



Episode 140: Sprinkle in Some Torture Porn

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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: He's just sort of disgusting to look at. We're gonna finish this and then go to -- and go downstairs and start Pirates of the Caribbean 2. We should clarify that we're recording this on American Thanksgiving.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We were supposed to record last night, but we were just like, uh, no. We'd rather watch -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: A volleyball -- the prospect of a four-day weekend was just --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sort of, like, slapped us in the face --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we were like, can't get any work done.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We'd rather watch volleyball anime.

Sally: It -- 'cause it's so good. I guess I have a headache 'cause there's a storm coming in.

Emily: That -- yeah, it's always very, um -- that's ironic, because that's a theme in -- that's a theme in the second chapter of what we read --

Sally: Oh, because --

Emily: Which Sally didn't read, but --

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. Sorry. I gave up.

Emily: (laugh) I've put her on blast.

Sally: (laugh) Well, Emily gave me permission. 'Cause I read the first one diligently, like, ahead of time --

Emily: I know. That was very good.

Sally: Like, ready to record --

Emily: And that was a very long chapter.

Sally: Yeah. And then I had to go to my mom's house and pick up the three pounds of turkey that she bought for me and Emily, who are two humans -- (laugh)

Emily: I think that's the size we got, though, last time, but --

Sally: I guess. It must be.

Emily: It's just so much turkey.

Sally: It just feels like a -- like, she handed it to me, and I'm like, this just feels like a lot of turkey. And I'm sure we'll eat it, and it, like, won't be a problem, but she also had, like -- she had a whole bag of stuff to give me, which was very tender. And then I came home, and Emily was like, "You don't have to read the second chapter if you don't want to," and of course I was like, "I'm not going to read it, then." (laugh)

Emily: It was bad. It's just not a good chapter.

Sally: Um. But is that chapter called “The Storm Gathers”?

Emily: I think so?

Sally: Which is like, Robert. (laugh)

Emily: And it, like, starts out with Nynaeve being like, “I’m sensing a storm here,” but of course it’s weird because the weather --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is -- I mean, the weather is boiling hot, but there is no rain or thunder or whatever --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In sight, so it’s Nynaeve’s weather sense being thrown off. Um. But yeah, Sally’s very sensitive to barometric --

Sally: Pressure.

Emily: Pressure changes.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: So, yeah, there’s some -- some gray clouds coming in.

Sally: Anyway. Utah’s weather is wack. Global warming is wack. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. (laugh) I’m Sally Goodger.

Emily: I’m Emily Juchau.

Sally: That’s Tybalt.

Emily: Still licking himself.

Sally: ‘Cause he’s disgusting.

Emily: He might lick himself this entire podcast.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He did lick my hand for ten minutes straight the other day. Well, transitioning from complain-about-Tybalt hour to complain-about-Robert-Jordan hour --

Sally: OK.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That’s a good transition. They’re both monsters.

Emily: They're -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, we're back with Elayne and Nynaeve, uh, this segment. First with Elayne, then with Nynaeve, uh, through the chapters. And the basic summary is that, um, they're in Salidar; we get some, like, updates on what they're doing. Uh, then eventually they go to meet the -- not just Siuan and Leane in Tel'aran'rhiod but also, um, the Salidar Six, those women that we talked about several episodes ago. I can name them, but I'd rather not.

Sally: Let's see if I can name them.

Emily: Yeah, go for it.

Sally: 'Kay. There's Sheriam.

Emily: Uh-huh.

Sally: There's Carlinya.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: There's Myrelle? Myrelle.

Emily: Yeah, yeah.

Sally: There's ... Beonin?

Emily: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Bonus points if you can name any of their characteristics. And by characteristics, I do mean their looks, because --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: That's all we get of them.

Sally: Mm. Well, doesn't -- I think one of them is described as having "honey-colored hair," which is my favorite descriptor, because I'm like, what does that mean?

Emily: I don't -- I don't know. I think that's Beonin.

Sally: 'Kay.

Emily: She's from Tarabon, I wanna say? So --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: All of them have that hair. Which is just, like, blonde hair.

Sally: Yeah, I'm like, you're blonde. Just say that they're blonde.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um. I don't know who the other two are. Anaiya? Is that one of them?

Emily: Oh, yeah, Anaiya and Morvrin --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: I wanna say. Her characteristic is that she's "stout."

Sally: (whisper) Oh, yeah.

Emily: Which, like, great. Um, anyway, they're all able to go to Tel'aran'rhiod now because, uh, Elayne has successfully managed to copy, uh, their dream ter'angreal.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Not just the rings but also, like, the other two that they had acquired in the last couple books. Um, and so now, the Aes Sedai have taken over meeting with the Wise Ones.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I guess Nynaeve and Elayne are no longer going, which is not fun for the Wise Ones, who hate Aes Sedai, for good reason --

Sally: Especially these ones.

Emily: Especially these six, who are a fucking nightmare. And presumably they're all going to the Wise Ones, and Elayne mentions that, um, they keep asking about Egwene, and we know, as readers with advance notice, that they are anxious to get, uh, Egwene to Salidar so that they can anoint -- (laugh) Anoint her.

Sally: Anoint her.

Emily: Appoint her as Amyrlin Seat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So they keep, like, interrogating the Wise Ones about where she is. And Egwene is apparently still recovering from whatever the fuck Lanfear did --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At the end of last book.

Sally: RIP to Egg, though, am I right? She's -- now she's been out for, like, weeks, it seems like.

Emily: I know. I think we, like, get her soon?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Fairly soon, and she seems, like, fine. She's not, like, an invalid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Maybe the Wise Ones are just kind of, like, overcautious about --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Banning her from this?

