



Episode 144 – “Stopcough Herb”

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

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

[Theme song by Glynna Mackenzie plays]

SALLY: Anyway, that was your really exciting ten-minute open about editing [laughs]. And pillows of fiber. This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I’m Sally Goodger.

EMILY: I’m Emily Juchau. Here we are, back from our holiday hiatus.

SALLY: Yeah. Merry Christmas.

EMILY: Merry Crimbus.

SALLY: Happy Hannukah.

EMILY: This is coming out in 2021, which is exciting.

SALLY: Ugh, yeah.

EMILY: Uh, we'll just add our voices to the chorus of desperate please for mercy from on high. Here's hoping 2021 is better, but we'll find out I guess!

SALLY: Yeah. I mean.

EMILY: It's certainly not better in terms of *Lord of Chaos*.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, we might also curse 2021 by reading *Lord of Chaos* as we ring in the new year.

EMILY: Just like how I was reading *A Memory of Light* last year and it's been all downhill from there.

SALLY: [laughing] Emily caused the coronavirus.

EMILY: I did! Felt like karma.

SALLY: Yeah. Um, yeah, but, uh, happy new year, um, to whoever is listening. All six of you or whatever. Um, I know there's more than six of you. Thank you for listening to our podcast, and for listening to it all of 2020. I hope it was a small bright spot in...the darkness. Um, I didn't read the chapters today, because I don't know how much of the cold open Emily kept, but I am dying due to work. So, Emily, take it away.

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: Oh, she can't reach.

EMILY: I can't reach the *Lord of Chaos*, and I immediately forgot everything that happened. There were lots of points of view. Um, we started out with, um, Egg waking up from her sex dream. Um, it's a little confusing, because I think it's – it's morning when she wakes up, but then she goes back to sleep. We do learn a little, but about the condition – the [with a French accent] condition that, um, her ailment that she's had since Lanfear attacked her. Which is that I guess she had a really bad headache for a long time, um, and now that isn't chronic so much, but whenever she goes into *tel'aran'rhiod* she gets headache after.

SALLY: Ugh, that sucks.

EMILY: Yeah, headaches are no fun.

SALLY: Poor Egg.

EMILY: And, like, she can mostly – like, there's a, there's fantasy Nyquil. Or Advil PM, I guess.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That she can take. Sleepwell root.

SALLY: Wh – ?

EMILY: I love when fantasy medicine names are just, like, stopcough herb.

SALLY: [laughs] Hey, do you have any of that stopcough herb?

EMILY: No-more-sore-throat tincture, please. Sleepwell root [laughs].

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Night Nurse is better.

SALLY: Night Nurse.

EMILY: Well, better name objectively. I don't know about as a medicine.

SALLY: Yeah, I've never had sleepwell root.

EMILY: And Night Nurse –

SALLY: [laughing] Is it just melatonin? What's happening?

EMILY: I don't know. Um, anyway, she's all blushy all day, because she keeps thinking about how – it's strongly implied, but not said straight out, that the dream that she got caught on of Gawyn's and there was sex involved.

SALLY: Yeah and she's like, "Oh no."

EMILY: And she goes back to sleep and, and she has some dreams of her own that start off along the Gawyn vein. Which, I wish they didn't. Luckily it's not described a lot, but it's like, "Well, they're more my speed so instead of sex it's like him waxing poetic about his love for me," as though – like, it's clearly just Robert Jordan being like, "Teen girls don't have sexual desires."

SALLY: It would be so funny if Egg's was like triple x rated [laughs].

EMILY: Egg was like, "I had some extremely pornographic dreams about Gawyn. They were kinky." And I'd be like, "Cool!"

SALLY: Like Gawyn's is like, "I lay you down in a bed of flowers."

EMILY: Extremely vanilla sex.

SALLY: Fade to black.

EMILY: It's, like, blurred.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Egg is blurred because he doesn't actually know what a naked woman looks like. He's just sort of guessing.

SALLY: She's pixelated like one of the sims [laughs], and then we get to Egg and it's like, [laughs].

EMILY: Full frontal nudity.

SALLY: Yeah, she's got full frontal nudity. It's very fun. There are sex toys involved.

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: It would be so fab. It would just be very funny, um, and also very powerful. But, no, Egg is like, "It's very sexy to me when Gawyn speaks." Like, [laughs] cannot relate.

EMILY: I'm like, "What?" All I want is for him to shut his mouth.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: Or, you know, do something else with his mouth.

SALLY: Yeah, there you go.

EMILY: Something that would actually bring anyone pleasure. Speaking ain't it. Then she starts slipping into the realm of, like, prophetic, her prophetic dreams. Most of these seem to be about her pushing him one way or another. Um, not him pushing her, her pushing him. I don't know if I said that correctly.

SALLY: Like, pushing him over? [laughs]

EMILY: Her just, like, [laughs] WHACK and he falls over. No, like, taking him by the shoulders and, like, turning him around to face a different direction.

