



Episode 148 – “Mostly Ferris Wheel Stuff”

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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: Boots for my cat.

EMILY: For my deranged cat.

SALLY: Ooooh!

EMILY: Oh, are there good ones? [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing, shrieking sort of noise] Yeah.

EMILY: Tybalt, that could be your fate if you don't fucking shape up.

SALLY: These are almost like little Uggs.

EMILY: Oh. My god. Tybalt, you would be stylin', but also so unhappy.

SALLY: There's also just, like, these ones, which are specifically anti-scratching, but – oh, no. They're for bathing your cat. Never mind.

EMILY: Oh, well. Oh my god. Those are hilarious.

SALLY: Yeah. But this is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast? I'm Sally Goodger.

EMILY: I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: And –

EMILY: Where'd Tybalt go? Is he on your chair?

SALLY: He might be. [In a baby voice] Hey, Tybalt! [kissing noises].

EMILY: Dun-duh. There he is [laughing].

SALLY: He loves that chair.

EMILY: He was looking up at me like this. Like, all bleary eyed. Like, “What the fuck?”

SALLY: Um, today he jumped up and was sitting right there on the back of it.

EMILY: Uh-huh.

SALLY: Just, like, curled up around my neck like he was a – like a scarf. And I was like, “What's happening?” [laughs]

EMILY: So weird.

SALLY: Tybalt is an odd gremlin.

EMILY: It's not a revelation. Our whole intro is about him if the intro stays in.

SALLY: Just a gremlin, um, and we hate him.

EMILY: Speaking of gremlins, Gawyn?

SALLY: Sure.

EMILY: That's as good a segue as I can come up with. Um, have you seen the *Gremlins* movie?

SALLY: Um, when I was, like, really little and it freaked me the fuck out, so I've never seen that again.

EMILY: You should talk to Sarah about that. She also saw the *Gremlins* movie at too young of an age and now she has a phobia of the gremlins, specifically.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um.

SALLY: I, like, don't even remember what they look like.

EMILY: Oh yeah?

SALLY: But.

EMILY: You're lucky. Sarah's siblings all tease her about her mercilessly, so [laughs] she can't escape it.

SALLY: Ah, I'm sorry, Sarah.

EMILY: Um, I can't – I've never seen that movie. I guess I don't want to. It takes place at Christmas, apparently.

SALLY: That's odd.

EMILY: Which I found out because I was doing a puzzle at Devin and Janet's house of all the Christmas, like, places. Like, it was like there would be like the house from *Home Alone*.

SALLY: Oh. Okay, I get it now.

EMILY: Yeah. Nakatomi Plaza from *Die Hard* or whatever. And then there was some house – there was, like, a guide that told you what each place was. And one was, like, from *Gremlins* and I was like, "What the fuck? *Gremlins*? A holiday film?" Okay, anyway. So, these chapters are mostly from Egg's point of view. There's a couple scattered Aes Sedai points of view at the end. And they relate how the White Tower finally arrives in Cairhien. I say finally because, as Egg points out, they are arriving, um, about two months after that, those first letters from Elaida and Alviarin.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: [mumbling] Is that who sent them the letters? Back at the end of *Fires of Heaven*.

SALLY: Yes? [laughs]

EMILY: So it's been two months since the end of *Fires of Heaven*. And it's always – I can never keep track of the timeline in *Wheel of Time*. And, like, apparently it's been six days since Mangin's hanging.

SALLY: Well, RIP to Mangin.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Made a joke on the...

EMILY: Yeah, in true Birgitte fashion. He made a joke about whether the rope would break his neck or [laughing] his neck would break the rope, which is like [laughing] what the fuck is happening with the Aiel?

SALLY: Yeah, and then all the Aiel were like, "This is the funniest shit that's ever been said."

EMILY: The Aiel were like, "*Legend*. Absolute legend."

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah. Egg is like, "They've been repeating this joke for six days."

EMILY: They love it.

SALLY: They think it's so funny.

EMILY: [laughing] They think he's the coolest guy of all time.

SALLY: She's like, "I do not get it."

EMILY: There's gonna be a bunch of Aiel copycat murderers who are like [laughing], "Now hang me, because I want to tell a legendary joke."

SALLY: [laughs] Right before – and he, like, put the noose on his own neck and so they're like, "COOOOOL."

EMILY: AHHH [laughs]. Fucking metal!

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And Rand, who was there, is like, "What the?"

SALLY: He's like, "This had the opposite effect" [laughs].

EMILY: Now the Aiel are all about murder, because [laughing] it was so cool when Mangin did it.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, so, that plan backfired.

EMILY: [laughs] Do you think it's cool to murder people? And all the Aiel are like, "Yes."

SALLY: “Yeah.”

EMILY: “Fuck yeah.”

SALLY: “Fuck yeah I think it’s cool to murder people.”

EMILY: [laughs] Do you think this a joke? Eh a little bit.

SALLY: Eh, kinda. [laughs] You know, traffic [laughing]. Um.

EMILY: Fucking –

SALLY: Stupid. We’re so dumb. Why do you guys listen to this podcast?

EMILY: So Egwene has finally been allowed to go back into the city, which she’s, like, really excited about because apparently for the last two months she’s just been trapped, either in the Aiel tents – I guess they have some sort of camp outside of the city – or walking around the entire city.