Sally: Plus they -- Egg is their girl, you know.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: They're like, "We love Egg," and the Aes Sedai are like, "Egg belongs to us," and they're like, "No, Egg belongs to us."

Emily: The Wise Ones are like, "No, she's ours. She's our girl."

Sally: And they're like -- the Aes Sedai are like, "No."

Emily: They're like, "We're already setting her -- her up with a nice Aiel boy." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) "She's already married."

Emily: "We've already got it covered."

Sally: "Don't worry about it."

Emily: "She's a Wise One now."

Sally: Listen, it would be so much better if the Wise Ones were like, "Here's a -- just an Aiel boy."

Emily: "Have him."

Sally: "He'll be much nicer to you than --"

Emily: Gawyn.

Sally: (whisper) Gawyn.

Emily: Yeah, imagine if any of the Wise Ones met Gawyn. They'd be like --

Sally: They'd be like, "No."

Emily: "What the fuck?"

Sally: They would assassinate him on the spot. (laugh)

Emily: They would be like, "Kill him." Kill Bill sirens.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "He's not worthy of Egg."

Sally: Yeah. He'd be like, "My honor," and they're like, "You have none."

Emily: "My honor!" (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Don't try it, Anakin."

Emily: "Don't try it, Anakin. I have the high ground."

Sally: (laugh) Oh my gosh, I have to show -- after this, I have to show you this Tik Tok. It's --

Emily: (laugh) Oh my God. What the fuck.

Sally: It's not a Haikyuu Tik Tok.

Emily: I was about to ask.

Sally: (laugh) I can show you those if you want. This is a Star Wars Tik Tok.

Emily: Oh, a Star -- I feel like I get enough Star Wars memes from Collins, my brother-in-law.

Sally: It's OK. You can send this to Collins. I bet he'd think it was funny. And then you could get some brother-in-law --

Emily: That's true. Get some points.

Sally: BIL points.

Emily: He only sends me Star Wars prequel memes, though.

Sally: That's horrible. (laugh)

Emily: He's -- I know, I think he's doing it to torture me.

Sally: OK, we have to stay on topic. Um --

Emily: (laugh) Stay on topic.

Sally: (laugh) Um, Elayne is brushing her hair, which, as someone on Wheel of Time Twitter pointed out, Elayne is supposed to have, like, really curly hair, like my hair, and she's just, like, fully brushing her hair while it is dry. Which, let me tell you, would rip -- just split every single hair that she has, so.

Emily: I cannot speak to this.

Sally: Oh, Emily has no hair --

Emily: You have a hair on your nose. Shh.

(pause)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I have hair everywhere.

Emily: I'll keep that tender moment in.

Sally: Thank you. (laugh)

Emily: Um. (laugh) Yeah, I have no hair, and when I do have hair, it, uh -- I just don't brush it because there's no need. (laugh)

Sally: Uh, the reason I take such long showers is because I have to brush my hair in the shower with conditioner in it.

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: Yeah. I don't just sit in the shower, just if you were ever wondering. (laugh) I take --

Emily: OK, the reason I take such long showers is 'cause I do just sit in the shower. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Just pop down. No, I have to, like, brush my hair in the shower with conditioner in it or it just is, like -- and even then, my hair is a dry nightmare. So anyway, Robert Jordan is proving once again that he's like, "What is women?"

Emily: He thinks all women are like me, that they can use two-in-one shampoo and conditioner. But also, I would never brush my hair for one hundred strokes.

Sally: I know. I don't --

Emily: Or whatever the fuck that means.

Sally: Yeah. I don't know what that is.

Emily: Why count?

Sally: But anyway, Egg and Nynaeve are like, "It's fuckin' hot. We want to die."

Emily: Elayne and Nynaeve?

Sally: Sorry.

Emily: Yeah, you're fine.

Sally: Elayne and Nynaeve are like, "It's fuckin' hot. We want to die."

Emily: Yeah, they're in this teensy apartment in Salidar. Um, they're just talking about how Elayne -- they're both presenting information they've -- get from Moghedien as, um, their own, sort of, achievements.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So they're sort of simultaneously the darlings of the Aes Sedai and also sort of -- the Aes Sedai, being Aes Sedai, are just contemptuous of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Literally everyone, so not a great place to be in. And later, we find out that Elayne is essentially also fulfilling duties as an Accepted. She's, like, teaching novices --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because the novice classes have grown quite a bit in Salidar because they changed the age --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, ceiling, I guess. Which is sort of foreshadowing for when Egwene will become Amyrlin and be like, "Listen, any motherfucker who wants to be an Aes Sedai --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Can. Doesn't matter if they're an old lady or not."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, which will radically change the Aes Sedai landscape a little bit. Um, but yeah, they're like, la dee da dee da, complain and snipe at each other. Finally they both take some Ambien and go to -- (laugh) some fantasy Ambien and, uh, go to Tel'aran'rhiod, where they meet up with Siuan and Leane, who are chatting -- complaining, I should say --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: About meeting with these six Aes Sedai.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Siuan's like, "It's bad enough we have to deal with them; we also have to deal with these two fuckos."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, in front of Nynaeve and Elayne, and I'm just like, why is everyone so rude?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, what does it -- what do you gain from being assholes to each other all the time? I know Siuan is, like, a particular, uh, paragon of this, but Nynaeve and Elayne are not great either.

Sally: Yeah, everyone is just like, "Fuck everybody else." It's like Robert -- it's Robert Jordan's dumb "Nobody likes each other" syndrome.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: As if, like, conflict and interesting tension in books can only happen if people are literally fighting one hundred percent of the time.