SALLY: Oh, okay.

EMILY: Which has to do with their dynamic in the later books where Egg is the one with actual political and social power and is the one who is supposed to be in charge. Not necessarily within the realm of their sexual or romantic relationship, but she is a political leader and he's acting as her bodyguard.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: So, that is a different relationship than man and woman who are in love. And they're trying to navigate that. Usually in the least productive way possible. Um, we would of course love to put all the blame on Gawyn for being a terrible partner and all of that, and resisting any time Egg is like, "Could you please do this or this or this?" He's just like, "No! I am man!"

SALLY: Disgusting.

EMILY: "I know what's best." Um, but Egg is also not a very good communicator in any of those instances, and she's mostly just pushy and bossy and doesn't explain what she needs from him or why.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which is the classic *Wheel of Time* gender dynamics, so I don't even know why I'm talking about it. She keeps going through her prophetic dreams. You get your classic Perrin with a hawk and a falcon on either of his shoulders. And he keeps trying to throw away the axe, except every time the axe back and starts chasing him. Which is actually kind of hilarious, because if the birds are still on his shoulders then it's just like, "[bird noise]" as he's running away from an axe.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, Perrin turns away from a Tinker and runs faster and faster though Egg calls for him to come back. And it's just, like, "Boo. Aram. He's so scary." I don't know.

SALLY: Perrin's like, "Pacifism? NO!"

EMILY: [yells]. But also throw away my axe? I just like the idea of the axe and Aram ganging up to –

SALLY: Kick Perrin's ass.

EMILY: Hunt down Perrin.

SALLY: And be like –

EMILY: "Could you please have fewer issues about this?"

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Go to therapy!!

SALLY: Gosh. If only more men would go to therapy.

EMILY: I mean seriously. Um, Mat speaks the Old Tongue and there are two ravens that settle on his shoulders, and the claws, like, dig into him. And Egg says, “Defiance passed across his face and then grim acceptance.” Which is not really the way you want to start – I assume the, the ravens symbolize, like, the Seanchan, but specifically how Mat will be forced to take a position of nobility within the Seanchan. Just, like, I don’t really think he should need to accept that. He should just be like, “See ya.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: “In another a woman, face shrouded in shadow, beckoned Mat toward great danger. Egwene did not know what, only that it was monstrous.” I’m not quite sure what that is referring to. It’s so vague that it could be any number of things. Tylin. Tuon. Whatever. Alludra being like, “Cannons!” Who’s to say? Um, Rand being forced to his knees by Elayne, which is, could be fun in some scenarios, but since this is referring to the Warder bond it’s not. Him being surrounded by Elayne and Min and Aviendha, each taking turns to lay a hand on him. Him walking toward burning mountain, something crunching between his boots. And it would have been cool if it was bones, but no it’s the seals to the Dark One’s prison, which is way lamer.

SALLY: Yeah. It should be the *bones of his enemies*.

EMILY: I just think *BONES*.

SALLY: BONES!

EMILY: I just read *The Bone Ships*, the squeakuel so now –

SALLY: [laughing] I’m gonna fucking murder you. Emily’s gonna die today.

EMILY: [laughs] My sister exclusively uses – and I’m sure you guys have heard me say it – my sister use “reglier” instead of “regular.”

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: To the point that I have heard reglier more than I have heard regular, so not the word regular sounds wrong to me. And I don’t even notice it, except that this last weekend when I was with Devin and Janet, Devin was like, “Can I ask you a personal question?” and I was like, “What?” and he was like, “Where does relgier come from?”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And I was like, “Oh. It comes from Sarah, who just thinks it’s a very hilarious joke.”

SALLY: It is very funny. Reglier.

EMILY: And, anyway, I've decided to do that with the word "sequel." I want to make it sound wrong [laughs]. I just want it to be squeakual. AHHH.

SALLY: She's trying to catch these hands is what she's trying to do.

EMILY: I just think it's so funny! Anyway, bone aesthetics are good sometimes. Um, then she kind of slips out of the realm of prophecy and back to regular nightmares, where she's like, "Ah! The Black Ajah. Blah, blah, blah." And then she's getting poked. Poke. Egg gets woken up by one of the *gai'shain*. Her name is Cowhinde, which is terrible. Co-windy?

SALLY: [laughing] Her name is cow-wind.

EMILY: Cow-indy. Cowindy.

SALLY: Cow Indy. It's a very indy cow.

EMILY: It blatantly is just like cow as in cowering as in coward, which really tells you what Robert Jordan's feelings on this are. Um, she is one of the *gai'shain*, who, her year of servitude or whatever is up, but she has refused to go back to normal life. And Egg talks a little bit about the various things that are happening with the Aiel who are having a hard time with Rand's *revlation* [in a French accent]. Um, including the *gai'shain* who are doing this. Some people are just abandoning ship and going to join the Shaido. Some people are abandoning ship and doing god knows what. And we don't really know where all these, um, Aiel are going. As far as I know it is not answered in the series. Maybe they just, like, integrate into normal life or something, but there's not, like, a mass of people who just, like, ditched the Aiel. That I know of. Um, anyway, then the Wise Ones come in and are like, "Hey, what's up?"