SALLY: Yeah, like eight times a day. That’s all she does.

EMILY: Though, she did go to the palace that one time, so I don’t know how she, like, got there? Whatever. Um, and a great portion of these two chapters is devoted to just relaying to us how Egg is in the city now and describing various people and what it’s like to be in the city. And how she’s culturally appropriating so hard that people think she’s Aiel and react to her as though she’s Aiel, including, like, watching her in stores to make sure she doesn’t steal shit.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because racial profiling is, apparently, the same everywhere.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um, and, uh, she is, like, utilizing the honor code, *ji’e’toh*, in, like, casual conversation more or less. She sees, like, four guys picking on one guy who said some dumb shit about the Dragon Reborn being one of the Forsaken. And Egg is like, “How dare you? You have no honor for picking on him four on one.”

SALLY: “You should let him fight you one on one.”

EMILY: “One on one in a row.” As though that’s better.

SALLY: And later she’s like, “Wait.”

EMILY: Later she’s like, “What am I even doing?” And we, the readers, are like, “I don’t know, Egg. Why don’t you tell us? What are you even doing?”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I think the, I guess I think the point is to show us just how fully immersed Egwene is in Aiel culture. Even Sorilea, or another one of the Wise Ones, says, “In a few years, you could make a good Wise One.” She has basically been adopted, um, by the Wise Ones and by this culture and in her own mind, I guess. So, I guess it’s, it does create a very jarring effect when all of the sudden Egwene is pulled out of this situation and into the White Tower to be – not the White Tower, physically but.

SALLY: Yeah, the White Tower in exile or whatever.

EMILY: Yeah, into Salidar to be the Amyrlin Seat. Like, it is a very abrupt change not just of scenery, but of, like, atmosphere entirely. And in, like, Egwene’s position. She’s going from student to...person who is supposed to be acting like a student but isn’t going to take shit. And just, I don’t know. Egwene generally has an interesting arc and I do think the – her time with the Wise Ones is meant to be, and is, greatly influential in the type of Amyrlin, and politician, she is.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But, um, as with many things in *Wheel of Time*, I don’t know that we need to spend this many pages going over it.

SALLY: Yeah, I mean, it’s one of those things where, like, one instance would have proved the point, you know?

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, the fighting incident was great.

EMILY: Sure.

SALLY: For her to be like, “I can’t believe you wouldn’t let him fight you one on one.” And it’s just kind of, like, that’s very obviously an Aiel sentiment. Not an Egg, not a, like, Two Rivers Egg sentiment. So, like, but then the fact that we keep rehashing this with her whole like, “I can’t ask why the Wise Ones like Berelain, because that would be dishonorable. And I can’t do this because that would be dishonorable.” And yeah.

EMILY: Um, she just happens to be there when the embassy is going through the city.

SALLY: Classic.

EMILY: She sees several Aes Sedai, including the Red Ajah, which she is irritated by. Because it’s a stupid political move more than anything. She’s like, “Elaida’s gotta be an idiot to send members of the Red Ajah to deal with Rand, a man who can channel.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um, and to be fair, she is. Like, Egg's on the mark there.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And they have a bunch of, like, soldiers with them as kind of bodyguards who are wearing green, Egwene notes. But Egwene runs out of the city, books it back to the Aiel camps, and barges into a tent where, uh, Sorilea, Bair, Amys, and Berelain are, like, chatting, having tea. And is like [mocks heaving breathing noises] "Fucking – fucking Aes Sedai are here."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And they're like, "Ex-squeeze me?" And she's like, "Yeah, the White Tower embassy just arrived to talk to Rand, who is obviously not here."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And Berelain's like, "Okay, well I better go talk to them. Will you send Rhuarc if you see him?" And the Wise Ones are like, "You don't technically need Rhuarc to do shit." And Berelain is like, "Well, he gives good advice," and there's this whole the Wise Ones and Berelain all love each other. Like, Amys parts with her by, like, kissing her on the head in a way, Egwene notes, that a mother would do for a child. So, Berelain's adoption is very much...funny to me, because she did it in like, what, a month? [laughs] What Egwene's been doing for, like, nine months to a year. I have no idea how much time has passed, and also just because they're like, "Berelain. She's a slut, she's a legend. We love her."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And Egg is like, "I hate this skank ass hoe." And everyone's like, "Shut up."

SALLY: Everyone's like, "You're annoying."

EMILY: She is.

SALLY: Why don't you take some – like, less of the Aiel's weird battle code and more of the Aiel's excellent sexual ethics.

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And, like, stop assigning morality to shit.

SALLY: Yeah, the Aiel are like, "It's a body."

EMILY: “Love it.”

SALLY: “What are you gonna do with it?”

EMILY: “Strong, beautiful, powerful.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: “Everyone’s got ‘em.”

SALLY: Egg’s like, “*Not me!*”

EMILY: BLEGH

SALLY: [laughing] “I’ve never had a body in my life.”

EMILY: “I am but a ghost.”

SALLY: [laughing] “I am but a consciousness floating through space.”

EMILY: “I’m Danny Phantom or whatever.”

SALLY: laughs]

EMILY: Buzzing into Gawyn’s sex dreams.