Emily: Yeah, he, like, doesn't even try to, like, interrogate why Siuan might be a total asshole to these two.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, it is possible -- in an interesting world, Siuan would be like, "I feel guilty about sending these two out into the world and almost getting them killed, but I don't want to handle that --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So I am going to push them away or whatever."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or maybe, like, "I am going to try and make amends," and Nynaeve and Elayne could be like, "We don't want you to make amends."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Or, you know, Nynaeve and Elayne could even recognize that what she did was wrong, which is just not a thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. Yeah. Relationships do have nuance.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Fucking shocking.

Emily: Uh, Robert Jordan's never heard of that, though, especially when it comes to relationships between women. He seems to think that women just don't like each other and that is presenting nuanced relationships. Um, so finally, the six Aes Sedai show up. And their whole mission is to go to Elaida's study like Elayne and Nynaeve and Egwene were doing --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In the last book and sort of, like, see what information they can gather. Um. Which is fine. But the whole time, the Aes Sedai are like, "We don't actually know how to use Tel'aran'rhiid, and we refuse to learn how to use Tel'aran'rhiid." Like, Nynaeve and Elayne are trying to be like, "Here are some fun facts. You don't actually need to, like, wake up in your own beds in Tel'aran'rhiid and then --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, travel out wherever. You --

Sally: Yeah. You can just be here.

Emily: Yeah. Being -- "Please don't go near nightmares," and all the Aes Sedai are like, "We must fight the nightmares," and Elayne is like, "No. Don't be stupid." So the fact that these are, like, you know, the leaders --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Isn't great. Uh, but as they approach, they are literally, like, talking about getting Egwene as the Amyrlin --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: They're just not using names. And no one really comments on it, so. Like, I don't know why Elayne isn't like, "Hmm. Interesting."

Sally: Yeah, 'cause literally, like, three pages ago, she and Nynaeve were like, "they're never gonna pick an Amyrlin. We'll -- the -- ahh. They're being so slow."

Emily: Yeah, and the conversation makes it clear that they already have picked someone, and they're --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just kind of worried about the, uh -- the Hall of the Tower --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Actually accepting their decision.

Sally: Yeah. I mean, how could you not? Egg is the bomb.

Emily: Egg is so great and beautiful.

Sally: I mean, I know these ladies are like, "Manipulation and scheming."

Emily: Um, so we go to Elaida's office, which is described in detail to us for the eleventh time --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: In the last two books.

Sally: I know. Every time, they're like, "There's a painting of Rand and what's his fuck fighting at Falme or whatever," I'm like, I know.

Emily: Yeah, they're like --

Sally: I've been told about 117 times.

Emily: We have to describe Elayne's -- uh, Elaida's throne-like chair and all her boxes, and I'm like, once you have given us a setting, you can assume that we have a picture of it in our minds.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that is what describing settings are for.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You only need to describe something once and maybe give, like, a few refreshers.

Sally: Yeah, I mean -- yeah, I mean I wouldn't mind the, like, little bits and bobs we get, like she has a fresh vase of flowers every time --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Because they're like, she's a dumb bitch who cares more about using the Power on plants than, you know, doing anything.

Emily: Helping people.

Sally: Um. But, like, I don't need to know every single time that she's, like, neat and tidy, and there's a picture of Rand on the wall.

Emily: Yeah, it's just like, ugh. Um. Leane immediately runs off to make contact with her eyes and ears in Tar Valon, which I don't know how that is accomplished --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Given they're in Tel'aran'rhiod. Is she, like, having people leave notes for her or something?

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: Whatever. But she just takes off, and then the Aes Sedai are like, "Nynaeve, go after her," even though, like, Nynaeve has no idea where she's gone.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So Nynaeve is just like, "Fine, bye. See ya." Uh. And while the Aes Sedai are investigating, Elayne just has to, like, sit there while they discuss various points of interest. Um. Such as that Elaida has approached, uh, the king of Illian, Tylin in Ebou Dar, Alliandre in Ghealdan and whatever his fuck name is in Amadicia. Um, and they're like, "We also have people in those places, except for Illian," um, which will set up, like, the idea that the girls are going to get to Ebou Dar in the next book and meet, uh, people not just from -- from Elaida, from the White Tower, but also there will be residents -- residents? Representatives from Salidar. Although I think their one Salidar lady, Edesina, she is, like, immediately captured by the Seanchan, so.

Sally: Well.

Emily: Whatever. Mat has to deal with all of them is the point.

Sally: Mat's like ...

Emily: Um, they also reference that all of the Whitecloaks are gathering in, uh, Amadicia. Like, Pedron Niall is gathering them all in. And I think the last time we read a Pedron Niall point of view, we literally just skipped it. I don't think we even talked about it. (laugh)

Sally: Oh! (laugh) Whoops.

Emily: 'Cause it was, like, in the prologue or something and we just, like, couldn't -- or we didn't remember it. Um.

Sally: Sorry.

Emily: I don't -- (laugh) Who cares? He's a fucko. And what we know from him is that he is gathering the Whitecloaks in an attempt to, like -- he's like, "I'm going to let the Dragon Reborn do chaos and then I'll go, like, save people --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Or something. It's a stupid plot, man.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, great general who? Pedron Niall's a fuckin' idiot. Um. They hear some other rumors. They find out that Elaida has sent an embassy in Cairhien, and Elayne is like, "Oh my God, freaks out about that. She's like, "We have to warn him that they're bad," or whatever. Or - - no, the Aes Sedai are like --

Sally: Well, the Aes Sedai are like --

Emily: "That's bad," and Elayne is like, "Well, surely he knows that they're -- that he can't trust people --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "From the White Tower --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "But also we should warn him." And it's just like --

Sally: What's the truth, girl?

