



Episode 167: France, France

Running time: 39 minutes

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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: That's okay.

EMILY: Welcome to the angriest episode of EHR that's ever been recorded.

SALLY: Let it out, Emily.

EMILY: No, I can't. [laughs] I'll burn a whole in the universe.

SALLY: You can't keep it inside because you'll burn a whole in your beautiful heart.

EMILY: I can't. I – we need to just get through this episode. It's going to be way shorter than a normal episode because, frankly, I feel like I can just condense yesterday into three sentences.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And then just psssh zomm! We're done, baby.

SALLY: ‘kay.

EMILY: Special short episode and I can just – because I dread nothing more than stopping recording this episode because what if it happens – what if it’s again? What if it’s again?

SALLY: [laughs softly]

EMILY: Who knows? Who, who knows?

SALLY: Yes. Um, you’ve probably figured this out via context clues [laughs], but we recorded this episode, episode 167, of Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood wheely time podcast, and it was, as usual, super charming and we had good bits and we made the best we could of these three miserable chapters in Fantasy France.

EMILY: I’d say it was an 8 out of 10, which is pretty good.

SALLY: Yeah! Which is pretty good! It was, like, a really solid EHR episode.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And we pressed the stop button and then audacity gave us some, like, insane pop up so Emily was like, “Oh, I’m gonna check the audio.” And then she played it and our voices sounded like we were...ghosts? At a rave? [laughing] I don’t know. We sounded really weird.

EMILY: Audacity just chewed on the recording and was like, “No. Here,” spat it back out like a cat coughing up a hairball and was like, “Is this what you wanted?” And I was like, “No, it wasn’t what I wanted. Thank you very much.” Now we have to – it was unusable.

SALLY: Yeah, it was simply –

EMILY: Unsalvageable.

SALLY: Unsalvageable.

EMILY: And it wasn’t like a thing that you could tell while recording, while we’re monitoring –

SALLY: Everything was totally fine.

EMILY: Recording. It was a playback issue. Um, I don’t know if I should just blame audacity or if I should also just blame my computer. As I was telling my sister yesterday, I have bad luck with computers. It seems like every one of them has been dysfunctional in some way or another. [sighs] But, uh, you know what the French say. *Mi casa es su casa*.

SALLY: It means: that’s life.

EMILY: Yep. One of our old favorite standby jokes from *Hurricane Bianca*.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: A movie by and about a drag queen [laughs]. No one's seen it but us, but that's such a solid joke [laughs].

SALLY: I know, it's so funny.

EMILY: I'm also angry for unrelated issues having to do with my family, but it is okay.

SALLY: Oh no.

EMILY: My family and work. Woof. I just sat through *the most* offensive meeting of 2021. Why do we let old white men speak?

SALLY: Yeah. I think we should muzzle all of them.

EMILY: Oh.

SALLY: But, like, not in a fun kinky, sexy way. Like, they legitimately can't talk anymore.

EMILY: Did you hear they banned porn from OnlyFans?

SALLY: [laughs] Yes. I shouldn't laugh because –

EMILY: Well, you should laugh because can no one learn anything from Tumblr?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Like –

SALLY: The porn did not go away on Tumblr.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And also everyone is pissed because porn is actually not a bad thing. This might shock people. Especially on OnlyFans, where you're a little bit more guaranteed that the people participating are doing so consensually and safely.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Than on places like porn hub dot com that have had tons of, like, rape tape scandals and underage scandals. Like, we don't need to get into it. But yes. I heard that and was like, "Fuck off."

EMILY: Yeah, it's pretty bad.

SALLY: I just think that we, as a society, need to let go of the idea that porn is bad thing.

EMILY: [smacks lips] Yeah, it's pretty tough to do, especially in, uh, Utah where porn has been likened to a pandemic, which is pretty funny considering how Utah has reacted to an actual pandemic.

SALLY: I know.

EMILY: Um, so clearly we're not equipped to handle the pandemic that is pornography.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: It's winning, folks! The porn is winning!

SALLY: You literally drive down the one major interstate in Utah, you know, and there will be billboards that are like, [deep voice] "COSMPOLITAN IS MELTING YOUR KIDS' BRAINS. PORN: THE NEW DRUG." Or whatever.