SALLY: Ew. Ugh.

EMILY: Um.

SALLY: Gonna catch ‘em all, cuz he’s [whispers] Danny Phantom.

EMILY: Is that – I never watched it.

SALLY: Yeah. I think that’s how the theme song goes.

EMILY: What? Gonna catch them all?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Isn’t that – isn’t that Pokemon?

SALLY: I might be – now I have to...

EMILY: No, I think it – I’m just amused at the concept that they both have a “gonna catch them all.”

SALLY: Danny...Phantom...theme song.

EMILY: Do you remember Beanie Babies?

SALLY: Yeah BRUH [laughs]. I don't know if you know this about me, but Beanie Babies were my *shit*.

EMILY: You were into Beanie Babies.

SALLY: Yeah, I swear to god my mom has, like, 200 in her storage unit.

EMILY: Ah cool.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: We have, like, a big bin.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But we mostly use them for, um, dodgeball.

SALLY: You –

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: The Juchau family is so much.

EMILY: During General Conference [laughing] usually.

SALLY: Like, I don't know what is happening in that family.

EMILY: I mean, I think we – I think I was into it. I remember having a koala Beanie Baby that I was really obsessed with when I was, like, five.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Four?

SALLY: Gonna catch 'em all, cuz he's Danny Phantom. Yeah.

EMILY: Gonna catch 'em all, cuz he's...Danny Phantom.

SALLY: [whispering] Gonna catch 'em all, cuz he's Danny Phantom. Danny Phantom was a *cutie*.

EMILY: Was he? I didn't – I wasn't really allowed to watch shows on Nickelodeon.

SALLY: Yeah, so this is what happens when he turns into Danny Phantom.

EMILY: Ah cool.

SALLY: Yeah, he's a cutie. And he has a cute best a fun, goth gf.

EMILY: That's adorable. Good for him.

SALLY: Obviously they're like bffs, but they love each other. This is her. She's cool.

EMILY: Ah damn. She's a little hottie with a plaid skirt and purple tights and combat boots.

SALLY: And he has a friend who's like a...a...yeah, here's his – he's the gang. I think the red-headed girl was, like, the mean popular girl.

EMILY: But the mean popular girl is always given further character development, and it turns out she's not *just* a bully.

SALLY: Or maybe that was his sister? No, I don't think he had siblings. *Why* are we talking [laughing] about Danny Phantom?

EMILY: I don't know. Sorry, I said Egg was a phantom or something.

SALLY: Yeah. Eggy Phantom.

EMILY: Did you have a children's television show that was, like, on late at night and you watched when you were sick? Because mine was *American Dragon: Jake Long*.

SALLY: I remember *American Dragon: Jake Long*.

EMILY: I distinctly remember being sick one night, or maybe I was just having one of my insomnia fits, and, like, until 3AM I was just [laughing] lying on the couch watching an *American Dragon: Jake Long*.

SALLY: [laughs] Amazing.

EMILY: Marathon.

SALLY: I feel like *American Dragon: Jake Long* was something I only watched at the weirdest times.

EMILY: Yeah, it was always on very late at night.

SALLY: I, like, never sat – I was never like, “I’m going to sit down and watch *American Dragon: Jake Long* because I enjoy it.” Not that I thought it was a bad show or anything.

EMILY: No, it was very fun.

SALLY: It was just always at the, like, it’s in the background while I’m eating dinner. It just occupies the weirdest spaces in my memory. Did you have something else you wanted to say about Beanie Babies?

EMILY: No, I was just thinking – my train of thought was Danny Phantom, 90s kids, Beanie Babies, because Griffin McElroy was talking about them on a podcast I was listening to today. He said, “Only 90s kids ‘memba.” [laughs]

SALLY: He’s so much. Yeah, but I loved Beanie Babies. We – um, this is a very tender little thing. Is I would always take – you know how the Beanie Babies always came with a little heart tags? On their ears?

EMILY: Yeah, they said T-Y.

SALLY: Yeah. Um, I would always take them off and give them to my mom and say, “Can you keep this?” because I was a child or whatever, right? And, like, a few years back we were cleaning out a cabinet and there was a little tin, and I opened it and it was, like, all my Beanie Baby tags.

EMILY: Awww!

SALLY: I was like, “I can’t believe you kept these!” And she’s like, “You told me to!”

EMILY: That’s adorable.

SALLY: I know. She’s the cutest.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: So, anyway.

EMILY: [laughing] Sorry, I just remembered how my mom and dad cut...

SALLY: Oh boy [laughs]

EMILY: Fucking dismembered Adam’s childhood blanket.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

EMILY: [sadly] Fishy.

SALLY: [laughing] Fishy!

EMILY: [laughs] My little brother had this, like, comfort blanket that he carried until – I’m sure he wasn’t even that old, but it seemed like he was old to be having a blanket that he carried around. And his thing was that he would just hold it up to his nose to, like, smell it.

SALLY: Children and their blankets, man.

EMILY: I know. They’re so weird, but it was literally falling apart. And at some point my parents just, like, cut it up. And me and all my siblings have said that we have found pieces.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Around the house, because I think my mom must have thought, “I need to save some of it in case he throws so much of a tantrum that, like, I need to appease him in some way.” But my mom and dad gaslight us about this all the time like, “We did not hide pieces around the house.” And [laughing] we’re like, “You did! We found them.”