Emily: Girl. Leave it alone. Um. Which is when the, uh, nightmare strikes. The Aes Sedai who were in the other room start screaming, and they all rush out and find this nightmare, which in this particular instance is, like, a set-up of a Trolloc camp, and they're just torturing the women. Robert Jordan's like, "I'm just gonna sprinkle in some torture porn here ... to show that I am straight." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) "Here ya go, guys and gals."

Emily: Um. Yeah, we have to deal with fucking miserable descriptions of all the Aes Sedai being tortured.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because they all rush in, and Elayne finally is like, “We have to, um -- the only way to defeat it is to visualize it as though it is not there, to, like, make it unreal.” But they -- she and Siuan cannot, like, communicate with the Aes Sedai who are already in the nightmare, so they’re like, “We have to go into the nightmare to talk to them -- basically yell at them.” It’s a stupid plan, and again, this scene doesn’t really need to be there except to show us that the Aes Sedai are fucking incompetent --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As though we hadn’t already picked up on that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, and everyone to be like, “Oh my God, Elayne is so brave.” She’s, like, fine. And then we have to suffer through descriptions of Elayne getting ready to be skinned alive or whatever --

Sally: Yeah. Horrible.

Emily: It’s disgusting. And then finally, you know, in the nick of time, the nightmare goes away. And all the Aes Sedai are traumatized messes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because they’ve just been tortured. (sigh) But, um, yeah, then they’re like, “OK, well, back to, uh, Salidar to get Healed.” They leave. And Elayne then has a little minute where she, uh, teleports over to the palace at, uh, Caemlyn, where she gets a look at how Rand has put his own throne in place of the Andoran throne and, like, moved the lady throne off to the side --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Awkwardly. And she’s like, “What the fuck are you doing?”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “You’re so fucking stupid.”

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And it’s like, I mean, seriously.

Sally: I mean, it’s very dumb. And it’s just, like, more evidence that when Rand is like, “I don’t understand why people think I’m trying to rule Andor,” it’s like, you put your own throne there.

Emily: Uhhhh. You don’t?

Sally: You’re a fucking idiot.

Emily: You don't? You also have, like, moved in an entire foreign army --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Saldaean army is just, like, occupying Andor --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Casually.

Sally: There's just nine thousand horsemen --

Emily: Although I think Bashere is technically like, they're out of Andor's borders or whatever?

Sally: Oh, yeah, that's right, he -- (laugh) Hiding in a forest.

Emily: They're hiding in a forest from everyone.

Sally: (laugh) Even themselves.

Emily: But he -- I mean, he did bring in a bunch of Aiel, so --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Foreign armies abound.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And Elayne's like, "Oh, Rand," and then leaves to go back to sleep, and then Demandred pops out and is like, "Let the Lord of Chaos rule."

Sally: He's like, "Heh heh heh heh heh."

Emily: And it's like, "Wa ha ha ha ha ha," and then leaves again.

Sally: (laugh) Twirls his mustache.

Emily: Again putting Demandred in Andor, even in Tel'aran'rhold, is supposed to be a link to him and Mazrim Taim, which, as we've already discussed, is nothing. Uh -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) So dumb.

Emily: Then the next chapter, Nynaeve wakes up and hears all of this from Elayne and is like, "Damn. Sounds tough." (laugh) "That's rough, buddy."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then Elayne's like, "OK, well, I have to go run be a contributing member of society and teach some classes," and Nynaeve's like, "Great, see you later. I'm going to go try and track

down Moghedien.” Uh, she finds Moghedien, like, washing dishes. Um, now, Moghedien is masquerading as Marigan, and Marigan, supposedly, is a single mom who just sort of showed up in Salidar --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: With no abilities to channel that the Aes Sedai know about, so, uh, sort of, like, it is understandable that she would be, like, put to work.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, I don’t agree with just making people work --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, like, if she is getting room and board and food here, then --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She’s obliged to, uh, fill her part. But, like, Nynaeve rolls up and the dishwasher lady is like, “Oh, I’m sure you want Marigan,” and it’s like, what relationship do they think --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is going on here? Like, Marigan didn’t come in as their servant, and even if she was, like, there’s no way the Aes Sedai would allow them to have a servant. And so are they just like, she’s their friend that they talk to all the time?

Sally: I guess.

Emily: It’s very odd.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, uh, Moghedien’s stuck washing dishes, which is actually hilarious --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because she’s like, “Oh my God, my hands.” And it’s like, you mean the blood? The blood on all your hands?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You stupid asshole. Um. And with that checked off her to-do list, Nynaeve goes about just walking around Salidar, trying to look busy without actually ending up with anything to do. She can’t, like teach classes because she still does not have a handle on her block, but she also has been avoiding Theodrin, the, uh, you know, quasi Accepted-Aes Sedai gal, who’s very nice,

who is trying to teach her to get through her block. So it's sort of like Nynaeve being like, "Proactivity? Never heard of her."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I don't want to improve myself." Which, like, I get the idea that, like, Nynaeve's block is, like, traumatic for her in some sort of way because it's linked to her feelings about being able to channel at all.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it's just sort of ridiculous to have her just flounder in Salidar with nothing to do.

Sally: Yeah, well, and it's just made, like, even more frustrating by the fact that what does actually cure Nynaeve's block is almost dying in a river --

Emily:: Yeah.

Sally: And then being rescued by Lan and then getting married. (laugh) It's like -- which I, like, can't even begin to, like, unpack how fucked up that is because I didn't --

Emily: Yeah. The heterosexuality really jumps out.

Sally: Yeah. I haven't even, like, fully wrapped my head around the fact that it happens because it's so ridiculous. So the fact that she's, like, presented with an opportunity to, like, overcome her block in a very, like, academic, controlled setting with something that Theo--Theodrin? Is that her name?