EMILY: I'm like, "Cosmopolitan?" That's where you're going for?

SALLY: It's, like, that...you can find way worse things by Googling 'boobs' [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: [laughing] Like, that's all you have to Google on the internet and you'll find way worse things than – although some weird shit is in Cosmo.

EMILY: You can find way worse things on most television shows these days that are way more harmful to youthful minds. Not to be like puritanical about television. I don't really care. Everyone has their own free will to engage with things.

SALLY: But, no seriously, it will be like, "Me and my family watched *Game of Thrones* where prostitutes are routinely brutalized and women are constantly assaulted, but god forbid my children get on the internet and watch a s – porn video." Like, it just makes me insane. There's literally an organization in Utah called "Stop the New Drug."

EMILY: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: That, like, tons of foundations give to.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Give *tons* of money too. It is simply absurd. Okay this is – we're going quickly. We're not letting Sally get on her soapbox about pornography [laughs].

EMILY: No, I said this would be the angriest episode and so far, uh, it's been pretty angry. So, I think we're doing well. The only real joke I remember from the episode we recorded last night was, um, "I went through the human meat grinder and all I got was this tee shirt."

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, that's right.

EMILY: And I'm pretty upset about losing that one.

SALLY: Yeah, that one was really, really rock solid. Uh, and it was like, it was one of those – it was at the end of the episode, so you had to listen to the whole episode to get the real payoff of that one.

EMILY: Yeah. I was like, "Oh, that's gonna be the title for sure." You know? In the moment? And then pfft! Gone!

SALLY: Ugh, anyway. We – yeah. Damn! That was a really good one. I'm upset. Podcast over.

EMILY: I don't remember anything else. Yeah.

SALLY: No more EHR.

EMILY: Boy, [laughing] the amount of times I've said that to myself while recording – while editing things on Audacity. Okay, this is not the sad Audacity parade.

SALLY: Mm. It's the mad Audacity parade.

EMILY: Um, you already said that this is Everybody Hates Rand.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Yeah. Um, so *Crown of Swords*, chapters three through five, are all about fantasy France. Everyone's favorite fantasy country.

SALLY: ...Mm.

EMILY: [laughs] Oh, I did also talk quite a bit yesterday about how I think the television show [laughing] should just delete Andor as a concept.

SALLY: Yeah. Just completely gone. Like, the country does not exist. Elayne and Gawyn –

EMILY: All the characters –

SALLY: And Galad. Gone!

EMILY: Yeah, woof. And I stand by that.

SALLY: I stand by it, too. Other things we were deleting included the Whitecloaks.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: Books one and two.

EMILY: Yep.

SALLY: Um.

EMILY: Oh, yeah, because we were talking about the television show releasing the promo pictures. Which, now you'll never know our opinions on that.

SALLY: Yeah, there's simply no way you can look at our Instagram or Twitter and know what our opinions are on Barney Harris' [laughing] portrayal of Mat Cauthon.

EMILY: [laughs] It's pretty much all I've thought about. Okay, fantasy France. Rand – now, I just want to be like, "Rand and company return to France. They dethrone. Coulavere. The end." Um, these chapters, and I'm gonna wanna keep saying, "As we talked about already."

SALLY: Go ahead! The people will just have to deal with it.

EMILY: These chapters, and you are not hearing the fresh, out of the oven takes. These are day old, sort of crusy takes. These are the ones the bakery sells for half off, because they've just been sitting out in the air.

SALLY: Yeah, welcome to EHR half-price.

EMILY: Half-price EHR [laughs]. And my goal is to make it half as long as a normal EHR episode.

SALLY: Okay. Okay, okay, okay [snaps fingers]

EMILY: These chapters are saturated with Perrin's deeply patronizing concern with Faile who, in the first chapter, when the group – group? Seems weird to call it a group when it is, like, a thousand people.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] It's not, like, a group project.

SALLY: Just your group.

EMILY: It's not a Dungeons and Dragons party. Um, when the small army arrives back in Cairhien, they're immediately greeted by one of the Wise Ones, who they've just stationed Wise Ones around the borders of Cairhien.

SALLY: She's just there.