SALLY: I cannot believe they think that’s something they wouldn’t do.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Your mom would one hundred percent –

EMILY: They’re both insane!

SALLY: Hide pieces of this disgusting child’s blanket around the house.

EMILY: She would do it if only because it’s grotesque and my mother loves, not like she’s, like, a true crime fan, although it is very distinctly like hiding body parts around a park or something. But she’s just, like, she loves scaring her children. That’s her favorite hobby.

SALLY: I know. It’s so funny.

EMILY: Ugh.

SALLY: Anyway.

EMILY: Okay. That was a fun [laughs] trip down memory lane. I think we learned a lot [laughing] about Sally’s mom versus my mom.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughing] In the last thirty seconds.

SALLY: And look at the horrible goblins they produced. Us!

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] My mom called me the other day and was like, “I can’t get the flashlight on my phone to turn off.” And I was like –

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] This is the only reason she calls me anymore.

SALLY: “Emily, I have a technological issue!”

EMILY: And it’s always, like, a dumb issue, but I guess I don’t make fun of her, so she doesn’t – except on this podcast.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: With me and my two hundred closest friends.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: But I was like, “Did you swipe up the menu?” And she was like, “Yeah.” “And did you hit the flashlight button and it didn’t do anything?” And she’s like, “Yeah.” And I’m like, “Okay. Restart your phone and turn – and when it turns back on it should be gone.” And she’s like, “Oh. Okay. I guess I’ll call you back if that doesn’t work.” And I was like, “Great.” [laughing] Never called back. Never heard anything about it.

SALLY: I assume it worked.

EMILY: So, yeah, I assume her flashlight isn’t just still on.

SALLY: [laughs] Could you imagine if it was though? And she was just too embarrassed to call you back [laughs].

EMILY: My mom has no sense of shame. So. She would.

SALLY: [sighs] So funny.

EMILY: Okay, fucking, uh, before Berelain leaves Egg sort of subtly tries to be like, “Don’t tell them I’m here.” And Berelain kind of gives her a hard time about it until the Wise Ones are like, “Hey [clicks tongue twice].”

SALLY: “Shape up.”

EMILY: "Shape up." She's like, "Fine, moms. Goodbye."

SALLY: "Don't tell dad."

EMILY: "Don't tell dad." And they're like, "We won't." And then she leaves. Then the Wise Ones are like, "How are you feeling from your foray into the city?" And Egg's like, "Fine, moms." And they're like, "Okay, well you have to do 900 jumping jacks to prove it." And I, a person who did 20 jumping jacks this morning and felt exhausted for hours afterward, is like [groans]. Bless them.

SALLY: Seriously. They make her do all this running.

EMILY: Yeah, it's their way of making sure that she is healthy, because they can't use the Power. They don't know how to do that.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Don't know why Moiraine didn't teach them. I guess they're not interested in learning?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Whatever. But they give her the all clear and though it is mentioned that maybe she should stay out of the city, no one expressly forbids her. So she's like, "I'm gonna go back into the city tomorrow to try and spy on these Aes Sedai."

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Uh, which is pretty much what she does. She's, like, in the sweat tent with the Wise Ones when Rhuarc and some other guys come in, and she flees. Because, again, morality and nudity.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But then the next morning the Wise Ones are like, "Ah, you shouldn't have left because they gave us some of the deets on the embassy."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, as far as the Aiel, or anyone in Cairhien knows, except the embassy themselves, there are only six Aes Sedai. Of course we know, from the ending of this book, that there are many more than that. Um, that they were escorted by *five hundred* men. Uh, I guess, are those all Gawyn's Younglings?

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Youngling. I hate Younglings.

SALLY: I know. It's Gawyn's five-hundred-man frat house.

EMILY: Isn't that what they call the little baby Jedis who Anakin fucking murders?

SALLY: Oh yeah. I think you're right. I think they do call them Younglings.

EMILY: Younglings.

SALLY: It was literally just on Kylee's Instagram story. I'm gonna go check.

EMILY: [laughs] It was just on her Instagram story?

SALLY: She's having a *Star Wars* phase.

EMILY: Oh, okay.

SALLY: Oh, maybe now. Oh, it must have been yesterday. Now I have to fucking Google it.

EMILY: I think it's Younglings. Um.

SALLY: Younglings *Star Wars*.

EMILY: It's just – you're right, though. It's just, like, his traveling frat house.

SALLY: [laughing] That's what it feels like!

EMILY: Traveling circus of frat boys.

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: And they're just terrible.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: But Egg's like, "Five hundred men seems like overkill." And everyone's like, "Oh, it's like an escort. If they're escorting Rand back to the White Tower then..."

SALLY: [mocking voice] "It's an honor guard." And Egg being like, "Well, men probably would find that flattering."

EMILY: Yeah. I guess. Egg also has figured out that Rand must have discovered Traveling. She's like, "There's no other way for him to be making these jumps all the time." Um, and she's just like [grumbling] "God, I wish I could figure out how to do it myself." Don't worry, she will. By the end of this book, I think. Or maybe Moghedien teaches it to them?

SALLY: I can't remember.