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Has, like, experience with, 'cause Theodrin's the one who also had a block, right?

Emily: Yeah, Theodrin tells this little story to Nynaeve about how her own block was that she had to have a man present --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In order to channel 'cause she used to, like, use it, before she knew she was channeling, to, like, flirt with guys --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Y'know, whereas Nynaeve's was, like, healing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Theodrin was like, “The way they did this was they just had a boy sit in on all of my lessons, but eventually I realized that he had a twin sister --”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Who, you know, would dress up like her brother --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then one day after Theodrin had successfully channeled, this gal just, like, took off her shirt and was like, “Hello.” (laugh) And that should’ve been the moment when Theodrin was like, “And that was the day I realized I’m gay.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But no. Since then, Theodrin’s been able to channel. Which is a charming little story and very funny --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They both laugh about it. Um. But yeah, it’s like, Theodrin has some knowledge of this and is also, like, not abusing you or condescending to you --

Sally: No, yeah.

Emily: The way the other Aes Sedai are. She’s genuinely like, “I want to help you.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And so, yeah, it’s just sort of ridiculous that Nynaeve is like, “No. I don’t want to be the master of my own fate.”

Sally: “I have to wait for Lan to save me out of a river after I fight Moghedien for the nine thousandth time.”

Emily: Yeah, the whole time she’s like, “Oh my God, where is Lan?”

Sally: “Laaaaan.”

Emily: She also references the fact that Myrelle, quote unquote, keeps picking on her?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, which, I think we can interpret as Myrelle knows that she has been passed Lan’s bond.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I think Moiraine left her instructions like, "This should go to, um, Nynaeve when Nynaeve is an Aes Sedai." So while I don't love the idea of passing a man around like he's --

Sally: Property?

Emily: Property -- that's disgusting -- if we're being generous with Myrelle here, then perhaps she is being hard on Nynaeve because she is, like, trying to get her into a position to be Aes Sedai --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that she can --

Sally: Pass the bond.

Emily: Pass the bond, as she promised Moiraine. But Nynaeve is like, "I just have to avoid Myrelle." Which, like, I get it -- it's not like Myrelle is like, "Here's the deal: Your boyfriend's alive. He's coming to me." You know, everything would be so much easier if people just communicated.

Sally: But instead Myrelle is like, "I will take advantage of his tragic emotional state to sexually assault him."

Emily: "It's cool. It's cool. It's all cool."

Sally: "It's not a big deal. Don't worry about it."

Emily: It's just there's this hypothetical --

Sally: "Rape doesn't happen to men."

Emily: (laugh) Oh, it does, twice, in the same book.

Sally: I fucking hate Robert Jordan. It's fine.

Emily: Um. Or, I guess in -- oh, yeah, 'cause Lan just sort of shows up in book seven.

Sally: Yeah. And he's like, "Nynaeve, we're married now." (inaudible)

Emily: but if Myrelle went to Nynaeve and was like, "Listen, Lan is coming here 'cause Moiraine passed me the bond, and she wants me to give it to you, but you need to become an Aes Sedai first," Nynaeve would be like, "Well, fuck yeah, then I'm going to become an Aes Sedai because I'm horny."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, again, not a great motivation to do something --

Sally: Yeah. But at least it's --

Emily: But it would have accomplished --

Sally: A motivation. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) Something. Other than Nynaeve just floundering.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And some stuff happens. She checks in -- she walks into a room where Logain is literally being displayed as, like, the side show at a freak show.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He's, like, narrating his story, and the people -- the Ebou Daran nobles -- Altaran nobles, I guess I should say -- who are, like, hearing his story about how the Red Ajah manipulated him - - which I still cannot for the fucking life of me remember if this is, like, a true thing or just a total manipulation.

Sally: (laugh) I don't know. Yeah.

Emily: Who knows? I wouldn't, like, put it past the Red Ajah --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But I'm also like, didn't Siuan just come up with that story and she just, like, drilled it into his head?

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: I don't know. Um, but, yeah, these nobles just keep talking to the Aes Sedai about Logain as though he's not standing right there --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like he's literally standing in a cage or a glass box.

Sally: Like when we first saw him, and he was in a cage.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In the Eye of the World.

Emily: Like, I don't love Logain. He's a trash person. And he's a rapist. Um -- magical rapist in that he bonds some women against their will, but then also he does have sex with one of them.

Sally: OK, so full rapist.

Emily: Which is not great because, you know, there's, like, the whole, like, ah, she's manipulating him, trying to get into his bed to -- it's just stupid. It's not --

Sally: Listen --

Emily: Consensual sex, really, on either of their ends.

Sally: Since the Wheel of Time fandom seems to have trouble grasping the nuance involved with consent and sexual assault, let's just put it on the table that consent has a lot of nuance, and pretty much nobody consents to the sex that they have in these books. (laugh) Um.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Uh. But.

Emily: ... I was trying to think of a single example. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Uhh, Mat and Tuon have consensual sex eventually. Like, enthusiastic consensual sex, which is great except that Tuon is a colonialist piece of shit. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, except that -- doesn't Tuon try to, like, buy Mat off of Tylin in the beginning?

Emily: Yeah, that's at the beginning, yeah. Just, like, in their relationship, they -- their sexual encounter is like, "Hey, how are ya? Great, let's fuck."

Sally: OK. Well, at least there's that.

Emily: But still, yeah, not a great foundation on which to build. No one has a healthy relationship.

Sally: I -- see, this is where -- I wrote about this in one of my Path of Daggers blogs, so here's a sneak peak. But, like, Perrin and Faile come really close to having, like, a sweet and tender relationship --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: 'Cause they're, like, genuinely interested in each other, and whenever they are having sex, it seems like they're both, like, enjoying it, you know --

Emily: And enthusiastic --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And excited.

