



Episode 173: Only Real Ones Remember Cha-Cha

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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 Glynn Mackenzie plays]

EMILY: Okay, heyyy. Fuck.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: I told you we're never prepared for this [laughs]. I'm just gonna sit sideways. I just decided that just now.

SALLY: It's very bisexual of you.

CAMBRIA: Indeed. Wait –

EMILY: My legs are cuffed. My legs are cuffed?

CAMBRIA: Did I tell you guys?

SALLY: [laughing] She's rolled her legs up.

EMILY: If I could, though.

CAMBRIA: I would cuff my legs.

EMILY: Look at them. They're too unwieldy.

CAMBRIA: That's fair. Have I told you guys about my bisexual chair that I bought for my office?

EMILY: Your bisexual chair?

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: Like, it's specifically designed for bisexuals to sit in?

CAMBRIA: I mean, no, but because there's, like, the joke that bisexuals can't sit regularly. The chair that I have is, like, literally designed for you to be kneeling, so instead of having a back it's, like, a seat pad and then you have kneepads so you're just, like –

EMILY: That's smart. Is it, like, good for your posture?

CAMBRIA: Yeah. It also, like, you can only sit it in for, like, maybe an hour before your back is, like, "Why have we been sitting up so straight for so long?" I get up a lot more, too. It also kind of rocks back and forth.

EMILY: Oooh. Like you're on the ocean.

CAMBRIA: So I can – mm-hmm.

EMILY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: I can sit like I'm kneeling or I can put my feet up on the little kneepads. Or, yeah. Anyway, it arrived –

EMILY: That's charming.

CAMBRIA: And my husband was like –

EMILY: What's that, precious?

CAMBRIA: Really? And I was like, "Yeah, dude! You don't understand!" Anyway, I have bisexual chair for my office.

SALLY: Good for you.

EMILY: As we all should.

CAMBRIA: As we all should!

EMILY: Hey, this is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly Wheely Time podcast – friendly neighborhood Wheely Time podcast.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: I mess it up every single time. It's a tradition. I'm Emily Juchau.

SALLY: I'm Sally Goodger!

CAMBRIA: And I'm Cambria Hobbs.

EMILY: Do you still go by Hobbs?

CAMBRIA: I'm Cambria Valente.

[everyone laughs]

EMILY: That's not, like, an insult.

SALLY: Yeah, you don't have to.

CAMBRIA: It depends on the day. Cambria Hobbs just feels –

EMILY: You also don't have to use your last name if you don't want to be Google-able.

CAMBRIA: Oh, it's fine. I don't care. It still rolls off the tongue, but I did get married and I actually prefer my married name.

EMILY: Valente's a really cool name.

CAMBRIA: Hobbs is just, like, really aggressive sounding. I also hate the way it looks when I write it specifically. So.

EMILY: Okay. Hey!

[all laugh]

SALLY: Thrilling!

EMILY: Wheely Time! Wheely Time! Okay, Cambria is joining us to actually do our normal chapter summation rather than, uh, any sort of special, specialized knowledge you can offer.

CAMBRIA: That's okay [laughs].

EMILY: Just, she happens to be in town and we invited her to join us on the podcast, because, as we discussed in our last episode, I don't know if you heard this, you're *Wheel of Time* daddy. Because you got me into it –

CAMBRIA: I'm the progenitor.

EMILY: The progenitor!

CAMBRIA: The progenitor!

SALLY: Um, but Cambria's joining us to talk about chapters 18 and 19.

CAMBRIA: Most likely. If we get there.

SALLY: Eh, we'll see. Who cares? They're bad chapters, so if we don't talk about them, I truly don't care [laughs]. Chapters 18 and 19 of *A Crown of Swords*, um, but before we jump into those, our last episode, which ran a little bit long –

EMILY: Um, in – before editing it was an hour and fifteen minutes long, I believe.

CAMBRIA: Oh, wow.

EMILY: And I cut out 30 minutes of that. *Including!*

SALLY: Including.

EMILY: Including a discussion about the very last point of view in that last chapter, which is from an unnamed man, who turns out to be Noal.

CAMBRIA: Oh. Yeah.

EMILY: So, just to set the scene for you, Cambria.

CAMBRIA: Uh-huh.

EMILY: We're in Ebou Dar.

CAMBRIA: Great.