EMILY: Can't remember. I feel like they know by the end of...the next couple books. Doesn't matter. Egwene doesn't recognize any of the Aes Sedai names except for two. There's Coiren, uh, who is the Gray Aes Sedai in charge. Um, and – know, she doesn't recognize her. That's just one of the ladies.

SALLY: Oh.

EMILY: The two she recognizes are a lady named Sarene and Nesune.

SALLY: Cool.

EMILY: Who is [pops lips] I want to say Brown. Um, and then there's Coiren, whos the Gray, and then I know that there's Galina and Katerine. I don't know who the sixth one is. Maybe Erian.

SALLY: Oh. Yeah, yeah, yeah. You right. They say that at the end.

EMILY: Erian (pronounced arian), who's –

SALLY: [scoffs] Aryan.

EMILY: Green?

SALLY: Let's call her Ear-ian not Aryan.

EMILY: Oh, yeah. You're right.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] The spellings are so wildly different. It just did not occur to me.

SALLY: [laughs] This is our Aes Sedai, Aryan. I mean –

EMILY: Robert Jordan? Would.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: We're gonna say it. Civil war apologist...

SALLY: [groaning]

EMILY: [high pitched noise] Um, so those are the six that are, I guess, known about. And the others will be revealed to us eventually. Some of them – of those six, the only ones that are important in terms of Rand's storyline is Sarene. I think she's one of the ones that ends up

having to swear fealty to him. So, she'll be around. I think she bonds one of the Asha'man at one point. Maybe?

SALLY: Sure. Whatever.

EMILY: Who cares?

SALLY: Is Galina the one that the Shaido take?

EMILY: Yeah. And Katherine makes it back –

SALLY: And they, like, torture.

EMILY: It's like [mocking voice] lesbian torture porn. And Robert Jordan's like [mocking voice], "It's so sexy."

SALLY: Nah, dog.

EMILY: Nah, dog.

SALLY: It's gonna be a no from me!

EMILY: It's gonna be a no from me. Robert Jordan wasted his career. He would have been great at writing scripts for Pornhub, apparently. Very specific subgenres on Pornhub. Christ.

SALLY: Do you think if I looked up *Wheel of Time* –

EMILY: NO!

SALLY: [laughing] On Pornhub, that something would come up?

EMILY: God, I hope not. She's doing it.

SALLY: [cackling]

EMILY: Welcome to our other segment: EHR looks up some [laughs] obscure thing on Pornhub. Stupid.

SALLY: [humming]

EMILY: I'm gonna keep going and you just interrupt me when –

SALLY: State of Utah warning! Exposing minors to obscene material may damage or negatively impact minors.

EMILY: I mean, that's true. I don't know why it's a State of Utah warning.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: That's just a general warning. I don't want to know. Don't tell me. I can see Sally, like, clasp her hand over her mouth out of the corner of my eye.

SALLY: Mostly Ferris wheel stuff.

EMILY: I don't want – I don't want any further information.

SALLY: Doesn't look –

EMILY: I don't know what the fuck "Ferris wheel stuff" could be.

SALLY: [laughs] It's mostly people on a Ferris wheel having sex. It's not like they're –

EMILY: Fucking on a Ferris wheel?

SALLY: I know, right? Does not sound pleasant.

EMILY: Yeah, like of all the places. An open-air Ferris wheel? Or, like, the type with little box gondolas?

SALLY: Yeah. There's also people using those, like, spinning wheels.

EMILY: For, like, pleasure.

SALLY: You the like, the like. You – you know, where you write things in and you spin it and it will land on something.

EMILY: Oh, I see.

SALLY: To, like, play games.

EMILY: Wheel – of – fortune! Wheel – of – torture porn!

SALLY: I'm gonna be honest, I fully thought something from the *Wheel of Time* video game would have come up.

EMILY: Oh yeah! I forgot there was a video game.

SALLY: That people would have, like, edited it.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: Um.

EMILY: Maybe the character creator wasn't very...if there was a character creator.

SALLY: No, I just mean taken the characters and digitally edited them to be doing *nasty* things.

EMILY: Like they do in Minecraft.

SALLY: Yeah! Exactly, like they do with Minecraft.

EMILY: Like they do with Minecraft is so...of all the video games.

SALLY: And like they do with a lot of other stuff I think. Anyway, there you go. Nothing – nothing explicitly *Wheel of Time* related on Pornhub that I found in my cursory search.

EMILY: And thank god, I guess.

SALLY: I don't want to just – I need to make sure I close Pornhub off my phone.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: I don't want to just open it and be like, "Ah!"

EMILY: "Ah!"

SALLY: What happened? [laughs] Okay, um. Eggy is going to do her spying.

EMILY: Oh, she gives the Wise Ones some, like, info.

SALLY: Oh, that's right.

EMILY: On these Aes Sedai. And she gives them some advice that is, like, you should have Wise Ones who can channel in the, um, palace whenever they are in the palace, so that you can check to see if they lay any traps. We should also try to determine whether there are only six, actually. All very smart advice which does nothing, because Egg gets whisked off pretty soon after this.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah.