Sally: Yeah. And just, like, yeah, they're like, "I love having sex with my husband or wife," except that it then just gets mixed up in their, like, disgusting toxic monogamy power dynamic shit, where Faile's like, "I have to fuck you so Berelain knows that you're my husband," and it's like, oh my God. (laugh) You came so close. We were so close to having a normal relationship.

Emily: I know, Robert Jordan: You fucked up a perfectly good -- well, not. (laugh) You fucked up what could have been a perfectly good married couple.

Sally: Yeah. Because Faile's just like, "Look at my sexy husband," and Perrin's like, "Look at my sexy wife." Then they're like, "We don't trust each other at all." (laugh) Ugh!

Emily: It's such a nightmare.

Sally: OK. Logain, the actual and magical rapist, is being paraded around.

Emily: Yeah, like he is subhuman. Which, great. Love that dialogue. Um. We also meet the Aes Sedai Lelaine, who will -- whose name is not only incredibly close to Leane -- Robert Jordan, what the fuck --

Sally: It's close to Leane and Elayne. Lelaine. (laugh)

Emily: Lelaine. Lee-laine?

Sally: Lee -- Lelaney.

Emily: She's one of the two Aes Sedai Sitters who will be, uh, a thorn in Egg's side, I guess is how we can put it. Her and Romanda will have, like, two factions --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: That Elayne -- excuse me -- uh, Egg has to deal with throughout her tenure as Amyrlin Seat. But that's a stupid subplot, and I'm hoping we can get through it without talking about it. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But I just wanted to throw out there that she has been, um, introduced. And Nynaeve walks out and immediately runs into Sivan and Gareth Bryne, who are having a full-on shouting match in the middle of the street. Gareth Bryne keeps referring to her as "woman."

Sally: Cool.

Emily: "Woman, what are you doing? What the fuck are you doing?"

Sally: I love that.

Emily: He's like, "All I did was compliment you. I said you look cheerful today." And Siuan's like --

Sally: (dramatic gasp)

Emily: (laugh) It's just their usual bullshit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the, like, ugly -- like, Nynaeve draws attention to the fact that he is gray-haired while Siuan looks incredibly young.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's disgusting. Ugh.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then she's like, "What the fuck was that about?" when Gareth Bryne walks away, and Siuan's like, "Mind your own business, you fucking slut." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. That tracks.

Emily: Um. And Nynaeve's like, "OK, well, I do want to study you and/or Leane today, and you need to make yourself available to me like you promised," and Siuan's like, "Fine, but I can't do it now. I'll come to you in the afternoon." And Nynaeve's like, "Ugh. Whatever." Uh, then runs into Lelaine, who is like, "Hello, I would like you to give me some information about Rand al'Thor," and Nynaeve's like, "I don't have any. I don't even know him that well."

Sally: She's like, "Rand is a dumb bitch that I babysat a few times." (laugh)

Emily: "I babysat him, like, twice."

Sally: "Please stop asking me about him."

Emily: "I don't know anything about him other than what normal people know about him." Um. While she's walking around, she sees the arrival of a woman named, uh, Tarna -- Tarna Feir or Feir -- who is a representative of Elaida who's visiting Salidar. Nynaeve doesn't know this at the time. She just mentions her and, then later, when she sees Elayne, Elayne's like, "This woman arrived, and it's a big fucking deal."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And gives a description of -- that matches Nynaeve's. So that's, you know, politics. Um. Eventually Nynaeve -- I might be missing something here, but who cares -- eventually Nynaeve just goes back to her room to just sit, because she's doing nothing, and Moghedien comes and finds her and is like, "Ah, my hands. They're so wrinkled."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Nynaeve's like, "Let's get down to business. Now you teach me some shit." And while they're doing this, Elayne, you know, bursts in and is like, "There's an embassy." Blah blah blah. And that's basically the chapter. Um. Chapters, I guess I could say. They're nothing. There's nothing in there of substance. Uh, we've learned nothing that we didn't really get already in that snippet from the prologue. Um. They are just sort of walking in place, like a frozen video game -- like a video game character walking into a wall --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Frozen animation. And it is blatantly obvious that what Robert Jordan needs to do to progress the plot is get Egwene there but that, for some godforsaken reason -- oh, wait, the godforsaken reason is Gawyn -- he is not doing that because he needs Egwene to be in Cairhien a little longer.

Sally: To make out with Gawyn a few times.

Emily: To make out with Gawyn and, I guess, to have a few conversations with Rand. And it is, like, if you have nothing to say about the characters in this part of the world, don't fucking go to this part of the world.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Sure, maybe the book is shorter, but hey, Robert? You never intended the series to be fourteen books long. The reason is --

Sally: The book being shorter was not it.

Emily: It's not an issue!

Sally: (laugh) The book is so --

Emily: It's fifty-something chapters, it's literally over a thousand pages long. You could've just cut out this fifty pages.

Sally: Yeah, and then everyone would've been happier.

Emily: And more. And it's -- oh my God.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I always feel like I'm blaming Harriet here, but it is seriously like these were not edited.

Sally: Yeah. Like, no offense to Harriet. Um --

Emily: I'm sure she did -- we don't know the circumstances --

Sally: Yeah. I don't --

Emily: Of how she, like, was like, "You need to edit this out," and Robert was like, "No," and they were married. So.

Sally: Yeah, which is, like -- I would never have my wife be my sole editor or whatever.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: My primary editor. That's just, like -- seems like a conflict of interest. That --

Emily: Exactly. You need an editor to be like, "This sucks."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And how are you gonna, like, eat breakfast with that person the next morning? Even if you're --

Sally: (laugh) Be like, "Your shit sucks."