SALLY: [snorts]

EMILY: "Seems like you didn't get very much sleep last night." Because Amys is like, "I tried to check on you and you weren't dreaming, which is pretty wild." And Egg is like [gasps] scared, because she was like, "Well, I was having a sex dream, but it was not my dream so." She does not want to get found out by the Wise Ones, because then maybe they will stop her education.

SALLY: Egg-ucation.

EMILY: Egg-u-cation.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Stupid.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, and it's just, like, the Wise Ones chatting with Egg. I don't really know why they have come to visit her this early in the morning. Um, but they're like, "Are you well? What's going on? We're kind of thinking, uh, maybe the next time the Aes Sedai meet you can come with us, because they're being such bastards about it. They're the fucking worst." Um, and they're like – Egg's like, "I have questions." Apparently she always thinks of questions about *tel'aran'rhiod*, because really she's experimenting in *tel'aran'rhiod* on her own. And she asks, "Can you get pulled into a dream, um, against your will?" essentially. And they're like, "Yeah, if you look in on the dream of someone who has really strong feelings for you, love or hate or whatever, then you can get sucked in." And she's like, "Well, can a dream, like, find you?" And they're like, "Only if the love is so mythologically great."

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: [laughs] "Is the legend." And I'm like, "BORING!" Gawyn's feelings about Egg are not stronger than anyone – it's so weird to, like, quantify romantic feelings that way. Like, his feelings are so strong, because what it really means, in the text, is that his feelings are so obsessive, which is actually not a good thing. It's a really scary thing.

SALLY: Red flag!

EMILY: But, um, it is not seen as a scary thing in this text.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Obsession equals love.

SALLY: That's not right, kids.

EMILY: That's not true.

SALLY: In case you were wondering.

EMILY: If anyone is ever obsessed you to the point, that you're [laughing] getting sucked into their sex dreams, that's bad.

SALLY: That is bad. If their sex dreams find you while you're floating in dream space –

EMILY: The dream void.

SALLY: That is a RED FLAG.

EMILY: I mean, how would you know?

SALLY: That it was a sex dream about you?

EMILY: No, how would you know if it was their sex dream or your sex dream? It's always the question.

SALLY: I guess you just have to get in it and see if you're chained to a pillar.

EMILY: Oh you have to – [laughs].

SALLY: Or not.

EMILY: It all depends. Who's chained to what.

SALLY: Yeah. What's going on?

EMILY: Who's happy? Um. Blah, blah, blah, blah. Does your childhood friend and crush get decapitated in front of you?

SALLY: Yes or no?

EMILY: Yes or no?

SALLY: It's like a – we'll make a – we'll make a flow chart.

EMILY: It's like a quiz. Oh! It's your sex dream. His sex dream. Their sex dream, I should say. Um, there's also, like, a very little sidenote in here where Bair, one of the Wise Ones, references another Wise One, who was Bair's teacher, named Mora, who lived to be, supposedly, almost three hundred years old. Which, um, isn't plot important or anything, it just lends itself to Robert Jordan's favorite type of world building, which is where you have to piece together world building like a puzzle, rather than just receiving the information. This lends itself to what we're about to encounter in Book 7 with the Knitting Circle in Ebou Dar, which is the idea that women – that Aes Sedai have that weird ageless look not because they can channel, but because they are using the oath rod. Like, that is a side effect of the oath rod. So, we have really, uh – Wise Ones who can channel also have longevity like Aes Sedai, but are not, you know, they're not – Amys doesn't look weird and ageless. She just looks longer than she is.

SALLY: Ambiguously twenty-five forever, or whatever.

EMILY: Yeah, whatever.

SALLY: Um, yeah.

EMILY: Whatever.

SALLY: The Aes Sedai age thing is so weird.

EMILY: It's whack, I agree.

SALLY: Like, I'm at a point in *Path of Daggers* where Sivan is like, "All the Sitters of the Hall are too young? None of them are older than a hundred" [laughs].

EMILY: Oh yeah.

SALLY: And it's like, "What?" [laughs]

EMILY: It's such a weird plot point. She's like, "It's a conspiracy!" And you're like, "What the?"

SALLY: I'm like, "What are you talking about? Why are they all so old?"

EMILY: [giggles] We then – speaking of yawning – we then switch over to Elayne and Nynaeve, who are just yawning their heads off, because –

SALLY: [yawns]

EMILY: Sorry, I shouldn't say it, because it will trigger it.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, because they were both up all night, essentially. Nynaeve ended up trying to stay up all night like Theodrin asked her, and Elayne [clears throat] was up basically until Birgitte got an Aes Sedai to tell her to go to sleep. Because she was helping with the weird bubble of evil. Um, and everyone is congregated around the main building in Salidar to find out what the embassy – not the embassy – the Hall of the Tower has said in response to the White Tower ambassador. And it's just this kind of anticlimactic moment where Tarna Feir comes out and just gets on her horse and leaves. And everyone's like, "Oh, that was awkward."