EMILY: Not to, like, blame the Wise Ones. I'm sure they, like, do their thing, but also Rand's absolute recklessness and disregard for his own safety [whispers] helps. So, kind of the perfect storm, there.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Uh, yeah I think Egg gives us an exact timeline. She says she can't go to the meeting with the Aes Sedai in three days, but she'll go to the one after that. Which I would assume is a week from...

SALLY: Yeah, a week or two. Or something like that.

EMILY: So, ten or eleven days. Or whatever.

SALLY: Yeah, so soon.

EMILY: Yeah. But then she goes into the city. She identifies the house, the big manor house where the embassy is staying, because they are not staying in the palace, but with, uh, a, like, spy of the Gray Ajah. Like, a noble lady. Which is a pretty solid indicator, uh, that they are hiding something, I would say. Because it would be a lot more difficult to hide whatever in the palace. Um, but Egg gets there and the first thing she notices, just from being outside, is that someone is channeling quite a bit on the inside. And I seriously can't remember what this has to do with anything.

SALLY: Yeah, I can't remember either. It's like, aren't they like, I can't remember.

EMILY: I don't know if they're just, like, trying to disguise the fact that there are multiple...many more Aes Sedai than there are. I can't remember at all. But it's literally something they're doing in shifts. Just have someone channel as much as they can.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um, and just do novice exercises. We see that from Sarene's point of view at the end of the chapter. Um, Egwene then tries to eavesdrop using a little rock like Moiraine taught her, which, unsurprisingly after, I don't know, an hour or so, some Aes Sedai come out to investigate because –

SALLY: Someone's channeling.

EMILY: They can see her weaves. Um, so she, like, turns around to run off and runs smack into Gawyn. Who is like, "Hello? Hewwo?" And she's like, "Hewwo! Quick! We have to get out of this...we have to get out of here." [laughs] So, they kind of leave and then she – he's like, "What are you doing here? I thought you were in Illian." She's like, "I've never even fucking been to Illian. What are you doing here?"

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He's like, "I'm in charge of all the frat boys who are guarding the Aes Sedai." And she's like, "*Wot?*"

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: She's like, "*Why?*"

EMILY: She's like, "Okay. So you're with the White Tower Aes Sedai?" And he's like, "Yeah, basically I was raised to, uh, believe that rulers, including Suan Sanche, should have to follow their own laws and rules and she definitively didn't. So, yeah, I ended up on the side of the White Tower." Which is more explanation than we're ever really given for –

SALLY: Yeah, what he does.

EMILY: Rationally why Gawyn did what he did. Um, but they kind of go to some inn and get, like, a private dining room.

SALLY: Yeah, she's like [husky voice], "I need to talk to you privately."

EMILY: Yeah, she's like, "La de da." She's like, "Will you do me a favor?" And he's like, "*Anything*, except..." What's he say?

SALLY: He says anything except joining the Dragonsworn...

EMILY: Or doing anything to harm Elayne, I think.

SALLY: Yeah. Yeah.

EMILY: And she's like, "Um, I can manage that."

SALLY: She's like, "I don't care [laughing] about either of those things right now."

EMILY: "Yeah. Okay." But they get alone and she's like, "Why do you hate Rand so much?" And he's like, "He killed my mom." And she's like, "*What?*"

SALLY: She's like, "I don't..."

EMILY: "And he probably killed Elayne!" And she's like, "Well, he definitely didn't kill Elayne, and I know that for fucking sure."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: "And I'm pretty sure I can prove he didn't kill your mom." And he's like, "Everyone said he killed my mom." And she's like, "Who do you believe? Corn on the cob salesman, or me?"

SALLY: [laughs] He's like, "That's a *tough choice*."

EMILY: “It’s a tough question! There were multiple corn on the cob salesmen, Egg. You’re the only one who’s told me he didn’t.” She’s like, “Has it ever made you think that maybe it’s helpful for the Aes Sedai you’re with to brainwash you into hating Rand?” You’re so fucking dumb.

SALLY: Have you ever considered that, um, you’re gullible?

EMILY: You’re stupid.

SALLY: Yeah, and then we have just their absolutely horrific love confessions to each other. Which are made horrific mostly by the fact that Gawyn is, you know, doing his charming white man thing, where he’s just like, “Oh, ha ha whatever.” Making jokes about how Galad is so much hotter than he is. I don’t actually think Gawyn is charming. Charming white man was supposed to be – [laughing] charming white man (derogatory).

EMILY: Charming white man (derogatory) like the type of, quote unquote, charming white man you see in romcoms.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Who is supposed to be the underdog but is played by Ryan Reynolds.

SALLY: Yeah! Who is just like, “Everyone’s hotter than me. I know you don’t like me, but I make jokes.” And it’s like, shut up. [laughs] Derogatory. Um, and then Egwene just, like, puts a hand over his mouth to make him stop talking and is like, “I don’t love Galad. I love you.” Which is like, something she only knows she can say safely and, like, be well received, because she was literally spying on his sex dreams! Where he confessed his love for her. So, it’s just, like...as we discussed at length in that episode, the, um, foundation upon which their relationship is built is...disgusting.

EMILY: Well, what strikes me about this little sequence, beyond how gross and weird it is that they’re like, “I love you,” and the immediately start making out.

SALLY: Yeah, he, like, picks her up.

EMILY: He picks her up and kisses her. Why are men in *Wheel of Time* always picking up ladies and kissing them?

