



Episode 145: Fanny Pack of Clif Bars

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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: OK, here's what I found out.

Sally: OK.

Emily: Um --

Sally: About Kanye and Jeffree Star?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: OK.

Emily: OK, apparently -- first of all, there's no actual evidence, obviously.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But the rumor was started by a Tik Tok, and -- this sentence is absolutely wild -- “the Tik Tok was created by Ava Louise, the internet troll who last year filmed herself licking a toilet seat in an airplane for a, quote, coronavirus challenge, unquote.” (laugh) Ahhhh! (laugh, sigh) I think it would be a really appropriate relationship between Kanye West and Jeffree Star. ‘Cause Kanye is a, um, racist Black man --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Jeffree Star is a gay man who is also the pinnacle of homophobia. Sort of like Albus Dumbledore.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. We’re just going to ignore the downfall of American democracy and roll -- (laugh) right into the Jeffree Star/Kanye West conspiracy.

Sally: Yeah, I mean --

Emily: Allow you to live in a fantasy world where -- (laugh)

Sally: If I have to lean into one or the other, I suppose -- not that you should ignore what’s going on, because it’s important to be educated, but having doom-scrolled through Twitter and the news for the past eight hours, I believe I am entitled to a break. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, like, don’t -- disengage politically is not the message, but we are living on the day when this is all going down --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On the sixth, so, um, hopefully on Monday when this comes out, things are looking a little bit brighter, and maybe you’re ready to hear some discourse about it, but we’re not currently ready to --

Sally: I don’t have any --

Emily: Yeah, I don’t have any hot takes to -- it’s not a hot take that -- I’m so tired of being like, “Hot take: If these were Black people, then --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “The reaction would’ve been very different.” And I’m like, that’s not -- that’s so obvious.

Sally: Yeah. Like, um --

Emily: This wouldn’t be happening if these were Black people.

Sally: Yeah. Right?

Emily: Like, that's the fucking point.

Sally: Yeah. So, anyway, um, America is a deeply racist country, and that should not be a surprise at this fucking point.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So anyway. Jeffree Star --

Emily: (belches)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Belching over Jeffree Star's name --

Sally: That's also --

Emily: Is really power -- I forgot Dr. Pepper makes me burp a lot more than Diet Coke does. Diet Coke has become ingrained in my systems. (laugh)

Sally: They're like, "This is natural." (laugh) They're like --

Emily: This is -- this is just part of the body.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: It's reintegrating. (laugh) Dr. Pepper is like, "Ooh, a fun, exciting --"

Sally: A fun new substance.

Emily: "Ooh."

Sally: Um. So anyway. Today is stinky. Um. You -- oh. But -- but -- Welcome to Everybody Hates Rand. (laugh) This is your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: There. Now we have an intro or something. (laugh)

Emily: We do, yeah. It's in there.

Sally: Um. You know who else is stinky? Rand.

Emily: I mean, he sure is.

Sally: I mean, they're all probably stinky 'cause it's the Middle Ages or whatever and nobody's bathing regularly.

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: Except for Elayne, who, in the Path of Daggers -- I'm sorry to jump two books ahead -- but I literally read a -- a chapter of the Path of Daggers on Sunday where Elayne is like, "Mm, this Darkfriend who we have in our custody who's being tortured -- it's kind of my fault that she's being tortured because I'm in charge," and then the very next paragraph, one indent later, is like, "She took a really long bath and was laughing with Birgitte and Aviendha and splashing," and I'm like, you dumb shithead.

Emily: I mean, yeah. There's nothing more to be said about Elayne.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: That's sort of the embodiment of who she is as a person.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Doing war crimes and then taking very long baths.

Sally: So --

Emily: You haven't even gotten to that very long bath sequence.

Sally: (sigh) I will burn it. So anyway, um, we're in Cairhien.

Emily: Yeah, we pick up right where we left off, with Rand Traveling to Cairhien with his huge honor guard, which is immediately met by an even bigger honor guard, that I guess just sits around in Cairhien --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Waiting in case he shows up? Um, which is made both of Aiel and, uh -- Mayeners?

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Berelain's private little army.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And this is -- I don't know if it's the first time we're hearing about it, but it feels like the first time we're hearing about it, that Berelain is governing Cairhien --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In Rand's general absence. Um. Presumably it would've taken her a while to travel there. I dunno, it's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not like he picked her up. So.

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: Um. But Rand provides his reasoning, which is that she voluntarily allied with him, unlike literally every other country, where he had to do conquest. Um. And so she can be trusted in that way, but also she is a foreigner who has no political interest in Cairhien, 'cause it's not even a neighboring country, so --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Theoretically, she and Rhuarc can co-govern.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is what we get, is Berelain and Rhuarc's kind of hilarious co-parenting dynamic of Cairhien, the country.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is also, uh, complicated by gender dynamics, of course. Rhuarc's very patronizing to Berelain, which is not great -- a great look for Rhuarc. Like, I get it, he's, what, 50, and she's supposed to be, like, 27.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And so it would be a little hard to treat a baby -- someone --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who you are like, "This is a baby --"

Sally: This is baby.

Emily: As your political equal, but, you know, give her some respect; she is very good at her job.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is pointed out multiple times.

Sally: Yeah. It would be one thing, again, if Rhuarc was governing -- governing Caemlyn with Elayne, who is an idiot.

Emily: Oh, yeah, that would be hilarious.

Sally: Rhuarc was like, "I'll kill you."

Emily: No, but Berelain's good at her job.

Sally: Yeah, Berelain is a very competent ruler and that's both given to us by, like, Rand and people who are like, "She's good at her job," and in the actual decisions we see her making, where she's like, "We need to think about what type of crops we will have in a year because the weather is fucked, and we need to feed this country."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Rand's like, "Oh."