SALLY: Bye!

EMILY: And then Romanda, who is the senior Sitter, gets up on a cart and says a lot of words for meaning nothing. Like, she has a little paragraph that's just like, "Keep going everyone, nothing's changed." And everyone's like, "We don't actually know what we're doing here to begin with, so." And the Hall of the Tower is like [whispers], "Neither do we. It's all just sort of _"

SALLY: We're all just sitting here in plot purgatory until Egwene gets here.

EMILY: It's plot purgatory!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That's a perfect way to say it! I feel like I'm dead.

SALLY: [laughs] For reasons completely unknown, we don't get Egg in Salidar for, like, another two hundred pages or whatever.

EMILY: Yeah, let's find when it is.

SALLY: Like, it is *too long*.

EMILY: Let me find where it is la de da. Ah ha! So, Egg gets told that she is the next Amyrlin on page 660. We are on page 370. Which means we still have three hundred pages to go.

SALLY: For fuck's sake.

EMILY: I want to lose my mind.

SALLY: We are – it feels like we are not far into this book at all, but also we've been reading it [laughing] for a hundred years.

EMILY: I know. I – every time I open it I'm like, "Oh, we're a good ways in." But then I remember everything that still has to happen."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like, everything that happens in this three-hundred-page chunk, is nothing.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: There's nothing that happens here.

SALLY: Egg just makes out with Gawyn a few times.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Or whatever.

EMILY: And then there's that Shadar Logoth thing for Rand.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: Mat gets attacked, or something?

SALLY: What else is new? Yeah.

EMILY: Maybe Padan Fain gets assassinated. That would be nice I think.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Not Padan Fain. Pedron Niall.

SALLY: Yeah. I wish Padan Fain got assassinated.

EMILY: Every day I long for the assassination of Pedron Niall and Padan Fain.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I want them to kill each other [laughs].

SALLY: That would be fun.

EMILY: Guns drawn. At dawn.

SALLY: I cannot believe we have three hundred more pages of –

EMILY: Nothin’.

SALLY: Nothing.

BOTH: Also

SALLY: Romanda’s an asshole.

EMILY: Yeah. I mean, yeah. Her and Lelaine.

SALLY: Lelanie.

EMILY: Her and Lelaine are just like, “We’re the fucking worst! We walked out of the worst part of Robert Jordna’s imagination.” Where he was just like, “I need to characters who are just gonna be like ‘no’ to the plot.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And I’m like, “But why, though? But why?”

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, while everyone is watching all this, Siuan comes up and is, I don’t want to say chatting with Nynaeve and Elayne, because that implies a functioning relationship. They’re just sort of sniping at each other. We learn that seven people in Salidar died, like in the village, but nearly a hundred died in the soldiers’ camps because, of course, swords were flying around.

SALLY: Yeah, a lot more dangerous than...stools.

EMILY: Yeah, would make more sense. And they all just sort of threaten each other.

SALLY: [whispers] Oh my Christ.

EMILY: Blah blah. Anyway, as soon as Tarna is gone and this announcement is made that nothing is happening and everyone needs to shut up and go back to work, you filthy animals.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Nynaeve heads over to talk to Sheriam and whoever else to be like, “We found the magic bowl of the winds.” Um, and Elayne catches up with her. Nynaeve’s like, “We need to speak inside.” So they go into a room with Sheriam and Morvrin and Carlinya, I think. It’s not all six. And, but Nynaeve’s like, “There’s this bowl, we found it last night. It’s *ter’angreal*. We want to go to Ebou Dar to get it.” And of course these women are like, “Why the fuck do you need to go to Ebou Dar? We’ll just let the envoy who’s already in Ebou Dar know that she needs to be looking out for it. Apparently it’s Merilille.

SALLY: Merillie.

EMILY: Meri-lily? Mary Lily.

SALLY: Mary’s lily.

EMILY: I’m gonna go with Merilille because that’s how I pronounce it in my head.

SALLY: That’s how I pronounce it in my head, too.

EMILY: Merilille is the ambassador who is already in Ebou Dar. Not Edesina. I think I said that before. Apparently Edesina was sent to Tarabon, so, when she reappears in Ebou Dar as a *damane*, that’s why. Because she got captured in Tarabon.

SALLY: Makes sense.

EMILY: Merilille I think just gets sucked straight into Nynaeve and Elayne’s group when they arrive.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: But these ladies are like, “You can’t go to Ebou Dar because you’re accepted.” And Elayne is like, “Well, I know the most about *ter’angreal*, so I think I should be able to go. And here’s what you should do.” And they’re like, “No.” She also said, “You should also send a message to Rand, or to the embassy who is going to Caemlyn.” And they’re like, “Why?” And Elayne just lies flat out and is like, “Well, I think the bowl needs a man to work it, too.” And I’m not sure why Elayne tells this lie. Oh, it says. Ha! It tells me.