Emily: Even if you're, like, a recipient of constructive criticism --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a good way, you would still be like, "Well, I'm a little bit troubled by --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You just, like, can't have a personal relationship with your primary editor.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You can get feedback from --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: People you live with. I get great feedback from Sally all the time, but, like, if Sally's job was --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: To pick apart my manuscripts, I could not live with her.

Sally: Yeah, it -- that's a reason -- there's a reason it's a professional relationship, you know? I also feel like the people at, um, Tor Books maybe gave Robert Jordan, as they give, uh, Brando Sando -- (laugh) a little too much leeway to write just, like, doorstoppers.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: When, like, it is maybe not as necessary, when, you know, they let, um -- when it's not like their -- the amazing queer writers of color that are writing novellas for them are given the same page space. So we are back to the old argument that we've had on this podcast many a times, but, uh. Robert Jordan just got away with a little, uh, too much.

Emily: He got away with torture porn.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Literally.

Sally: That's all -- literally, the only thing that happens in this chapter -- these chapters -- are torture porn, first with the nightmare scene, then with Marigan, then with Logain.

Emily: And it is, like, so obnoxious because the sense you get with the Aes Sedai getting tortured is this is, like, their punishment --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For being obnoxious characters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And like, "Oh, look how good of a person Elayne still is, that she goes in and rescues them," or whatever. And it's like, Robert Jordan, first of all, you do not have to make your characters as obnoxious as they are. But also, you do not get to punish people for being bad in that, like, weird way, that moralistic --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Way. That's not your job as an author. It's your job as an author to make a plot and characters that make sense.

Sally: Yeah. I also just, like, cannot handle -- this is a, like -- torture, for some reason, is, like, a big motif in the Path of Daggers, more so than I've seen it in any of the books up to this point. Like, there's -- Robert Jordan does sprinkle a too-healthy amount of torture throughout, but in Path of Daggers, it's been, like, every chapter so far, it feels like. Um. I was going somewhere with this. Oh. But, like, torture, like rape, cannot be used as a form of, like, punishment, because it's -- that's not what it is. Y'know? It's, like, it's a -- it's a crime done to that person. It's -- it's a violation of their rights to, like, self-agency. So, like, it can't just be applied as a -- like, a moralistic punishment to anybody and, like, that's this conversation that the characters seem to be in -- our, like, good guy characters -- about what it means to, like, torture the bad guys. And it's like, that's not how it works. I, like, can't even, like, articulate it because that's just not how it works. You know? Like, it's -- it's a bad thing no matter who is doing it and no matter who it is being done to. It's a bad thing.

Emily: Yeah. It seems like male fantasy writers love to put their characters in a situation where it's like, "Hmm, well, either we torture this bad guy or we don't progress the plot forward at all."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, first of all, this is a situation you are putting them in.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Second of all, yeah, if your character decides to torture anyone, no matter how bad they are, it's not great, and I would probably no longer consider them a good guy.

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause it -- yeah. It's just, like --

Emily: Like, Perrin chops off a dude's arm when he is interrogating him about --

Sally: Yeah

Emily: Info for Faile or whatever, and I'm like, do I consider Perrin a paragon of virtue anymore, if I ever did? No.

Sally: No, of course not.

Emily: I think he's a -- sort of a dick. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. And it just, like -- ugh.

Emily: I don't love that Nynaeve is walking around with Moghedien leashed to her.

Sally: Yeah. Oh my God. Like, it hit me a -- anew when they're like, "We can't let the Aes Sedai find out that we're doing this because it'll be really bad for us," and I'm like, yeah, of fucking course it'll be really bad. You're walking around with a slave. Like, you've enslaved this person. No matter that it is Moghedien, like, you are holding someone -- you're enslaving another person.

Emily: I mean, let me be clear: the Aes Sedai will not care that you are enslaving a person --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They'll be sad that you didn't give them the power to enslave that person themselves.

Sally: (laugh) 'Kay, good -- good point.

Emily: Aes Sedai fucking suck.

Sally: (laugh) Good point, Emily.

Emily: But yeah, you know it's wrong. You dicks know it's wrong.

Sally: Yeah, like, you feel -- you get, like, these little tinges of guilt, and then you're like, "It's OK. It's Moghedien." And it's like, yes --

Emily: Yeah, "She's giving us info that we desperately need."

Sally: It's like, yes, Moghedien is a bad person, but with Rand's whole -- was it, like, Rand, a while ago, who's like -- oh, yeah, it was like, "Mazrim Taim isn't as bad as the Forsaken." And it's like, you can't hold all actions up against what the Forsaken are doing.

Emily: Mazrim Taim literally becomes one of the Forsaken.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And he wouldn't have if you didn't give him the benefit of the fucking doubt.

Sally: Yeah. And it's just like, you can't -- like, you can't look at human rights violations on, like, a slippery sliding scale. (laugh) Like --

Emily: On a case by case basis.

Sally: Yeah. It's, like -- it's not like you can just be like, "We're just gonna, like, push it back a little bit because it's Moghedien. So, like, it's not as big of a deal that --"

Emily: So her rights aren't as human as ours.

Sally: Yeah. Because it's -- so it's not a big deal that she literally -- like, I can literally think, wow, I wish she was in mind-boggling pain, and then she would be, which is great to give to a person like Nynaeve, who is known for her short temper and bad decision-making.

Emily: Moghedien literally walks in complaining, and Nynaeve just, like, slaps her.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Through the -- whatever. And it's like, oh my God. And we are, like -- and these are the good guys.