Emily: And just the fact that Cairhien is still stable --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At this point.

Sally: After a war.

Emily: After a war and nobles who just, like, cannot get along --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, I don't know. Just generally, Berelain -- it's moments like these where I'm like, Berelain's such a cool character --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's such a shame that she then gets shunted into being with Perrin for the latter part of the series, because in this book, specifically, she is --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Very good.

Sally: It's very unfortunate that Robert Jordan, um, tanks her plot by making her, uh, basically just a wannabe homewrecker.

Emily: I know. It would've been cool if Berelain was, like -- could, like, fill part of the void that Moiraine --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Left.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, in being a political advisor to Rand and could just sort of, like, be his right-hand woman in -- as he is trying to figure out how to govern various countries.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, occasionally I'll be reading Wheel of Time and be like, oh, here's an arc that, you know, if it was made into its own thing, could be a really interesting book, and Berelain's is one of those. It's just, like, being a ruler of a very small country, suddenly tasked with governing a much bigger country by, you know, the -- Christ come again.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: To prepare for the apocalypse, also.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, just her day to day would be very interesting to read about, I guess.

Sally: Yeah, especially while she's being constantly slut-shamed by every single woman in the vicinity, including Egg.

Emily: But not the Wise Ones.

Sally: But not the -- the Wise -- Sorilea -- Sorilea's like --

Emily: The Wise Ones --

Sally: "YEAHH."

Emily: (laugh) Which I think is so good.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: Egwene's like, "I don't get why the Wise Ones love Berelain," and the Wise Ones are like, "'Cause she's hot and amazing. What are you talking about?"

Sally: She -- yeah. "She's hot. She's -- she's competent. She's got really good titties."

Emily: "She gets what she wants."

Sally: "She gets what she wants, and she's just, like, cool."

Emily: Very cool.

Sally: Yeah. And Egg's like, "I don't see it. She doesn't cover up her tits enough." And they're like, "That's what we're saying!"

Emily: It's awesome.

Sally: It's the best. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Rand's like, "I don't get why Berelain and Egg don't like each other," and it's like, the dynamic, supposedly, Robert Jordan is creating, is, "It's 'cause Berelain is a slut and Egg is a prude."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is just, like, such a weird way to put women in boxes, like you do if you're Robert Jordan.

Sally: Yeah. Well, and we also have to prepare Egg for her young pope arc --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where she literally cannot be a slut the way that she wants to be in order to step into that role.

Emily: Well, it would've been so cool -- like, if Robert Jordan just had any imagination at all, it would've been so cool if Egg and Berelain just, like, got along --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Egg could be like, "Here is a mentor." Because as it is, Egg steps into power and pretty immediately, um, takes power in a really competent direction.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There isn't a lot of room for, uh, Egwene to make errors, um, or grow into the position at all.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which can be really fun and empowering to read about, but, um, as always, um, you kind of want to be like, "Well, how did she get here?" At least we have, with Rand in these chapters, specifically, when he is making decisions, he is often hearing, like, Moiraine's voice in his head.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Emily: And even though we didn't see those scenes directly, we know that he is working off of expertise that Moiraine equipped him with.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Um, with Egwene, of course she also has a lot of her own expertise, and I hesitate to, like, be like, "She's a Mary Sue," because that's always the box we want to put --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Powerful women in. I just think it would be really cool if she was like, "I have a friend in Berelain, who has taught me a lot about governing --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Um, as well as my mentorship -- my mentors, um, Moiraine and the Wise Ones, who have also taught me a lot about governing."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It just would be, I dunno, cool.

Sally: Yeah, not -- I'm sorry I keep referencing Path of Daggers when we're supposed to be talking about Lord of Chaos --

Emily: It's what you're reading now.

Sally: But, um, like, I just read the scene where Egg manipulates war power from the Hall, you know? And there's a lot of, like, implication that she and Siuan have had a lot of conversations, since, like, Siuan is playing a role in that. But there's also a lot of, like, implication that Egg is just, like, doing such a good job at it. Like, yes, Siuan is helping, and it's like -- so it's, like, nice that she has, like, her own inheritent -- inheritent? -- inherent competencies and things that she is good at, but it's like, nobody is that good at politics right off the bat, you know?

Emily: Yeah. Like, and just -- I have never liked how Siuan is set up as a mentor figure for Egg. Like, obviously, Siuan has a lot of knowledge that is appropriate for Egwene to utilize, but, like, Siuan is also the living example of how not to do the job.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So -- (laugh)

Sally: Which is another thing, which is like, why are you taking her advice? She got deposed!

Emily: She got deposed for how badly she fucked up.

Sally: Yeah. So -- yeah. Like, again, not -- like, Egg is a very, like, intelligent and competent person, so it's not to be like, "She just got it because she's a girl," or whatever.

Emily: No, we all know that the only Mary Sue in this series is Rand, who was a swordmaster by book two --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Despite having picked up a sword, what --

Sally: Three times.

Emily: Nine weeks ago?

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. But it is just, like -- there was so much potential for her to have really interesting relationships with other, powerful women. But as we've said before, Robert Jordan doesn't allow women to be friends. (laugh)

Emily: No.

Sally: So.

Emily: Yeah. He's like, "Women? Liking women?" The only reason he allows the Wise Ones and Berelain to, like, like each other is 'cause they don't actually ever interact on screen.

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. Like, he doesn't have to show affection.