SALLY: [snorts]

EMILY: “If it required Rand, they could not pass up the chance to do something about the weather. And by the time she “discovered” that a circle of women could manage the bowl, the Aes Sedai in Salidar would have tied themselves to Rand too tightly to break loose.” Oh, so she basically wants to initiate contact, which I’m like, “They’re already doing that.”

SALLY: Yeah, again.

EMILY: Don’t know. Not really sure why you guys want to get your little grubby hands in everything.

SALLY: Yeah, they have like – they’re, like, pathological about it.

EMILY: I know! And Sheriam is like, “This isn’t changing the fact that you guys are not full Aes Sedai. You can’t just be, like, sent on quests. Sorry that Moiraine did that to you.”

SALLY: And Siuan did that to you but look what happened to them [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, here we are now. And then Nynaeve just, like, loses her temper and is like, “You all are fucking cowards” [laughs].

SALLY: That’s what I say to my boss all the time.

EMILY: I mean, like, here’s the thing: she’s right.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: She’s like, “You guys are just sitting here, but you’re not doing anything. The Whitecloaks could attack at literally any moment. You have nothing to do with Elaida. You are just sort of terrified of Rand. Um, you are afraid of the Black Ajah. Apparently you think the Forsaken could attack at any time, but your response kind of sucked because not enough people knew that this was a fucking response that should be going on.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: “And you don’t trust anyone. Like, you don’t even trust me and Elayne, two people who handed you a *broken* seal to the Dark One’s prison.” So I don’t really know what you guys have done to deserve – you’re also enslaving a human. You have a Forsaken hiding under your bed.

SALLY: Let’s not forget that!

EMILY: So it’s a little rich. Um.

SALLY: Yeah, Nynaeve is kind of the queen of double standards.

EMILY: Yeah. But Elayne's like, "Oooh. I mean, not a great way to say it, Nynaeve, [whispers] but she's right. You guys are cowards." Now, as perhaps anyone could foresee, this does not end well. Elayne and Nynaeve get sentenced to just work in the kitchens for the rest of their natural lives. Um, and Elayne's like, "You just had to lose your temper, didn't you?" And Nynaeve's like, "Well, you were telling them how to be Aes Sedai, so, shut up maybe." And Faolain is their overseer so, it's all great. And this is where we're leaving them for, I don't know, a hundred pages.

SALLY: A good while anyway.

EMILY: Until the next time Robert Jordan is like, "What? I don't know what I'm doing." We then cut over to Sheriam and Carlinya who are like, "They're right. We cowards." And I'm like, "What was the point of this?" UGH. Okay, meanwhile Rand is in Caemlyn. He is receiving a report from a clerk who is named Halwin Norry. Um, I love Halwin Norry for the simple fact that he is an entirely inoffensive character. He's just a man who loves his job and his job is the most boring shit in the entire world. And every character, constantly, is like, "This man is so boring." And I'm like, "Now you know how I feel [whispers] every time you open your mouth, Rand or Elayne."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: This man is a hallmark of the boredom that I feel every time I'm in Caemlyn.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, Caemlyn is something else.

EMILY: And governing Caemlyn? I don't give a shit about it. But this man does. And honestly, I hope the best for him.

SALLY: I hope he becomes the Queen of Andor.

EMILY: I wish he would become Queen of Andor [laughs]. I wish Halwin Norry was Queen of Andor.

SALLY: [laughing] Halwin Norry for Queen of Andor.

EMILY: Anyway, Rand's just like, "BAH! Boring!" Um, then Bashere kind of pokes his head in and Rand's like, "Ooh, gotta go." So he's like, "Get the fuck out, Norry." And Norry's like, "Okay whatever. Bye." Then Bashere comes back with four, um, Andoran nobles, not the one's we've seen already. Uh, they're Dyelin, Ellorien, Luan, and, I – [sighs] it's spelled A-b-e-l-l-e, like Abelle.

SALLY: Sure.

EMILY: Now, call me a simple idiot who studied the French language, but the 'elle' makes, always makes me think it's a female name.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So I'm always very confused when he turns out to be a man. Lord Abelle...But then we also have Abel Cauthon.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It's the same name, but different by one letter, you know?

SALLY: [laughs] Neat.

EMILY: AH! Anyway, Bashere like passes off these noble people to Rand and there's some, like, game of houses shit. Whatever the fuck. And Rand's like, "Ah, sit down and drink some wine with me blah blah blah blah. Hey, what do you guys, um, what, hey, have you guys heard that I'm looking for Elayne?" And they're like, "Yeah." And Dyelin's like, "Yeah, that's great. I think Elayne should be queen." And these other people – I don't know what Dyelin was doing in the last couple books, but these other three – Ellorien and Luan and Abelle or whatever – they were supporters of Morgase, but when Rahvin took over they were mistreated. I think Ellorien was literally, like, whipped, um, and so they are no longer supporters of Morgase. Um, so getting them behind Elayne is going to be an issue. Which is boring. And Rand is like, "Well, I really do what to get Elayne on the throne." And they're like, "There are rumors that you killed Elayne." And he's like, "Why would I put out a proclamation that I'm looking for her, then?" And they're like, "To cover up the crime." And he's like, "This is some fucking CSI shit. I don't have time for – I'm running three countries. You think I have time to cover up a murder?"