EMILY: It's pretty amazing. I mean, *ta'veren*.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: You can always say it's a pretty amazing coincidence, but Robert Jordan has written amazing coincidences into his plot structure. But, they're greeted by a Wise One who gives them the bad news that, uh, Rand suddenly leaving, apparently in the company of Aes Sedai, has led a bunch of the Aiel to get clinically depressed again and go back to wherever the clinically depressed Aiel go. We don't – we – it's never been revealed what's happening to them.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: I suppose the most rational explanation is that they're going back to the Waste. But...

SALLY: But, like, literally anything could be happening – they could just be walking into the ocean. They could be joining the Tuatha'an. I can never say that word, I'm sorry.

EMILY: Yeah, that's arguably the most interesting thing I think they could be doing. If the Tuatha'an suddenly became a huge group of people [laughs].

SALLY: Yeah and it's like [intensely] the pacifists have taken over!!

EMILY: Yeah, former Aiel. Yeah, that would be funny.

SALLY: Yeah, and the Dark One comes to fight and it's, like, too bad pacifism has taken over the continent.

EMILY: We talked about how Rand came over the Dragonwall with this *massive* group of Aiel.

SALLY: His faceless hoard.

EMILY: Yeah, it functions to be a hoard, um, in both the Orientalist sort of fear of that word. The faceless hoard. And also just to sort of make Rand this invincible conqueror.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And the head of this huge army. And so, the only real function of the Aiel numbers decreasing ever, whether it's in battle or, um, like here because of something Rand has done. Is to decrease Rand's power level a little bit. Because the problem with giving him a massive unbeatable hoard of people in Book 5 is that it's going to be a little bit difficult when there's the Last Battle to be like, "How could he not win?"

SALLY: Yeah. He's got literally a million Aiel, or whatever

EMILY: He's got so many Aiel that have had no problem with any other group of people before. So, this is just Robert Jordan nerfing Rand and trying to go back on what he already did. Rand could easily have conquered Cairhien with many fewer Aiel. Especially because that would mean, by necessity, that there would be fewer Shaido, because the Shaido are a percentage of the overall number of Aiel.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, and as we talked about in the prologue it's like there are –

EMILY: So many.

SALLY: An unfathomable number of Shaido just at Dumai's Wells.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Whatever. Robert Jordan doesn't know how to count, I guess.

EMILY: Ahh. Anyway, the Aiel are upset. Upsetty Spaghetti.

SALLY: [laughs softly]

EMILY: The Cairhienin are equally in bad straights because Coulavere, after murdering several of her competitors, has claimed the throne, saying, "Oh, the Dragon Reborn told me it's totally cool. Look at my permission slip from daddy. He said it was fine."

SALLY: [whispers] Disgusting.

EMILY: And the Cairhienin are like, "I mean that seems fake, but okay. We also don't really care."

SALLY: No one in the city will do anything [laughs].

EMILY: The Cairhienin are like, "This seems like it will play out in a fun way, so we'll just sit back and watch the show."

SALLY: Everyone's got their popcorn.

EMILY: Yeah. Meanwhile, a bunch of rebels both Cairhienin and Tairen have moved way closer to the city. As like a recap, because this has been mentioned so many times without ever becoming plot relevant, there's a group of rebels who are mad that Rand took over Cairhien. They're led by a woman named Caraline Damodred, so I guess she's a cousin of Moiraine's.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: And a guy named Toram Riatin. So both the Damodreds and the Riatins have claims to the actual throne of Cairhien. I think those were like the last two kings or whatever.

SALLY: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

EMILY: So, there's a group of Cairhienin rebels. There's also, separately, a group of Tairen rebels who are mad for the same reason. Rand took over Tear. They're led by a guy named Darlin Sisnera and now those two groups have apparently converged and are pretty close to Cairhien. So it's a dangerous situation. Um, and the Aes Sedai are like, "How dare you presume that you, an idiot farm boy, could handle the delicate matters that are laid before you? You simply must take our advice." And Rand is like, "Interesting. Interesting. I need you to leave now. Please go with the Wise Ones to their tents." And the Aes Sedai are like, "Exsqueeze me?" And Rand's like [whispers], "I don't need your advice."

SALLY: He's like, "I wasn't kidding when I was like 'you can get fucked'" [laughs]. So.