Emily: Yeah, or anything like that. I dunno. Um. Sorry, we're jumping all over the place. But Rand gets to Cairhien, is like, "Where are Rhuarc and Berelain? I want to talk to them." They go looking for them. Aviendha immediately disappears. Rand's like, "What the?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "She just faded into the background. The wall."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She's Aiel. She's good at camouflage.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, he finds Berelain and Rhuarc, and they're kind of walking around toward, vaguely, an office direction. They pass a courtyard that is full of Cairhienin young people who are training with swords. I believe it's specifically women. Or, it's the women that Rand notices; I think he says there are men there as well.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and Berelain explains that, like, there are just a lot of young Aiel nobility who are -- not Aiel nobility; excuse me -- Cairhienin nobility who are trying to adopt the ways of the Aiel. And Rhuarc blatantly says, "This is offensive --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "To us," and, like, asks Rand to outlaw this practice because -- he says, "A lot of Cairhienin have started asking us, and we tell them because we're not going -- we're not, like, secretive about our practices or our culture, everything --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "We are -- it is just very incomprehensible to white people."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Um, and they're, like, mangling it."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "So could you please stop the cultural appropriation?" and Rand's like, "No, I have to side with Berelain because she's technically the one I put in charge."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, Berelain could have a lot of reasons for allowing -- like, this could -- these people could become, theoretically, her elite bodyguards or whatever --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because she allowed them to do this. Like, Berelain also has personal --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Stakes in the game.

Sally: Yeah, and it's also just, like, just because you put someone in charge doesn't mean you should ignore an entire culture being like, "We are offended by this, and we are, mm, at this point, 65 to 75 percent of your army," it feels like?

Emily: Yeah, and just, like, there are more creative ways to solve the problem --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I guess. Like, Rand could be like, "Alright, tell anyone who wants to practice -- like, maybe we can work out a thing where people have to be trained by the Aiel."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And that will just weed out tons of people, 'cause no one is going to stick -- like, look what Egg went through.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Egg wasn't even trained for combat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know? Most people would just be like, "Oh, fuck this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And the people who stuck it out would be --

Sally: Willing to do it correctly.

Emily: Hopefully, yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, I don't know. Berelain is so concerned because there are lots of young women who are kind of taking refuge here. Rand could just be like, "Tell them they can't do the Aiel shit, but they are more than welcome to join the army."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or --

Sally: Women can learn swords.

Emily: Like, yeah. It's not a big fucking deal.

Sally: Yeah. So Rand basically just being like, "I'm gonna allow the appropriation because Berelain said so," is one of his many shit decisions.

Emily: Yeah. It's, like, not good, and it is the least interesting path possible, because then what we have is just, like, yet another way for, um, cultures to clash unproductively on-screen.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because these people stick around and become Faile's elite bodyguards --

Sally: Yeah, which is, like --

Emily: "Elite" is an interesting word, 'cause mostly they just fail at their job --

Sally: Yeah, they're -- (laugh)

Emily: Repeatedly.

Sally: Not very good at it.

Emily: Um, and it's just, like, a way for the Aiel to be like, "We hate these people," and these people to be like, "Mm, we want approval from the Aiel, but we're not gonna actually change to get anything -- to get it."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, um, it's just like, that's a boring dynamic.

Sally: Yeah. (sigh)

Emily: Dur dur dur.

Sally: Yeah. Like, it's just classic -- classic cultural appropriation. "We have no respect for the Aiel, but we want their shit."

Emily: Yeah. Um, which, Rand is like, "The Aiel have brutally, like, taken this country and, in some cases, looted it, twice --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But that is not an excuse for them to be like, "Maybe we'll adopt the culture."

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. Which is, again, like, there's a really interesting dynamic between Cairhien and the Aiel that could be explored. Like, their culture -- the clashing of cultures here could be really interesting, like you said, but Rand is just like, "I have to make really hard decisions all the time and draw lines in the sand."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Rather than letting things be more ... liminal, the way that culture -- cultures colliding is.

Emily: Yeah. Just, like -- I don't know. That's just, like, not the way culture works. If you have some people adopting the Aiel culture, then what's probably actually happening in Cairhien is that a lot of people are adapting to the culture in a lot of different ways.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not just by, like, picking up a sword but, like, economically, turning to different practices.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, yeah, you just have a really interesting way with the Aiel, more or less occupying this land, um, benignly -- if an occupation can ever be benign --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, to have these two cultures sort of shift toward each other --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In more interesting ways.

Sally: Absolutely.

Emily: But no, Robert Jordan's boring.

Sally: Well.

Emily: Um, Rand and Berelain and Rhuarc then get to their office, and they sort of are talking about more governing matters. Rand dismisses most of his bodyguard; he says, "You can leave one Maiden and one --" I dunno what -- the Stone Dogs? Whatever -- Red Shields --

Sally: They're the Friends of the Eagle, which feels --

Emily: What?

Sally: Particularly like it's supposed to give off Native American vibes.

Emily: OK. Don't like that.

Sally: Yeah, which I -- I'm not sure quite what to make of that.

Emily: But he says, "You can leave one of each, but everyone else should clear out." And Sulin's like, "Ugh."

Sally: "Disgusting."

Emily: "Ugh."

Sally: "Gotta keep 80 people around you at all times."

Emily: Yeah, he's like -- he talks about -- he feels like he's in a parade. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Which, like, yeah.

Sally: There's so many people.

Emily: How could you not? There's so many. Um. Uh, so they're chatting when, uh, one of -- when an Aielman named ... Mangin?

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Mangin? Whatever. Mangin ... (bad French accent) Mangin.

Sally: Mangin.