Sally: It's like, I hate every single one of them. Like. Not to always bring this back to be like, "Mat seems to be the only good character," but so far I've not seen Mat do any torture. (laugh)

Emily: So far, yeah.

Sally: So far.

Emily: I can't remember him ever doing any. I wouldn't put it past Robert Jordan.

Sally: I could definitely be wrong.

Emily: He generally doesn't have the power to torture anyone.

Sally: Yeah, I mean, Mat's usually the one being tortured. Which is another conversation. (laugh)

Emily: God.

Sally: So anyway, um.

Emily: Happy Thanksgiving. (laugh)

Sally: Speaking of human rights violations.

Emily: Speaking of human rights violations. Um, yeah, that's our angry rant of these two chapters. The next couple of chapters will be -- oh, Christ. (laugh) We'll get a long -- well, not a long chapter at least -- we'll catch up with the Whitecloaks and Morgase --

Sally: Oh, barf.

Emily: In Amadicia, and then we will flip back over to Rand, just in time to see him get magically raped, so.

Sally: No!

Emily: If you're like, "I don't like the tone of this episode. It's so angry." You might want to skip the next episode too, 'cause it's --

Sally: It's going to probably be even angrier.

Emily: Going to just get angrier. There's going to be more yelling.

Sally: I feel like we're just going to be yelling throughout all of Lord of Chaos because it's like, "Here is Alanna, magically raping Rand, and then Rand will get put in a box, and --"

Emily: Wasn't one of our listeners like, "You could just skip --"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "Lord of Chaos." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It was Peter. He's like, "You guys seem really upset. Maybe you should just skip Lord of Chaos." (laugh)

Emily: You know, Peter -- (laugh) The more I think about it --

Sally: You in your infinite wisdom. (laugh)

Emily: We might definitely skip Path of Daggers. I mean.

Sally: I mean, I -- if you literally just want to watch me scream -- or listen to me scream -- for 25 weeks, we can do Path of Daggers. Because I will just be like, here -- I would like to read everyone the Geneva Conventions and then go chapter by chapter to show how Robert Jordan thought it was a --

Emily: Twenty-five weeks of the Geneva Conventions.

Sally: (laugh) Robert Jordan thought it was fun to just, you know, pretend this isn't a big deal. (laugh)

Emily: OK, we have to go make dinner and watch Pirates of the Caribbean.

Sally: Yeah, I need to go peel sweet potatoes and bother Emily while she makes other potatoes. (laugh)

Emily: Potatoes! Uh, thanks for listening. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Uh, check us out on social media, on Patreon. Um, please, if you have not done so already, uh, celebrate Thanksgiving and the modern-day crime against, uh, human rights that is Black Friday --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Think of the retail workers. Um, and please, if you are able, donate some time or some money to, uh, a local organization that is, uh, working to aid indigenous peoples. Um. You can -- Sally shared some links -- I'm sure they are still available on Instagram -- for ways that you can look up, if you are in America or -- if you are in North America -- the native land that you are currently occupying, and you can see which tribe exactly you owe reparations to.

Sally: Yeah. Um, I will -- this will be a reminder for me to just put it in, um, our link tree so that you can always access it. And so if you guys go to look for it and can't find it, just DM me, and that will be my second reminder, 'cause hopefully I will have already done it, but if I haven't, you can remind me, and I will do it. Um. So thank you.

Emily: I'll remind you when I edit.

Sally: Yeah. Emily will remind me.

Emily: Um. Yeah, we say "Don't do war crimes," but it is not enough to not do war crimes. That's the bare minimum.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You could, um, actually aid human rights.

Sally: Yeah. It's, um, an obligation, really, if you're living in North America, 'cause you are living on stolen land, um, and not just stolen but, like, violently taken. Um, so, uh, open your

wallet, and if you can't do that, open your time. Bare minimum you can do is educate yourself about the specific tribal land that you're living on. Um. Yeah. Oh, one more thing: If you do --

Emily: Oh, sorry.

Sally: Donate to, um, an indigenous person or an indigenous organization, we'll send you a sticker.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, a) 'cause we want to promote you guys donating, um, and that's one way we can be like, "Yay!" And also, please help us get rid of our envelopes. (laugh)

Emily: So many envelopes.

Sally: Um, so let's, uh, kill two birds with one stone, or as PETA says, feed two birds with one scone, which you shouldn't do either because feeding birds to -- bread --

Emily: (laugh) Don't give them bread!

Sally: Feeding bread to birds is very dangerous. It's -- (laugh)

Emily: PETA, you stupid asshole.

Sally: Can't digest it. Um. (laugh) So, sorry. Um, what were we going to say? Do I have a sign-off?

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

Sally: Um. I don't know if I do. Oh. Um, I'll have to show you the picture afterwards -- this is more of a visual sign-off -- but yesterday, my sister-in-law tried to cut, um, her two-year-old son's hair by herself.

Emily: Oh no.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Oh -- no.

Sally: I have to go get my phone to show you the picture while we're on the air --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Because it is so funny. Um. Be right back. (pause) Oh, yeah. Look at him. (laugh)

Emily: Oh -- my -- fucking -- God.

Sally: It's like, what did you do to him? (laugh)

Emily: Have you guys seen Naruto?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He doesn't look like Naruto. He looks like Rock Lee.

Sally: (laugh) It's --

Emily: But ginger.

Sally: So bad.

Emily: It's -- like, he's got TERF bangs. Fucking --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He looks like the Queen's Gambit. (laugh)

Sally: So she had to take him to -- like, he looks normal now --

Emily: Oh, God.

Sally: 'Cause she had to take him to get, like, an actual haircut, but, like, oh my God. (laugh) So funny.

Emily: OK, thanks for listening, everyone.

Sally: Goodbye.

Emily: Have a good week. Bye.