EMILY: Yeah. "The Wise Ones are in charge of you and also it would not be good for my image to arrive back with a bunch of Aes Sedai advisors. Did you not hear that part? The Aiel are all upset because I left with the Aes Sedai."

SALLY: "Left" with the Aes Sedai.

EMILY: Yeah. So, that problem of the many Aes Sedai is being shunted to the side. Meanwhile, and we're getting all this from Perrin's point of view, we find – Perrin grows concerned because, of course, Faile was in Cairhien. He's like, "Oh, what happened to Faile? What happened to Berelain, who was in charge when we left?" Um, and, uh, he for a little while is like, "Oh, it's fine because Bain and Chiad are with Faile." Then Gaul comes up to him and introduces the idea to him that Bain and Chiad are not with Faile in the whackest way possible. Just sort of complaining about his women problems, which I interpret as Robert Jordan being like, "I don't know what to do here. I don't know how I can make Perrin as worried about Faile as I want him to be, without retconning that Bain and Chiad are with her. And I don't know how to retcon that without Gaul just sort of throwing it out into – so, it's a pretty clumsy piece of [laughs]."

SALLY: Yeah, it just feels a little out of character for Gaul, I guess.

EMILY: Yeah, Gaul does complain about Bain and Chiad, but usually when it's relevant.

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah, he's not just randomly like, "Lamenting sigh. Women."

EMILY: Ugh, Perrin. Women amirite? Like five minutes after it's been announced that Faile, Perrin's wife, is in a city that has been taken over by a usurper. Like Gaul's a little more sensitive than that.

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]. It's very stupid.

EMILY: But Perrin's like, "Oh my god! Bain and Chiad aren't with Faile? Surely she's been killed!"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And Gaul's like, "You're wife is a competent adult." And Perrin's like, "Shut up, Gaul! Faile's an infant!"

SALLY: She's an infant and an idiot and she would not know how to tie her shoes if it were not for me.

EMILY: He's like, "I know she's an adult, Gaul, but political stuff isn't handled like it is with the Aiel. It's not just gonna be a dual that she could probably win. It's gonna be, like, some political sabotage that could stab her in the back or whatever." And it's, like, Faile also grew up in a court. Given she did not grow up in the Cairhienin court, but do you really think Davram Bashere would be so remiss in raising a daughter that she'd [laughing] be an easy target for assassins?"

SALLY: Yeah. Come on! Stupid.

EMILY: So, Perrin's underestimation of Faile and his very – it swiftly descends from sort of sweet. We talked a little bit about his magical thinking that if he can get Faile's horse into Cairhien then that will somehow mean that Faile is alright. That itself, I think would, if Robert Jordan was trying to portray Perrin as a more normal concerned husband, would be a rather sweet evocation of that.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: That's – magical thinking like that is a hallmark of just anxiety.

SALLY: Yeah, one hundred percent. That's what we talked about. People think like that all the time. I know I do.

EMILY: Yeah, me too.

SALLY: Um, it's just the way it's like – you have an emotion that is too big and you have no control over the outcome, so if you can find a way to fix the outcome, it feels a lot better. So, like, that is very normal. But then Emily pointed out yesterday that everything else Perrin does is completely out of proportion to the situation. Like, he is going completely off the rails. Just like

—

EMILY: And not in his behavior necessarily, because he pretty well keeps a lid on it, but in his words and in the way he is behaving to other people. He says to Gaul and Loial, I think, "I don't care if the Pattern burns as long as Faile's safe." And sort of that sentiment is obviously surprising to them, because that's a buck wild thing to say, um, and is also meant by Robert Jordan to be foreshadowing for Perrin's arc regarding his treatment of and relationship with Faile. This is sort of a microcosm. This moment of Perrin being concerned for Faile's safety when it turns out she's totally fine, is a microcosm for the situation in later books where Faile

gets kidnapped by the Shaído, also turns out to be fine although it's a little more touch and go there.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: In that scenario, it is not just Perrin's words, it is actually his actions. He starts slipping into gray area morality with, uh, torturing people to try and learn where Faile is. Allying with the Seanchan, I don't think you're at that part yet.