Emily: Mangin, um, comes and, like, knocks at the door, and is like, "Hello, Rand. I murdered a dude --" (laugh) "Six days ago," or whatever.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Exsqueeze me?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "Was it in self -- it was in self-defense, right?" And he's like, "No, I just thought he should die." Which is, like -- what? And it turns out 'cause he was wearing -- oh, he had a --

Sally: Tattoo. Yeah.

Emily: A dragon tattoo and was, like, flaunting it, so more cultural appropriation, though, again, um, perhaps an innocent form of cultural appropriation --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We would never know. He might have just seen the tattoos and been like --

Sally: Been like, "Sick."

Emily: "Cool tattoo." It's also a tattoo, not the magic, shiny --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Tattoos that you get in, uh, Rhuidean. But anyway, uh, Mangin was like, "Imma kill this dude," and did, and then presumably went to Berelain and Rhuarc and was like, "Now what?"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: 'Cause Rand said, you can't just kill people. And they were like, "Mmmm. Wait till Rand gets back so he can pass judgment," and Rand is like, "I already passed judgment. You can't murder people. It's a capital crime in Cairhien, so you have to be hanged." And Mangin is like, "Well, cool. See ya at the hanging."

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "Just let me know when and where."

Emily: And leaves. Which is, like -- I mean, for a murderer, he's a pretty -- (laugh) cool murderer.

Sally: Yeah, it's like --

Emily: Laidback.

Sally: I mean, I don't know if you should have, like, murdered someone over getting a tattoo --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But at least you're willing to accept your punishment.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah, he's very -- it's very, like, a good moment to be like, the Aiel are such a fascinating culture.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And, like, their honor system is so interesting and just, like, the way they approach life and death is so fascinating, and I just think they're very interesting.

Emily: They are. I love them. They're really cool. But, um, instead, this is just kind of framed as, like, oh, look at Rand, having to make hard decisions.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. And, of course, it's interesting, where -- our next section involves Rand going to Shadar Logoth with a bunch of Aiel, and one of the Maidens gets lost, and she just haunts Rand -
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Sally: Forever.

Emily: Unceasingly, and it's just -- you know, kind of a good side-by-side example of, here is how women's deaths, even when they are not caused by Rand, haunt him, whereas a man's death, which was actually caused by Rand -- you don't have to institute capital punishment --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, on a nationwide basis --

Sally: In fact, you shouldn't.

Emily: Yeah. We're against capital punishment, actually, on this podcast. But, um --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Dur dur dur. But, uh -- although we -- I -- we've said it before: where are the prisons in this land?

Sally: I know. It's very interesting.

Emily: Usually there's at least one cool prison.

Sally: And, like, there are people -- like, there are instances of, like, individual people being locked up, like the dungeons in, um --

Emily: Yeah, there's always dungeons.

Sally: Fal Dara, and, like, a few people just, like, held, like that wolf man that Perrin meets --

Emily: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sally: Who's just sort of, like, imprisoned in a stable. But it's not like there are, like -- it's not like there's a prison-industrial complex.

Emily: Yeah. But even, like -- do -- am I -- are we just Americans who can't imagine a society without prisons? But that seems unlikely because Robert Jordan was also an American.

Sally: Yeah, it's just very weird because it's like, um -- I've been thinking a lot about crime and punishment in Wheel of Time as I write my Path of Daggers blogs, because Path of Daggers is just, like, full of crime and very little punishment, it seems like --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Um, for people who are just torturing and murdering other people. Um, so yeah, it's just like, what happens to -- like, we have thief-catchers like Juilin, but what happens to the thieves?

Emily: When they are caught?

Sally: When they are caught? Like, it doesn't seem like there's -- like, it's like, yes, it probably is a little bit of an American bias, where we have such a punitive society, but also, it seems like there's a lot of, like, crime and adjacent policing, like thief-catchers and guards and whatever, but it doesn't seem like there are any -- like, we don't see what justice looks like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Unless it is instances of capital punishment. So it's like, is that the only form of justice this society has? Or is there, like, you know, restorative justice, where you do community service? Are these thieves losing a hand? Like, what's happening?

Emily: Yeah. Like, I would never believe that Wheel of Time has any sort of rehabilitation for criminals because this is a, uh, medieval -- I know it's not technically medieval --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But in the fantasy sense, it is a medieval culture --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, with infrastructure just barely being figured out --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As we find out when Rand goes to his school and is like, "Roads?"

Sally: "Plows?"

Emily: "Irrigation?"

Sally: "The printing press?"

Emily: "What the fuck?" Um. (laugh) But yeah, it's just, um -- yeah, you would think there would be a greater range of punishments that we see.

Sally: Especially because it's, like, such, like, a, um, nobility-based society.

Emily: Mm.

Sally: And, like, the nobility is notorious for punishing people who don't do things like pay their taxes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, is there debtors' prison?

Emily: You'd think.

Sally: Yeah, like, at least there should be a debtors' prison.

Emily: You'd think there would be anything at all, but it's like religion. Robert Jordan just sort of was like, "I don't want to do that," so he didn't.

Sally: Yeah. Which, like, in another instance, I'd be like, "The lack of prisons is very interesting. Like, let's use fantasy as our opportunity to imagine different forms of reality.

Emily: Yeah. But it doesn't feel intentional; it feels --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like a -- uh, just a neglected part of his world-building.

Sally: Yeah, because I just -- again, now I'm never gonna be able to get over this -- what does Juilin do with the thieves when he catches them? (laugh)

Emily: He just is like, "Here they are."

Sally: "I caught 'em." And they're like, "No more stealing."

Emily: Yeah, do you just --

Sally: "Stealing bad."

Emily: Take back the stuff that they stole and then turn them loose? What's the truth?

