) Time won't change me --

Emily: OK --

Sally: (singing) But I can't ... (vocalizing the tune)

Emily: Let's sing the rest of the Shrek 2 soundtrack.

Sally: OK. (singing) Holding out for a hero 'til the end of the night ... (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I was trying to remember how "Accidentally in Love" by Counting Crows --

Sally: (singing) Accidentally in love ...

Emily: (singing) So she said, "What's the problem, baby?"

Sally: (singing simultaneously) "What's the problem, baby?"

Emily: We're gonna be sued by so many people for this episode.

Sally: What's the -- specifically Shrek. (laugh)

Emily: Shrek is gonna sue us. OK, we have to end.

Sally: Do you think Shrek has a lawyer?

Emily: I have to, like, eat before I speak to my friends.

Sally: Oh, yeah. Um, thank you for listening. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Please check us out on all of our social media, uh, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram. Check out our website, everybodyhatesrand.com. Um, check out our Patreon, where there's lots of fun bonus content, um, including Emily's most recent presentation on Alexander the Great, um, which you can get at the five-dollar level. Um, and if you want to join us, every Friday -- well,

mostly every Friday -- at 5:30 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, Emily is playing video games on our Twitch stream. And ... yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I think that's it.

Emily: Yeah, that was a really good run-through. Very professional.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: I mean, I think the fact that I looked at Pornhub on our podcast is a sign-off enough.
(laugh)

Emily: You should find a really weird subgenre to --

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: Like, sign us off.

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: Just a weird, um, porn title.

Sally: "Minecraft encounter with an Enderwoman."

Emily: Minecraft encounter with an --

Sally: (laugh) Can you see it with my dumb privacy screen?

Emily: Oh, an Enderwoman. How did he craft a dick in Minecraft? Like, it -- we can't -- we can't keep doing this Daniel. OK. Sally's gonna keep searching -- (laugh)

Sally: "Scam angels."

Emily: "Scam angels."

Sally: This has been a really weird episode.

Emily: "Minecraft encounters."

Sally: Ooh! Explore.

Emily: No, I'd rather not. Thanks, Pornhub, for sponsoring -- (laugh) this episode.

Sally: (laugh) No, Pornhub is actually bad.

Emily: No, actually, no one go -- no one do that.

Sally: Pay for your porn!

Emily: (sing-song, voice cracking) Pay for your porn.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (cough)

Sally: Goodbye!

Emily: Goodbye.