SALLY: He's like, "Also, I want to bone Elayne. *Real bad.*"

EMILY: He says, "How many times must I say I don't want to rule Andor?" he said after getting off the throne [laughs].

SALLY: I know. He's a stupid motherfucker. Dumb idiot ass.

EMILY: [laughs] Anyway, so these other three noble people are like, "Well, we think Dyelin should be queen." And Dyelin's like, "*What?* Elayne should be queen." Like, I do appreciate, Dyelin, that you're just desperately like, "I don't want to be queen."

SALLY: I know. It sounds miserable. Who wants to be queen?

EMILY: Give it to Halwin Norry.

SALLY: [laughs] You're right. I'm sorry. Halwin Norry would do a great job.

EMILY: Put a sword in the stone. Halwin Norry draws it.

SALLY: Every country. [laughs] He's now the emperor.

EMILY: [laughs] He's in charge. Um, but Dyelin's basically like, um, "Listen, we're gonna think about it, but as soon as I get – but as soon as I see Elayne is alive and she's the Queen of Andor, of course I will send my men to support you however much you need them." And everyone else is like, "Fine." Anyway, the whole time Dyelin has kind of been looking at Rand funny and apparently all of the Andoran noble people have been doing that every time he interacts with them. Um, so when these people go to leave, Rand catches Dyelin and is like, "Hey, can I just talk to you for a second? How come everyone's looking at me funny?" And she goes, "What's your mother's name?" And he goes, "Her name is Shaiel of the Aiel."

SALLY: [snorts]

EMILY: "Why?"

SALLY: Her name's Shaiel Spice.

EMILY: I mean, it literally just Aiel, but with a "sh" in front of it.

SALLY: Shaeil.

EMILY: "My mother's name was Shaeil. She was a Maiden of the Spear. My father was Janduin, clan chief of the Tardaad Aiel." And she's like, "Well, that's weird, because you have an Andoran accent." And he's like, "I mean, yeah, I did grow up in Andor." And she's like, "What? I mean, okay." She's like, "Well, we're all looking at you funny because you like Tigraine." And he's like, "Exsqueeze me?" And she's like, "Yeah, Ti –" He's, like, piecing together, because Rand's heard shit about Tigraine before and, I guess, had not put it together before this. Um, but Dyeline is like, "Yeah, Tigraine just, like, left one day. Like, everyone woke up and she was just not in the palace. And it was really whack because only a year before her brother Luc had also disappeared. Um, and no one knew what had happened or where they went and it triggered a whole war of succession because their poor mother died of heartbreak after both her children fucking vanished into thin air. Um, and that's how Morgase ended up on the throne and married to, uh, Tigraine's ex-husband, Taringail." Because Taringail's dream was to have a daughter rule Andor and a son rule Cairhien.

SALLY: Classic dad shit.

EMILY: And I guess Robert Jordan was like, "And it's feminist that Elayne just ends up ruling both of them." No, it's not. Monarchy isn't feminist.

SALLY: Ooooh. There's the hot take of the season, baybee.

EMILY: UGH. [laughs] Um, they also – Dyelin also talks about Gitara. Gitara –

SALLY: Gitara [laughs].

EMILY: Yeah, it sounds like Katara, huh?

SALLY: Gitara of the Southern Water Tribe.

EMILY: Gitara Moroso, the Aes Sedai lady who prophesied Rand's birth, had also prophesied – everyone suspected that she had said something to Tigraine that had made her go into the – made her disappear. Because in the same way she had said something to Luc about his fate or his fame or something about the Last Battle, being important for him to go up into the Waste.

SALLY: Yeah. The Blight.

EMILY: Um, and I mean, I don't ever – I still don't get that, 'cause yeah. Slayer, Luc, is in the Last Battle, but he's a bad guy, so.

SALLY: I don't know.

EMILY: Who's to say?

SALLY: I don't know.

EMILY: Um.

SALLY: But, Rand is like, "Oh no."

EMILY: Rand's like, "Oh."

SALLY: "Is Tigraine, Ty-grain, Tigraine?"

EMILY: He's like, "This is all very confusing, but okay." And then Dyelin leaves and Rand's like, "I wish I knew my mom," And we're like, "Yeah."

SALLY: Yeah, it's sad that you don't know your mom.