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, so it feels like -- I dunno. So -- but anyway, Rand's like, "I have to hang this guy, and that sucks, and you guys should have passed judgment. I don't care that it made you uncomfortable."

Emily: They're like, "Meh."

Sally: But Rhuarc's like, "But this is my homie."

Emily: "But I know him."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "I know him too. I mean, not as well, but. Rude."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, then Rand is like, "I'm leaving to go to my school." And they're like, "Um, a bunch of people will be wanting to talk to you, including the Wise Ones and all the Cairhienin and Tairen nobles who are still here," and he's like, "Well, I'll be back eventually."

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "I don't give a fuck."

Emily: Yeah. "Goodbye." And he leaves, finds out that his orders were, uh, followed, to leave him with just two bodyguards. So he travels through the city much more slowly than he usually does --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because he only has two bodyguards rather than his usual parade.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. But he gets to his school, which is also, kind of like Berelain, the first we're hearing of this properly. Um, Rand has just set up this sort of institution where people can gather and invent things and, um, he -- like, create prototypes, essentially, and he can pay to have them made.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is really interesting. And also, he can just award money to people --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At random --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, he gives Herid Fel a hundred gold for making a prototype of a telescope.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A telescope, right? That's where you look at the stars?

Sally: Yeah. A telescope.

Emily: Yeah, OK. (laugh) Um.

Sally: Yeah. And Rand's like, "Sick, that seems lit."

Emily: I know, Rand's like, "Yeah."

Sally: "Here's a hundred gold coins," or whatever.

Emily: But didn't, like, give a bunch of money to other people. 'Cause -- he's met by this, like, woman who is kind of the headmistress and who we find out is the one who, in the last book, fashioned a crossbow --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: That could shoot an arrow over a distance of miles --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, to hit someone. Rand witnessed that and was like, "I gotta find who did that," and apparently he did.

Sally: And it's this grumpy lady. (laugh)

Emily: Mm-hmm. But she has all these -- they have all these students, who are just working on prototypes, and they've set up, like, this quasi-science fair setup where everyone's --

Sally: Yeah, it's very charming.

Emily: I know. Like -- I passed the book to Sally and was like, "It's pretty inoffensive as Rand chapters go," because we do get to see Rand --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In his most likable element, where he is just, like, curious and interested in learning things and --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Talking to people and just kind of an awkward farm boy turn -- turned dictator, who -- (laugh) also has to talk to people occasionally.

Sally: Yeah, and he's like, "Eugh. I'm so bad at this." (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. And there are just, like, these cool inventions. We've got an improved printing press, um, an improved plow system; somebody is like, "Here would be a better system of irrigation."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Here is technology to make our roads better."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um --

Sally: Someone's inventing, like, a hot air balloon, it sounds like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or some other form of flying.

Emily: Yeah, some, like, plane, 'cause there's this girl who mumbles a lot --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who's like, "Birds, planes," and Rand is like, "What was that fuckin' about?"

Sally: Yeah. Yeah. She's got, like, a --

Emily: And the lady's like, "I dunno. We have no idea."

Sally: Prototype.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Floating balloon, plane thing.

Emily: There's a guy who's making something that could theoretically be a car.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And Rand is like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: Yeah, and she -- and the lady's like, "I don't know either."

Emily: "We don't know. We just hear terrible explosions coming from his room in the dead of night."

Sally: The guy seems like kind of a nutcase.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He, like, burns his hand, and he's like, "Ba ha ha ha ha."

Emily: He's like, "Ha ha."

Sally: "Isn't that so funny?" And Rand's like --

Emily: "What the?"

Sally: "Suuuure."

Emily: And then Herid Fel, who's making a telescope --

Sally: Is it Herid Fel or Kin Tovere?

Emily: Kin Tovere. You're Right. Herid Fel --

Sally: Who's Herid Fel?

Emily: He's the guy who -- that Rand then goes and talks to.

Sally: The library guy?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Oh, there's so many guys.

Emily: The nerd guy. I know.

Sally: OK, we've got telescope guy and nerd guy.

Emily: Kin Tovere is telescope guy. Sorry. Um.

Sally: No, but he's just got, like, a million telescopes.

Emily: Yeah, and Rand's like, "Sweet." Rand loves his telescope business.

Sally: I mean, I'm also like, "Sweet." But I still raise the question: where are the glass-blowing studios --

Emily: (makes "I don't know" noise)

Sally: if he's making all these lenses? Like, I know that nobody else cares about that, but I care about that.

Emily: Well, I'd like a bigger tour of this school, because --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Presumably you would have to have, like, a smithy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To be creating this type of things, as well as -- you know, we see the library, kind of -- or it's referenced -- but there should be a glass-blowing place, there should be all types of, like, workshops --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For people to be --

Sally: Carpentry.

Emily: Yeah, making the, um, things that go into their prototypes.

Sally: And that sounds so interesting.

Emily: I know, it sounds like a really cool thing.

Sally: Yeah. Like, I wanna go hang out there.

Emily: Yeah. It's a neat place. Anyway, Rand is then like, "Can I go talk to Herid Fel?" and the lady's like, "Yeah, he's just up in his room." He's a little nerd. So Rand goes up to, uh, this guy's room. Apparently he's an Andoran who just was, like, holed up in the royal library in Cairhien --

Sally: I know. Like, what?