SALLY: Like, I know Egg is little and Gawyn is supposed to be buff, but like you can just hold a hundred some odd pounds aloft for [laughs] any length of time.

EMILY: I guess I just don’t get it. How is he holding them?

SALLY: [laughs] I imagine just kind of you know.

EMILY: Kind of gets his arms under her butt?

SALLY: Oh, yeah, they could do that, too. I just imagined he grabbed her waist. And like lifted her up.

EMILY: I just imagine that would be incredibly uncomfortable because you would be squeeze.

SALLY: Right? Yeah.

EMILY: And, like, how would you get your arms out? I don't know.

SALLY: I feel like it's that quintessential wedding photo where the guy lifts her up and he's kind of leaning back.

EMILY: Oh, I see.

SALLY: And she's on his chest.

EMILY: But, for long lengths of time.

SALLY: Yeah, so for how long is he just holding her aloft?

EMILY: I don't know. The only time I've ever really been picked up by a man was when Devin hugged me very hard. And I was – my feet were off the ground, just sort of shaking. I was just sort of, "Help," like a dead fish.

SALLY: Yeah, so it's not the way I would first want to be kissed by the man who confessed his love to me.

EMILY: No, if I add kissing into that equation it would be horrifying.

SALLY: Blegh. For many reasons [laughs].

EMILY: [cackles] I'd be cheating on Janet with Devin!

SALLY: Yeah, obviously. And she doesn't –

EMILY: In front of her.

SALLY: And she doesn't deserve that.

EMILY: God.

SALLY: She deserves our fidelity.

EMILY: Yeah. Stupid.

SALLY: [laughs] Janet –

EMILY: [laughing] he listens to this podcast.

SALLY: I know. The way we talk about Janet – you know those dumb Bugs Bunny memes [laughing] where it's like, "he said my girlfriend" and there's the communist flag and it's "our girlfriend."

EMILY: What? Oh.

SALLY: [laughing] Have you seen those?

EMILY: I know what you're talking about.

SALLY: [laughing] It's our girlfriend.

EMILY: Yeah, Devin's like, "My girlfriend Janet." And I'm like, "She's our girlfriend. [laughing] What are you talking about?"

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]. So anyway.

EMILY: I love Janet. And I love Devin. I just don't want to kiss him.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: As he knows. [laughing] It's why our friendship is so comfortable. Um, fucking hell. Soooo, yeah. Oh! What strikes me about this whole thing is that the communication is so wildly poor. They say so very little of substance and do almost no, like, catching up. Because they are both, um, like, it's like this weird, um, sleeping with the enemy thing. Where like, we're on opposite sides. And Egg's like, "I can't ask Gawyn to tell me anything about what's going on currently with the Aes Sedai because he'd then have to betray them." And I'm like, "You do believe that he is definitively on the wrong side here."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, why don't you direct more of your energy to being like, "I don't – I think you're on the wrong side of this."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: "Can we maybe talk about it. And your reasoning. Can we figure something else out?" You know? Like, there's no actual problem solving here. There's just, "We're going to kiss despite the many major problems."

SALLY: Yeah, and everything they do, like, say to each other, especially....no not – I feel like they're both guilty of this. Is just like so predicated on this...in...made up honor system that they

have to one another? Where Gawyn is like, “I would do *anything* for you...*Anything*.” And it’s like, “What?”

EMILY: Egg’s like, “Eww.”

SALLY: I don’t want that promise.

EMILY: But then Egg’s like, “I’m also not going to ask you to do anything that I think would make you uncomfortable.”

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it’s, like, that’s fair in a relationship, but also, like, you guys aren’t really in a relationship. You’re two people who have talked to each other a few times and are now kissing wildly, because you’ve been in his sex dreams, so you know how it goes. And you’re horny. It’s just, like, I don’t know. There’s just like – she’s not – she’s like, “I’m not going to ask him to do anything uncomfortable, but I’m also not going to ask him to think anything uncomfortable. Or to, like, interrogate the way that he’s thinking. Or the way that we’re both thinking.”

SALLY: Yeah. I feel like there’s a, there’s a, a line between being like, “I’m not going to ask them to be uncomfortable, but also I’m going to challenge my partner to be better.”

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And, like, interrogate some of the ways that they are thinking and asking, because it’s not like Egg is like – and this is like – I don’t know exactly what I’m, how to phrase this in a way that gets at what I’m thinking, but like, yeah Egg is like, “I think you are wrong, but I’m not going to make you violate your own honor code that I completely disagree with.”

EMILY: There both just treating each other like glass.

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: I think. Like, Gawyn is peak benevolent sexism.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He has Egg on this huge pedestal, but she equally is like, “Here’s my knight errant, who I just have to like put in his assigned box of protecting me and never violating his honor code and never doing anything that might challenge him.” And if that is – pretty much that foundation for their relationship is why it is so fucked up in the later books, because neither of them ever challenges that.

SALLY: They’re never just like – the line I find most upsetting is where Gawyn is like, “I love you, and I can’t wait for you to bond me.” As, like, as your warder.

EMILY: UGH.

SALLY: And it's like [high pitched noise].

EMILY: Why? Why is this particular relationship so important to you guys, you know?