SALLY: *WHAT?!* [laughs]

EMILY: He sure will do that. Et cetera, et cetera. Leading another extremely grisly battle against the Shaído Aiel, all for the sake of rescuing one woman.

SALLY: [groans] I am now going to pass away. You have to find a new cohost.

EMILY: I don't want to. If you're gone, the podcast is dead.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: You think I would be motivated to keep going?

SALLY: [laughs] I have passed away.

EMILY: It's pretty, it's pretty grim. And, as I also talked about yesterday, if we are being generous with Robert Jordan, uh, then, or possibly if we are being generous with Brandon Sanderson, in an attempt to course correct.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Then Perrin and Faile's relationship can be read as a, uh, growth from toxicity to functional, throughout the course of their relationship, because in the last book, spoiler alert, Faile is again in danger. Perrin doesn't know where she is or what has happened to her, yet this time he chooses to stick with his duty and saving the world. His greater moral duty to protect the world from ending.

SALLY: Yeah. You know, casual.

EMILY: Yeah, *ta'veren* stuff. So clearly there is growth there. And again Faile turns out to be fine. I think I said it would have been way funnier if she was just dead.

SALLY: It would certainly be a *twist*.

EMILY: Yeah, I just think that would be hilarious. Um, but obviously that doesn't make the entire arc itself any less painful to read and any less patronizing to the two main characters.

SALLY: Yeah, hundred percent.

EMILY: Because every character arc suffers from being dragged out over fourteen books.

SALLY: Yes.

EMILY: Nothing – like, everything in the *Wheel of Time* – [laughs] if you have a big problem in the *Wheel of Time* it's either because of the latent misogyny, or because it's a fourteen book series. Series are not meant to be that long.

SALLY: Yeah. It's just – it's just too long. Like, the like first couple years of Faile and Perrin's marriage where they're, like, figuring each other out and figuring out how to be married could be interesting if it took place over a book and a half maybe.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: I'd be like, "This is realistic and interesting and it's interesting to watch these characters grow in this way." But there's too many characters and too much in between. Like, too many other massive plots to keep track of that I'm just like, "I just can't stand being in either of their points of view."

EMILY: Yeah, and I think Robert Jordan justifies it to himself by being like, "This is only six or nine months since they've been married," or whatever the timeline is. But a way shorter time than 10 books would suggest, you know?

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Um, but it's like, that doesn't change the fact that you're writing it over 10 books.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So any length of time drawn out over that amount of books is going to read more like years and years to us.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um, and if you're spending that much time with your characters than we want to see growth much more quickly.

SALLY: Yeah, and, like, there are both multiple – for both of those characters there's like multiple things they need to be working on and growing as people around.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Not just their relationship to one another. Like...

EMILY: Like, I wouldn't have a problem with one of Perrin and Faile's character arcs being their marriage, if their marriage was progressing past the first step of not being toxic anymore. Like, that's a pretty baseline thing to want for your characters.

SALLY: [whispers] Seriously.

EMILY: So, anyway, the whole thing makes Perrin look like a total idiot.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: The whole thing is so annoying for Faile, because, like, obviously she's fine and has handled the situation and has managed to turn it to her advantage.

SALLY: Mm-hm.

EMILY: But Rand and company head toward Cairhien. The city named Cairhien in the country named Cairhien. So stupid.

SALLY: Like, why?

EMILY: There's no country on Earth that does that.

SALLY: Welcome to Canada, Canada. Welcome to Germany, Germany [laughs].

EMILY: [laughs].

SALLY: Welcome to France, France.

EMILY: France squared.

SALLY: Ugh, I don't want to go to France squared [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] No one wants to go to France squared. It's the – the streets are paved with [with the French pronunciation] croissants.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay, that sounds lit actually.

EMILY: No, it would be really messy. Think how crumbly croissants are. Imagine getting that all up in your feet.

SALLY: ...That's true. You're right.

EMILY: [laughing]

SALLY: It's less lit than I thought it would be. That's also how I feel about Paris, though [laughs].

EMILY: [laughing] The streets are paved with croissants!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Every streetlamp is an éclair, somehow.

SALLY: [laughing] Okay. That's kind –

EMILY: [singing] Won't you take me to...croissant town!

SALLY: [laughing] Yeah, that was –

EMILY: Stupid.