Emily: Doing research and whatever. Um. He's like, "Stay out here," to his bodyguards, who are a young woman and a young man and are, like, eyeing each other --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Starting an Aiel courtship ritual. So Rand is like, "Oh, they'll definitely leave me alone."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, "Do a fucking quickie out in the hallway." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, but he goes in to talks -- to talk to Herid Fel, who's just this, uh, older man, kind of, uh -- kind of fills this trope of sort of crazy, eccentric, socially awkward --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, very smart guy.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, he seems to have done a lot of research about a lot of things. Rand is like, "What do you know about the Aiel --" excuse me -- "What do you know about the Aes Sedai and Warder bond?" and he's like, "Not really anything." Rand's like, "Can you break it?" and he's like, "No."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "Don't think so."

Sally: "Uhhh, nope."

Emily: Rand's like, "Super helpful." He asks about, um -- he says, "What about the question I asked you last time?" and we don't hear exactly what that question was, but Herid Fel says something about Tarmon Gai'don. And it's really easy to, like, skim over the first time you're reading this series. When you know how the series ends and how much of the last book in particular is devoted to, um, Rand's quandary of how exactly to defeat the Dark One and how exactly to go about sealing his prison, this is a more interesting discussion because we're seeing how a lot of Rand's ideas could be developed in the future. Um, but Herid Fel proposes this theory that by the end of Tarmon Gai'don -- or, not necessarily by the end of Tarmon Gai'don -- but at some point, the seal on the Dark One's prison will be not just patched but the prison will be made whole again.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Because if time is a wheel, then at some point, the time is going to come again where the prison in its whole form will have to be bored into.

Sally: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is just, you know -- it's interesting to see this concept of the *wheel* of time actually being interrogated.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because everything feels so linear when we're in it --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Right now, and it's concerned with the end of the world, but here's a guy saying, "OK, but time is a wheel, so."

Sally: Yeah. It's also one of, like, the only -- like, a handful of actual, like, theological considerations, where Rand is like, "What, but, no, the whole -- it can't be made whole because there has to be a bore in it," and he's like, "Well, do you think the Creator made the Dark One's prison with, like, a hole in it already?" and just, like --

Emily: Yeah, patched over, and that was the weak spot?

Sally: Yeah, and just, like, these really interesting conversations about, like -- was the Dark One's prison being broken an intentional thing, then?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or, like, is that what you're proposing, Rand, versus, like, yeah, if time is, uh, cyclical, then it's gonna have to be remade in order for it to be, like, re-bored into, and then that suggests its own thing about the cosmological nature of the universe, that, like, evil is always going to have its prison broken into. It's just a really interesting little conversation.

Emily: Yeah. It's like -- it's -- yeah, you're right, it's the only, like, theological conversation that we have. It reminds me of the, like, Christian notion of, like, well, if the -- if Adam and Eve weren't supposed to eat the apple -- or the fruit, I guess; it's not specifically an apple; it's just always depicted that way --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, if they weren't supposed to eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, then why did God make the Tree of Knowledge right there?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Why did he make edible fruit on it?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And if you're Mormon, then you say, well, that -- they were supposed to eat it.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: You just, like, lean into that. Um. I don't know how other Christian --

Sally: What's the funniest possible fruit it could have been? (laugh)

Emily: Well, theoretically, it has to be on a tree, right?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Fruit ... that grows ... on trees. Apple, pear, peach, cherry. It would be a peach, and you'd recreate the Call Me by Your Name scene --

Sally: Disgusting.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Don't -- don't do Eve dirty like this. (laugh) She doesn't deserve it.

Emily: Guava.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What's a fruit that's, like, really hard to break into? A grapefruit?

Sally: Eh ... Yeah, something that she had to, like, peel. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, she's like -- (laugh) Yeah. She has to really think about it. A pomegranate?

Sally: Yeah, she's just eating handfuls of pomegranate seeds.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Really determined.

Emily: Just -- (laugh) Mulberry is weird.

Sally: Yeah. Um. (laugh)

Emily: Or a banana.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Make eye contact with Adam while eating the banana. (laugh) And that's when he was like --

Sally: He was like, "Wait."

Emily: "Oh."

Sally: Looks down. (laugh)

Emily: "Maybe --" (laugh)

Sally: "Maybe this thing has a purpose."

Emily: "Babe, I have an idea." (laugh)

Sally: "Wait, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen." And she's like, "You're disgusting."

Emily: "EW."

Sally: "I'm just eating a banana." Um, anyway, that took a weird turn. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, so they have their little --

Emily: They have their little debate.

Sally: Little theological conversation, and then we, uh, switch over to Eggy.

Emily: Oh, Rand asks about the seals being broken.

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: And Herid Fel's like, "Oh, no, no, no. You can't do that."

Sally: "Why would you do that?"

Emily: "Only a madman would do that."

Sally: Rand's like, "Well ..."

Emily: And Rand's like, "Well, the voice in my head won't shut up about it is why I'm asking, so."

Sally: (laugh) He's like, "You got me there."

Emily: Ahhhh.

Sally: Yeah, Lews Therin's like, "Break 'em!"

Emily: "Ahhh!"

Sally: "Break the seals!"

Emily: Yeah, Rand talks about how he's alone except for his two bodyguards and the voice in his head, Lews Therin, and Alanna, who feels like, he describes, a hand hovering just over the back of his neck.

Sally: Which is --

Emily: Which really is a deeply unpleasant --

Sally: It's harrowing, yeah.

Emily: Even if it's your own hand. I'm doing it right now, and I'm just like -- AHH!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) It's the WORST. Makes me want to crawl out of my skin, so --

Sally: Yeah, it's not -- it's not a good feeling.

Emily: Poor Rand.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But yeah, we then switch over to Egg, who is lost -- (laugh) in the Cairhienin palace.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Which is hilarious.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, looking for Rand. She tells us that Aviendha went to the Wise Ones and then they immediately all sequestered with her, and Egg was not invited. (laugh)

Sally: Yes.