EMILY: It's sad that you don't know your mom and also that you can't ask her if Elayne is your cousin.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That would be nice for you to know. But then Bashere comes in and is like, "Hey, there's someone you need to see." And Rand's like, "I'm going to Cairhien. So, I don't want to see anyone unless it's an emergency." And Bashere's like [laughing], "Oh, it's an emergency."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And it's this rando, um, Illianer envoy, emissary. A guy from Illian who, like, looks weird in that his face is in, like, this weird grin. It's like a clown face almost. He's got this weird grin, but his eyes are just like [shrieks] Dun dun dun dun. So obviously Sammael did some shit to him. And Rand's like, "What's your message?" And the dude just, like, uses Sammael's voice

to be like, “Hey, maybe we should team up.” What Sammael actually says is, “Let’s just, like, not fight against each other until the last battle, because the other Forsaken are out there and I just don’t have the time. So how ‘bout we – ” He says, “I will pledge not to move east beyond the Plains of Maredo, nor further north than Lugard in the east or Jehannah in the west.” So there’s some room for me to grow, believe me, but I’m not gonna go past those places. And then he’s like, “Then it will just be you and me, down to you and me, at the Last Battle.” And Rand’s like, “Mmkay, well, that’s a lot of lying. Also bad lying.”

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: He’s like, “Well that was stupid and a waste of page space.” He’s like, “Tell him, tell him fuck him. He doesn’t get to escape justice for all the shit he did in the Age of Legends. The War of the Shadow.” And I’m like, “Oh, but Mazrim Taim did.”

SALLY: “Mazrim Taim? Differen’t story!”

EMILY: War criminals.

SALLY: “Him I need” [laughs].

EMILY: Subjective. And this messenger just collapses, dead. And Bashere’s like, “I guess the fact that he’s dead means that Sammael will know what you said.” And it’s like, “Okay, whatever.” And Rand is getting ready to go to Cairhien when Aviendha enters the room and is like, “I need to go to Cairhien also, because I have to see the Wise Ones. It doesn’t have shit to do with you, Rand.” And he’s like, “Fine, you can come.” And that’s the chapter. And also he’s like, “I have got to get away with – from Alanna.” And I’m like, “I mean, yeah.”

SALLY: Fair and valid.

EMILY: She’s the fucking worst.

SALLY: Let’s not forget that happened.

EMILY: [sighs] Yeah, he ruminates on that a little bit.

SALLY: Poor Bashere.

EMILY: Poor Bashere! Yeah, at the end Bashere’s like, “Hey, you do still need to see my horse stunts.” And Rand’s like, “Yeah, I’ll do it tomorrow.”

SALLY: And Bashere’s like [whispers], “I don’t believe you.”

EMILY: “You’ve been saying that for weeks!”

SALLY: “Now, who’s the liar!”

EMILY: “You’ve been putting off my horse stunts!”

SALLY: “We’re *desperate* to show you our horse stunts.”

EMILY: “Or do whatever planning shit we’re doing.”

SALLY: “They’re so good, Rand. The horses themselves have started to do stunts at this point. Backflips and shit.”

EMILY: [laughs] Like, what stunts could horses do? Torsey the torso horse.

SALLY: I wish I had a horse.

EMILY: Do you?

SALLY: I love horses.

EMILY: I would – I like them in theory, but I don’t want to own one.

SALLY: I do.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: Go horseback riding all the time.

EMILY: See, yeah. I don’t really like riding horses, so.

SALLY: [whispers] Oh, I love it.

EMILY: I don’t see the appeal.

SALLY: I do understand that you were bit by a horse in [laughs] your formative years.

EMILY: In my formative years I was bit by a horse, and yet that has nothing to do with my feelings about horses today. It’s very weird. I, like, don’t blame the horse for biting me. [laughs] It’s just, like, the horse got a free pass.

SALLY: The horse was like, “Snack time.”

EMILY: Every creature gets one free bite.

SALLY: [laughs] Tybalt is very much in debt.

EMILY: Yeah, Tybalt – is he still in here?

SALLY: No, I don’t know where he is.

EMILY: Where the fuck did he go?

SALLY: Um, all my friends think horses are really terrifying and they don't like them. And I don't get it. Because I think horses are very beautiful.

EMILY: I mean, they are terrifying, but they're also beautiful

SALLY: Yeah, they're like powerful, I get that.

EMILY: Yeah, they're like sharks.

SALLY: [sighs]

EMILY: [laughs] They're beautiful but also terrifying.

SALLY: [laughing] I knew that was coming.

EMILY: A horse could kill you.

SALLY: A horse could kill you.

EMILY: It's less likely – ah, well, I don't know. I guess since we're not doing pitched battles anymore, you know, where cavalry is trampling each other. Are you more likely to be killed by a shark or a horse?

SALLY: I don't know.

EMILY: Status – staishtish – status – [laughs]. Never mind.

SALLY: [singing] Whoah oh! Stick to the status quo. That's not the tune of that song.

EMILY: [laughing] Stupid.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I don't like 2021 already!

SALLY: Well, we're not in 2021. Only the listeners are in 2021.