SALLY: The city is, like, really bummed out though.

EMILY: [laughs] The city is bummed out. They don't go in with their whole thousand-person army. Uh, the people who go in are Rand, of course, Min, of course, Perrin with Aram because for some reason Aram gets to go wherever Perrin goes. For some reason Rand isn't like, "Hmm [laughs]."

SALLY: "Maybe baby psychopath stays home."

EMILY: "Maybe this young man should, should have...like, time away from swords, violence, anything like that."

SALLY: Perhaps a treat like in *Fleabag* where he has to be quiet for a few days.

EMILY: Oh! Stung by bee.

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: [laughs] Such a good episode.

SALLY: [laughing] SLUTS!

EMILY: [laughs]

BOTH: Yes?

EMILY: Yeah, he should have to go on one of those, like, wilderness retreats for delinquent teens.

SALLY: [laughs] Delinquent teens. Yeah.

EMILY: A bunch of my cousins have had to do those.

SALLY: You're just gonna drop that on me mid podcast?

EMILY: Yeah. Well they -

SALLY: You have a bunch of teen delinquent cousins.

EMILY: Yeah. Yeah.

SALLY: Are they the Washington cousins?

EMILY: No, they're the Idaho cousins.

SALLY: Oh, [laughs] that makes sense.

EMILY: Of whom there are ten. Yeah. Um, uh Dobraine also goes. Also the guy in charge of the Mayener contingent, Nurelle, and of course all of the Asha'man. Oh, and Loial, who, throughout all of this, is just taking notes like a true MVP.

SALLY: I know. What a cutie.

EMILY: So – oh and all – a bunch of the Maidens. Jesus. So it is still quite a, quite a number of people.

SALLY: It's still like 80 people, probably.

EMILY: Um, they enter Cairhien. They do not meet any resistance until they reach the palace proper, where, uh, you know, some guards are like, "Hey. Don't go in there." And Rand is like, "I'm gonna go in there. Shut up." And the Asha'man tie them up with air.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: They enter. They immediately meet a small contingent of the culturally appropriative Cairhienin young nobility. This particular group is led by a woman named Selande [suh-land]?

SALLY: Sure.

EMILY: That's how I'm gonna do it.

SALLY: Suh-landy.

EMILY: Who you may remember, back from Book 5, as a woman that Rand needlessly threatened so she'd stop needlessly flirting with him on Coulavere's orders. So, she used to be one of Coulavere's, like, maid servants, but Rand scarred her for life so clearly she has taken up a different career opportunity.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Where she gets to carry a knife. Um, Rand's like, "Don't worry, you have nothing to fear from me." In front of a contingent of armed women and terrifying men.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And she's like, "Yeah, sure. Great."

SALLY: "Yeah okay, homie."

EMILY: But they all enter the throne room where conveniently all the nobility have congregated for some sort of coronation ceremony. Not, like, *the* coronation, but, like, everything is drawn out over weeks, I guess.

SALLY: Yeah. Dobraine tells us there's like *nine* different coronations festivals because of fucking course there is.

EMILY: Yeah, France.

SALLY: The French monarchy. Yeah.

EMILY: Ugh, whatever. Dobraine's like, "Great, everyone will be there." And Rand's like, "I love to make an entrance."

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And storms in like Viggo Mortensen in *The Two Towers*.

SALLY: Yeah, kicks the door open.

EMILY: Only, there's a ton of them so it's less impressive.

SALLY: And it's also way less sexy.

EMILY: Um, he walks up to Coulavere who's like, "Hee!" [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] "Hngh!"

EMILY: "S'back so soon?"

SALLY: [mumbling]

EMILY: And he's like, "Hello, thought you'd seen the last of me, didn't you?"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And she's like, "Pobody's nerfect!"

SALLY: [laughs] "Whoopsie daisy."

EMILY: "Whoops – oopsie whoopsie!"

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: He's like, "Gimme that," and rips the crown off her head like a total psycho. Uh, he effectively intimidates her. Um, Perrin notes that, um, in her little group of handmaids, who are in their little matching, dresses, among them is Faile. Who, at the opportune moment, steps forward to present some evidence against Coulavere. Also presenting evidence against Coulavere is Annoura, who is Berelain's secret Aes Sedai advisor who we didn't know about until now.