Emily: So she's like, "Fine, I'll go talk to Rand."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, she runs into Sorilea, who's like, "What the fuck are you doing here?" and Egg's like, "I'm doing my exercise, y'know?" Which, usually, apparently she just has to walk fully around the city wall, which I'm like, what is that, like eight to ten miles?

Sally: Yeah, she's like, "They make me do it like five or six times."

Emily: I'm like, you're just walking all day long.

Sally: How are you -- they say light exercise is --

Emily: Light exercise.

Sally: Is her treatment plan.

Emily: I mean, yeah. It's the Aiel idea of -- brisk --

Sally: Apparently that means 45 miles a day. (laugh)

Emily: Seriously.

Sally: Which is -- is that even possible, to walk 45 miles in a day?

Emily: Yeah, it's -- someone is like, "You need to eat more," and I'm like, she's walking all the time! When does she have time to eat?

Sally: She's just, like, shoving granola bars in her mouth.

Emily: She's like me, as a dog-walker in New York. I was very skinny.

Sally: She's got a little fanny pack of Clif bars.

Emily: Yeah, seriously. Um. But she and Sorilea have this funny conversation -- I can't remember about what, really -- Sorilea is like, "Do you have a boy that you're interested in?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Egg's like, "No," but is also thinking about her sex dreams of Gawyn.

Sally: (inaudible)

Emily: So she starts blushing. Um. And Sorilea's like, "Now, I have a multitude of young men whose -- who I can describe to you who you might be interested in." She just, like, very grandmotherly, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Is it so-and-so? Is it so-and-so?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egg's like, "No." Even though all of these guys sound way better than Gawyn.

Sally: Right?! Like, any -- you could pick any Aielman off the street --

Emily: I know. And it'd be way better.

Sally: Of the Waste, and it'd be a better match for Egg than --

Emily: She could marry Mangin, the murderer.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And it would be -- I would approve --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Better than I do of Gawyn.

Sally: I mean, at least he had some sort of, like, moral grounds --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: For the murder he committed, which is the honor of his culture. Gawyn's just like, "I have to kill Rand because a man told me he maybe killed my mom."

Emily: Because a corn on the cob salesman -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. Uh, I think it's hilarious -- Egg is, like, mortally embarrassed by how Sorilea describes men naked.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm like, that's very helpful information to know.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't know. I think we have -- we live in a culture where nudity is so --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uhh, taboo that it's like, well, it is nice to know what people look like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whether or not you would find them attractive.

Sally: Yeah. 'Cause -- I mean, it's also very funny, 'cause you have to assume Sorilea is -- Sor -- I can't say her name -- Sorilea --

Emily: Sorilea. Sorilea?

Sally: Sor -- Sor -- la la la. Is like, "This one has -- this is the size of his dick, but also consider his scars and --"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "How tall he is --"

Emily: "Or just like, "He's got a very nice ass."

Sally: "A great, great little bum. Really good abs."

Emily: "Great calves. Well-turned calves."

Sally: Yeah. "Well-turned calves. Lovely hands." And Egg is like, "I want to die."

Emily: And I'd be like, no, I want to know.

Sally: I'd be like, tell me more.

Emily: Tell me more about --

Sally: What is, like, the bicep situation?

Emily: No, what is -- what is, in your old lady opinion, his best --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Physical trait? I'm like, that is good information to know.

Sally: Yeah. Lovingly describe his clavicle to me. That's --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Very important. (laugh)

Emily: And also, just, like, if you're a -- a sheltered young woman, like Egg is, growing up in a conservative culture, I think it's healthy for dicks to be described to you in detail --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Occasionally.

Sally: Yeah, I mean, the first time you see one, if you grew up like a place -- like, in a place like Utah --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Where it's like, "Nudity will -- any thought of nudity, even your own, will send you directly to hell," the -- the, uh, the penis is a very alarming thing to see for the first time.

Emily: Boy, yeah. And there's so many variations it could have.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not just in, like, size, but also, like, it could be circumcised, it could be uncircumcised --

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: And those types of dicks look very different.

Sally: Yeah. So.

Emily: And it's like, girl, you want to know. You want to have his dick described --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To you so you're not like, "Whoa!" when you first see it.

Sally: Yeah. Plus, I also just think -- yeah. It, like, destigmatizes it so that you don't -- also, like, you don't make the man feel ashamed of his body the first time you see it, and you're just -- see something you don't expect.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: What if Sorilea -- (laugh) What if Sorilea's like, "Gawyn has, like, a weird birthmark," and Egg saw it for the first time and was like, "Jesus."

Emily: "Ahh!" (laugh)

Sally: But, like, that would make him feel so bad. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So anyway, I just think it is an overall good practice, and I wish some hilarious old woman would describe the bodies of my suitors to me, if they were --

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: If they were comfortable with that.

Emily: Yeah, presumably the Aiel are all cool with this.

Sally: Yeah, the Aiel are like, "Whatever. We also -- everyone's just talking about how each other looks all the time."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which is another wonderful thing about Aiel culture.

Emily: Yeah. They're all just naked together.

Sally: Yeah, they're all just, like --

Emily: It's all about context, for the Aiel --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which I love.

Sally: Yeah. It's like it's --

Emily: 'Cause they're, like, bathing together, but then Sorilea's like, "I can also use this information to describe to a potential suitor."

Sally: And the Aiel are like, "Fuck yeah."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "Make sure you accentuate how good my butt looks."

Emily: I know, yeah.

Sally: And she's like, "It's noted. Don't you worry." (laugh)

Emily: "Wait."

Sally: She's like, "I got it. Got my list of very good asses. I keep it in the memory bank."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: And they're all like, "Hell yeah, Grandma."