SALLY: Yeah, just this idea of like –

EMILY: They just can't imagine a relationship that isn't consummated by magic. It's so odd.

SALLY: Yeah, and just this idea of, like, literally having a presence in the other person's head as like a – and Gawyn has a – literally, it's this, like, suicide ideation we talked about with Warders where he's like, "I would love nothing more than to die for the woman I love. Put my body on the line."

EMILY: Well, guess what? You die for yourself. Trying to prove yourself.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And it's the stupidest fucking thing, and you inadvertently kill Egg. So.

SALLY: So.

EMILY: Congrats, bud.

SALLY: Gonna catch these hands in hell, baby boy [laughs].

EMILY: Anyway, they're like, "This has been beautiful and productive conversation slash make out session." Egg's like, "I'm going to be walking in the city." And he's like, "Great, I'll come find you whenever." You know, so I guess they'll have mini dates, which, we are told later, are mostly constituted of making out in this dining room.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Which is disgusting.

SALLY: [laughs, snorts] It's just me and my sort of boyfriend making out in this random [laughs] dining room!

EMILY: Um, and then we get some of the Aes Sedai points of view. Just, telling us that they are approaching various nobles, both Cairhienin and Tairen, and sort of, like, getting ready to manipulate them all into doing what the Aes Sedai want once Rand is gone.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which, again, red flag. They clearly are not going to be taking no for an answer.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Der der der! And that's that.

SALLY: [sighs] And that's that.

EMILY: That is fucking that.

SALLY: I can't believe, like, first of all Egwene is, like, seventeen. She doesn't need to have a love interest, but this is Robert Jordan's world we're living in. But, so, I just cannot believe, still, that Gawyn is the one that he's like, "I'm gonna sink her ship with that particular...cannon ball." Like, there are so many other possibilities. Why did we do this?

EMILY: So.

SALLY: Why have we been made to suffer?

EMILY: Next week there is – Rand will finally see the Saldeans doing their horse stunts.

SALLY: [laughs] God! It's been, like, literally four hundred pages!

EMILY: It's been 518 pages –

SALLY: [gasps]

EMILY: Since the beginning of this book.

SALLY: The poor Saldeans!

EMILY: But, yeah, probably four hundred pages since Bashere brought it up. Fucking you're the worst Rand.

SALLY: That's probably a full two weeks in *Wheel of Time* page to time length.

EMILY: I know. It's ridiculous.

SALLY: Every day for two weeks. The poor horses.

EMILY: They were all ready. And then Rand goes back from Caemlyn to Cairhien to meet with the embassy and Egwene, like, witnesses their first meeting secretly. And that's that. Do you have anything to add?

SALLY: No. These were pretty...fine chapters, I guess.

EMILY: Um, thanks for listening. Thank you to Glynna Mackenzie for our theme song.

SALLY: Thanks everybody who supports us on Patreon. Um, uh, by the time this comes out...will there be a new We Don't Watch Outlander, or is that next week? There be no new We Don't Watch Outlander.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: So you can just sit, continue to wait for that!

EMILY: It will be this Thursday, as you're listening.

SALLY: Okay, um, yeah. There will be a new We Don't Watch Outlander in a couple of days.

EMILY: Christ.

SALLY: [laughs] What's time? I don't know! Um [laughs]. Um, thank you to everyone who follows us on social media and everyone who has, um, participated in our Bookshop affiliate, um, thingy so far. We've had a few of you buy books through there, I believe, and that's great. It will take, um – this is not totally relevant. You guys have done it. Yes, awesome. But in terms of providing receipts, they don't pay out until the books have been shipped to you guys, just in case there's, like, a problem. Bookshop has a really good policy of refunding you if there's ever, like, a backorder or a problem. So, donation receipts might take a little bit longer than originally anticipated but keep your eye out for that and thank you for everybody who has been participating. It's very exciting.

EMILY: Do you have a sign off?

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: Oh, exciting.

SALLY: This is so stupid. On Sunday, I finally went to check the EHR P.O. Box, so thank you to, um, Sarah and Lindsay for sending us mail. That was so sweet, and I will try and be better at checking it at least once a month. As opposed to once every, like, four months. Quarantine, baby. But the route from the Post Office where our P.O. Box is back to our new place passes an elementary school. And out of the corner of my eye I see this banner. And, like, all I really see is a lady in, like, a spandex suite. Um, and the banner says, "Be a hero. Be a sub." And...my horny gremlin brain was like [shocked noise, laughing], "They're telling children to do what now?! What?"

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: And it took me, like, fifteen to twenty seconds, so far too long, to be like, "Substitute teacher."

EMILY: I mean subs are heroes.

SALLY: Subs – I mean I agree [laughs].

EMILY: Be a hero. Be a sub.

SALLY: Yeah. I was like –

EMILY: [laughing] The marketing plan for Extreme Restraints dot com.

SALLY: “You don’t have to tell me twice.”

EMILY: [laughs] Done and done.

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah, but it seriously... I was like, “What is happening?” But obviously it was, like, supposed to be a superhero lady or something. But I was like, “Somebody needed to take a more [laughing] critical eye to this banner. Lord. Um, so, anyway. Substitute teacher.

EMILY: Thanks for listening everyone. Have a good week.

SALLY: Bye!

EMILY: Don’t do war crimes.