SALLY: Because why not. Yeah.

EMILY: Because we needed another Aes Sedai character. It would have been fine if Faile just filled this function.

SALLY: Yeah, Faile was like, "Coulavere has murdered several people."

EMILY: Whatever. But Annoura's here now. She's like, "Berelain's fine. Don't worry about it." When Perrin asks and Faile's *Kill Bill* sirens go off. Um, but Perrin relaxes because Faile's fine and is apparently not working with the enemy, which is the immediate presumption [laughs].

SALLY: What's worse? Your wife is dead or she's working with the French? [laughs]

EMILY: Well, Perrin would prefer her to be working with the French and he would have fucking killed Rand over it, which would have been a hilarious end to the Dragon Reborn.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: My bro is so overprotective of his mean wife [laughs] that he killed Jesus. Cool. Whatever.

SALLY: Perrin becomes the Judas figure [laughs].

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [quote the Judas vine] *Judas*.

EMILY: *Judas*. No!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Um, Rand tries really hard to not have to sentence Coulavere to death to the detriment of the goings on. He draws it out way too long. It's finally Dobraine who's like, "Clearly she's committed treason and should be sentenced to death."

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And Rand's like, "Hmmm, do you have a little farm?" And Coulavere's like, "What?" And he's like, "A little farm, do you have a little farm?" And Dobraine's like, "Everyone has a million farms, Rand, they're like pennies."

SALLY: Yeah [laughs].

EMILY: "Nobody even likes them."

SALLY: It's a farm, Michael, how much could it cost? [laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Two dollars. So Rand's like, "I sentence you to go to a farm and, like, labor on the land like a peasant and because you'll be contributing to society and I also won't have to kill a woman." But, of course, as we know having the benefit of foresight, I guess, Coulavere will commit suicide rather than do this, because she is so, um, caught up in the fantasy of being nobility, being better than people. She – it is beneath her dignity, beneath her code of honor. Whatever. To have to labor like a peasant, it is a worse fate than death.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Which Rand obviously doesn't understand being from a farming background himself, but he has also been given plenty of in-text clues to, uh, understand and foresee this. Such as when Dobriane is like, "She's sentenced to death by hanging" and Coulavere is like, "Well, I demand to be beheaded."

SALLY: Give me the headsman!

EMILY: Give me the headsman. I don't want to die like a peasant.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And Rand's like, "Surely she would rather live like a peasant than die like nobility." And I'm like that's a pretty – have you met her?

SALLY: Like, yes, that is the rational thing. That's what you would like to think most people would rather live and work on a farm and live, what to Rand, is a very peaceful and idyllic existence. And to probably a lot of other people there, because of the little inner circle with Rand is not necessarily nobility. Like, there are a few of them. But that's not her worldview.

EMILY: Yeah. Like, sorry that she is a creepy weirdo who loves the nobility, but that is the woman you're dealing with, so when Rand – you said it very neatly yesterday – Rand prioritizes his own, uh, weird code of chivalry in trying to spare this woman from dying he, you know, in a twist of self-fulfilling prophecy actually causes her death. There was no way to get out of her dying, in other words.

SALLY: Yeah, there was no way to get out of dying. So, yeah, when he prioritizes his own skewed chivalry he ends up causing her much more distress and psychological suffering. He does not understand it and he does not attempt to understand this woman's point of view. He just is imposing his own code on to her and it just is all to her detriment.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: And I'm not saying Coulavere deserves, you know, the benefit of the doubt. Whatever. She's a creepy monarchist. She also, I don't know, maybe did have the right to make some own say in the way she died.

EMILY: Yeah.

SALLY: Like, that seems like a pretty basic thing to offer somebody.

EMILY: And like in the same way, this is just another microcosm of what Rand has been doing to women all of the time, is prioritizing his own chivalry a – to their detriment. This is exactly what is happening to the Maidens.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: When he prioritizes his chivalry, um, it upsets and distresses them. It does not save any of their lives even, really. There's literally null effect on the women in terms of lives saved.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Except that they're all upset and it causes a lot of drama and, you know, in the very dramatic case of Coulavere, it causes her suicide. But, again, we are looking at a 14-book arc, so Rand, frustratingly, will not learn from this.