Emily: Oh, God. Love the Aiel.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, Egg does eventually find Rand's rooms and sets up camp there. Rand comes in and is like, "Hey." And she's like, "I need you to help me --" (clears throat) "I need you to help me. The Wise Ones are, like, keeping me as a convalescent, and I'm ready to restart my training, but they are not letting me." And Rand's like, "Could you tell me where Elayne is?" and Edge -- Egg is like, "No, I can't, 'cause I made a promise," or whatever, and Rand's like, "Well, I can't help you for nothing." Which I'm like, I mean, you can.

Sally: That's --

Emily: There's nothing stopping you.

Sally: Supposed to be your friend.

Emily: Yeah, you guys are friends. But -- supposedly. But also, like, he does say, "I don't know how much I can actually help you with the Wise Ones."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "They -- it's not like they listen to me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So even if he'd been like, "Sure," I don't think anything would've actually changed for Egg.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. Whatever. The whole -- the whole question of why Egg keeps Rand in the dark regarding Elayne and Nynaeve's exact position is more -- is stranger to me. I don't really get it.

Sally: I also am, like, shocked that he doesn't know.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 'Cause, like, he knows the Aes Sedai are in Salidar, right?

Emily: I don't -- I guess not.

Sally: Or does he not? I -- I guess I got the impression when he was talking to Verin and Alanna that he knew where they were?

Emily: I think he just knows that there is a gathering.

Sally: OK.

Emily: And that he knows Elayne and Nynaeve are with them, but --

Sally: (sneeze) Sorry.

Emily: No one has told him specifically where. Which, I guess, like, the embassy hasn't reached him yet.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And he hasn't had any of the, uh, channels of intelligence-gathering that any of the Aes Sedai had, so. Yeah, I guess he just doesn't know.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: But that -- like, that fact is not emphasized enough for us, I guess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or is not made clear enough, contrasted to the very long plot when --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Nynaeve and Elayne were trying to figure out where to go. Y'know? Like, by the time --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Elayne and Nynaeve get there, you have spent so long with them trying to get there that you're like, "Surely everyone knows where Salidar is by now."

Sally: Yeah. Especially 'cause we also spend so much fucking time there.

Emily: Yeah, but, like, if I were Rand and was -- like, only knew that there was a gathering of Aes Sedai somewhere who might -- may or may not support me, then, yeah, I guess I'd be pretty curious --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: About where they were.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, what if they're in his backyard, you know?

Sally: (laugh) They're just at the next farm over from the Black Tower. It's the --

Emily: (laugh) He's like, "Ahhh!"

Sally: Perfect place to hide. (laugh) Never expect it.

Emily: "This is terrible. Nothing good can happen." Um, but anyway. Egwene leaves. Rand is like, "I'm sad." (laugh) And then we go over to a garden, where Sulin is continuing to send Rand's bodyguards around, but -- you know, more discreetly, I guess.

Sally: Yeah. They're, like, secret-guarding him.

Emily: Secret-guarding him, trying to act casual while they guard him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is just, like, a pointless --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Another pointless entry in the long and overall useless dialogue between Rand and Sulin about how to best bodyguard him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, again, a creative solution could be reached here, if Rand was just like, "This is simply too many bodyguards, but I do understand that you guys have an honor system that requires you to guard me. Perhaps we could set up a different rotation."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or something different.

Sally: Yeah, it's also just one of those instances where it's like -- I dunno, I feel like if I had a bodyguard who was like, mm, a professional bodyguard, I would let them set the standards for how they are going to bodyguard me. Like, it -- of course you should have a say in it.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, of what you're comfortable with, but, yeah, it's -- again, that's like, why don't we have a dialogue where you obviously have the expertise, but it is also my life, so, like, let's talk about it.

Emily: Yeah. Any conversation -- productive conversation. Things that don't exist in the Wheel of Time: friendship, productive conversation, prisons.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: It's very, very confusing. (laugh)

Sally: Interesting.

Emily: Um. Anyway, that's those chapters.

Sally: That's those chapters.

Emily: Uh, next week, like I referenced, we will -- Rand will interact with some Ogier.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Loial's, uh --

Sally: Oh my gosh.

Emily: Mother and fiance are just like, "Hey, where is he?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Question mark?

Sally: "Please help me find our delinquent Ogier."

Emily: Um, and then Rand will take -- Rand and a company of people will go to Shadar Logoth to seal the Waygate there, I think is the intention, um, et cetera, et cetera, and drama -- drama will happen.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But that is three chapters, so a little -- a little bit of a bigger chunk of change there. Um. That's it. Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song. Um, thanks to all of you for listening. Thank you to our supporters on Patreon, um, and our followers on social media.

Sally: Yeah. We love you guys.

Emily: Do -- do you have anything to add?

Sally: No. I think we've -- I think we've done enough damage to the people. (laugh)

Emily: That's probably true. Um. Hopefully, Monday is better than the Wednesday we are recording on, but, uh, either way, we hope this was a nice little break for you.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It was for us, sort of.

Sally: Yeah, we're gonna go eat cake and watch some comfort TV.

Emily: Yep.

Sally: Don't really have a sign-off.

Emily: (laugh) It's -- do you have a sign-off?

Sally: I don't really have one. Um. Trying to think of anything. 'Cause it feels like all the bad stuff that's happening is, like, bad. (laugh) Not, like, funny bad.

Emily: Yeah, it's, like, just bad.

Sally: Yeah. So I guess we'll just leave you with, um, your weekly reminder to not do war crimes.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And to lovingly describe the bodies of your suitors.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Thank you and good night.

Emily: (laugh)