EMILY: They don't like 2021 already if this is how it starts out.

SALLY: Yeah, they're like, "Ugh, unsubscribe!"

EMILY: BLEGH. Okay [laughs]. Thanks for listening. Thanks to Glynna Mackenzie for our theme song. Um, thank you to our Patreon supporters. At the time of you listening there should

be a new edition of *In An Hour or Less* up on our Patreon. I'll be talking about *The Aeneid*, a book I do not recommend.

SALLY: A book Virgil did not recommend [laughs].

EMILY: Virgil didn't even – yeah, Virgil was like, “Fuck this book.” Which, relatable, honestly.

SALLY: [laughs] I just think that fact is so funny.

EMILY: Starting this month we are shifting in our blogs from my whole re-read of the last three books in *Wheel of Time* to we're picking up with Sally's first time read through the series, starting with *Path of Daggers*. There will probably be a video game livestream on Friday, but moving into 2021 those will probably happen less. That was kind of something we started in quarantine as, like, 2020 and I just, you know. It's not really something I intended to go on forever.

SALLY: Yeah. Every week is quite a commitment, um, and it takes away from other stuff that we could be doing, um, for the podcast or otherwise.

EMILY: Yeah, so every once in a while. And we'll try to announce it that week on social media, but, uh, you can anticipate fewer of those. Not because we don't like you guys or don't like talking to you guys, but yeah every Friday is a lot. Um, anything else?

SALLY: Um, yes. This is a note a programming note, um, but, uh, there has just been a slight uptick in people, um well intended I know, in EHR listeners kind of coming into our DMs to offer me advice about my chronic pain, and I guess I just have not made it clear enough why this is upsetting to me. Um, A) I spend 24 hours a day managing my pain, so I understand what works for me, and I, like I know advice is well-intended, but it just can be very upsetting, especially when I am expecting to read something about the podcast and have people, um, talking to me about pain. Which can just be kind of exhausting and triggering because it is something I have to think about and deal with all day long. So, while I appreciate the concern, um, please do not do it. Um, if it continues I'm going to close our DMs. Um, and make you guys email us, because it is genuinely very upsetting and it ruins my day every time it happens. So, just, if you want to talk about pain, um, if you have questions or something you want to say, please just ask if that is something I would be open to. Um, and if I say no please do not continue to just DM me about, uh, chronic pain and advice about it. Yeah. I don't really know how to explain it more why offering unsolicited advice is upsetting, um, so just please don't do it.

EMILY: Yeah. Good job.

SALLY: Thanks.

EMILY: Like, everyone is free to talk about their problems on Twitter without then receiving response.

SALLY: Yeah, and I understand, like, I'm very vocal about it. A) because Twitter is kind of a coping mechanism, especially when I'm not seeing my friends and family and not having as many people to talk to. Twitter is a form of verbal ventilation or quasi-verbal ventilation to sort of deal with what's happening and try and work through that. But also I hope that, in this is very qua – kind of...small, but still public platform that, you know, chronic pain can be extremely isolating and chronic illness is extremely isolating, and so, for whoever out there who might here me say something or read me say something, it might just be a little bit comforting. Um, BUT that's a fine line to walk, because I also do not want people just telling me to try CBD oil or use hand warmers or whatever. Sorry, I know that was a little random, but.

EMILY: 2021 resolution.

SALLY: Yeah, I – first time it happens in 2021 lads I'm closing our DMs. I can't – I can't deal with it anymore. I have five doctors for a reason.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And following that, a positive sign off for once: my mom is getting her COVID vaccine tomorrow at 11.

EMILY: Oh yeah, I overheard that. That's awesome!

SALLY: Yeah, because she's a health care worker she gets one of the early rollouts.

EMILY: Fuck yeah!

SALLY: So she'll get her first one tomorrow and her second one two weeks later. I think that's how that works. She'll be fully vaccinated by the end of January, which is very exciting considering she tests 500 people a week for coronavirus.

EMILY: God.

SALLY: So she'll be more protected. Yay!

EMILY: Good for Sally's mom.

SALLY: Yeah, so. Positivity.

EMILY: And good for all healthcare workers.

SALLY: Yeah, they deserve it.

EMILY: Yeah, I'm glad you're getting vaccinated. And when it's your turn to get vaccinated, good for everyone.

SALLY: Yeah, when it's your turn to get vaccinated, please do so if you're given the opportunity.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: Um...yeah. [laughs] EHR is a podcast that believes in vaccines.

EMILY: [sighs] That's a – we shouldn't have to believe in vaccines!

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: It's not Santa Claus!

SALLY: [laughs] I know.

EMILY: We eliminated the Smallpox with vaccines! All you fuckwads who believe – who don't believe in vaccines, shut up! It's science! You stupid assholes. Okay, get your vaccine. Merry 2021.

SALLY: Merry...[mumbling] 2021.

EMILY: I mean it's not.

SALLY: My mom's calling me, speaking of my mom.

EMILY: Okay, goodbye!