SALLY: It is really painful. Like, Faile and Perrin are mostly just bothering one another, you know? Occasionally a few people get caught up in the current. Mostly Loial, RIP [laughs]. So it's like, that is frustrating, but at least, like...in some ways, yes, like I said, people get caught up, so apparently Perrin starts torturing people and making alliances with the totalitarian regime, so maybe I'm making a moot point. But, like, mostly they're –

EMILY: I said the Seanchan right? Not the Shaido?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: He makes alliances with...

SALLY: Yeah, to fight the Shaído.

EMILY: Okay [laughs]. Both of them are totalitarian regimes, it sure seems like.

SALLY: Yeah. But Rand is, like, literally out here, terrorizing women and causing them to commit suicide and...it is just, like, you are, like, systemic violence against women because you are the leader of the known world at the moment. So, maybe, shut the fuck up. Whatever. I hate him. What a piece of shit.

EMILY: Yeah, yet another great example of benevolent misogyny.

SALLY: [gagging noises]

EMILY: Um, so Coulavere basically collapses. Rand's like, "Alright, everyone, get out of my sight. Perrin go talk to your wife." And that is where we end those chapters. Um.

SALLY: That's where we end.

EMILY: ...Yeah. I went through the human meat grinder and all I got was this shirt.

SALLY: I went through the human meat grinder.

EMILY: I think we talked about how I was upset that we didn't get to meet all the Asha'man, but.

SALLY: We were talking about how, I think it was when Perrin's like, "Is Berelain okay?" And Faile gets, like, pissed. And it's like your husband just got back from the human meat grinder maybe you could be happy to see him?

EMILY: Yeah, there was a big battle, obviously. She's like, "Heh. I'm insane." And it's, like, he's insane too so I guess you guys are perfect for each other. Whatever. Do you have anything to add?

SALLY: No, bestie, I don't.

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: You're lucky. You get to transcribe this episode, and it's short.

SALLY: I know. Sorry.

EMILY: Um, hey thanks everyone for listening. Sorry for any, uh, tonally [laughing] –

SALLY: Inappropriate.

EMILY: Inappropriate um...I don't know. Sorry we're not very happy. Sorry I'm not very happy.

SALLY: Oh, it's okay. I'm not very happy either.

EMILY: Sorry you missed out on our 8 out of 10 episode and you have to get this [laughing] 7 out of 10 episode instead.

SALLY: I mean, we're always amazing, it's just the degree to which we're hilarious and fantastic.

EMILY: But I'm looking forward to turning the AC back on. Hopefully when I close this program hopefully Audacity doesn't, uh, just shit it out again. Violently. Thanks a lot.

SALLY: Fuck you, Audacity.

EMILY: Thank you for Glynna Mackenzie for our theme song. Thank you to our supporters on Patreon and our followers on Twitter, Instagram, et cetera. Like we said, if you want to know our feelings about the promo images for Amazon Wheely Time, they're pretty much all there for your viewing pleasure. And I'm sure we'll talk about it more as more stuff comes out.

SALLY: Yeah, I mean, hopefully, like, a trailer drops soon. The show is supposed to start in November.

EMILY: Oh, yeah. Well.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I would love a trailer.

SALLY: Yeah, I don't really know what the timeline is, Amazon.

EMILY: Whatever. Looking forward to it. Uh, yeah. Do you have a sign off?

SALLY: I can just [laughs] repeat yesterday's.

EMILY: You can repeat yesterday's sign off.

SALLY: Which is that I have had the same therapist for almost two years, and she consistently spells my name incorrect.

EMILY: Yes.

SALLY: So. It's a real psychological mindfuck [laughs].

EMILY: Which is great, coming from a therapist, which it's not intentional either.

SALLY: Yeah when it's just repeated forgetting how my name is spelled.

EMILY: She spells Sally's name with "ie." Like Sallie Dara.

SALLY: [cackles] That should be my stage name.

EMILY: I said Sally should protest by misspelling her name, which actually does end with an "ie."

SALLY: Yeah, but I should put an "y" in there.

EMILY: Yeah. Alright everyone. Have a good week.

SALLY: Have a good fucking week.

EMILY: AHHH. Bye!