EMILY: Mat keeps running into an old man and is just like, "Who's this crazy old man?" And then not really thinking about it anymore and then just going off on his merry way, you know?

CAMBRIA: Okay.

EMILY: Uh, and we don't find out that this is Noal...ever?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because there's never any connective tissue between this old man that Mat runs into a couple of times and him actually meeting Noal in Book 9.

CAMBRIA: Okay.

EMILY: You know, when Noal saves him from the *gholam*.

CAMBRIA: 'kay.

EMILY: So, there's sort of just this old man wandering around and, uh, our only way of knowing this is Noal is if we're a very smart reader, which we're not, so you have to look on the Wikipedia.

SALLY: I would argue –

EMILY: You did actually know, yeah.

SALLY: No, I would argue that there actually is no way to know for sure that it's Noal in this point of view. I feel like you have to make that assumption. Like, you have to rely on –

EMILY: Oh, in this point of view specifically?

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Yes, I would agree.

SALLY: Sorry. Sorry if that's not what we were talking about. Um, but yeah, I feel like there's no way, especially because we haven't been introduced to Noal, right? And this man isn't named. But, yeah, there's no way, unless you look at the Wikipedia – the Wiki, excuse me.

CAMBRIA: Okay. Is it made clear after that?

EMILY: Nope.

CAMBRIA: Or is that just another conclusion you have to draw with his weird web of characters?

EMILY: Um, it's just a – so, this scene is just an unnamed man sitting in an alley, watching, uh, the Whitecloak guy, Carridin's, house. And being like, "I'm just watching the comings and goings of various Darkfriends." And we can assume that this unnamed guy is the same guy, the same old man, who Mat spoke to when Mat himself was earlier in that alley being like, "Who the fuck is this guy?"

CAMBRIA: Okay.

EMILY: But then Mat never sees him again.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Until he runs into Noal in Book 9 and, as far as I recall and you would have just read this, Mat doesn't say, "Ah, I recognize this guy."

SALLY: Oh yes. I apologize if that's what you were asking, like, two minutes ago. Yeah, Mat does not – to my recollection, I only read it a couple weeks ago, be like, "I remember this weird old man." He's just like, "Wow, a weird old man."

CAMBRIA: Oh [sighs].

EMILY: So, there's just this weird old man and then there's Noal in Book 9. And the only way of connecting those two is, um, I guess to make a huge leap of...a huge assumption.

SALLY: Yeah.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Or to look on the Wikipedia, which is what I did.

CAMBRIA: Right. Okay. Cool. Great writing.

EMILY: So, this particular point of view is just Noal being like, "Hey, I'm doing – I'm Noal and I'm on a stakeout. A one-man stakeout. Don't even have donuts." And he tells us that he does not remember shit. He's just like, "Well...I wish I knew what I was doing in Ebou Dar."

CAMBRIA: What?! [laughs]

EMILY: "And I wish I knew why I was here. I wish I didn't have all these blank spots in my memory." And we are like, "Wow, that's a fascinated parallel to Mat. Matrim Cauthon, who also has holes in his memory, if only these two characters would meet. [whispers] Oh wait, they do."

[Sally and Cambria laugh]

EMILY: "And if only they would speak about this." They don't, though!

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Because it never comes up. So, here's what we learned from the Wikipedia, which told us all about this information, which comes to us from *The Wheel of Time Companion*. Apparently – you know, you remember how Noal is Jain Farstrider?

CAMBRIA: Yeah, yeah. That was a fun twist.

EMILY: Yeah, that's a fun twist, right? I agree.

CAMBRIA: No, yeah!

EMILY: Just totally in that vacuum, Noal is Jain Farstrider, fun twist. Okay, but it goes deeper.

CAMBRIA: No! What?

EMILY: Welcome to my Pepe Silvia board.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Okay, so Jain Farstrider was involved in a big to do in Malkier.

CAMBRIA: Okay, yeah, yeah.

EMILY: You know, when Lan's parents got dethroned and whatnot.

CAMBRIA: Sure.

EMILY: Apparently because he was under the control of Ishamael.

CAMBRIA: Is that the reason for the holes?

EMILY: Well!

SALLY: You do look a little crazy right now.

[everyone laughs]

EMILY: Yes. Ishamael himself was kind of crazy, you remember.

CAMBRIA: Oh, yeah.

EMILY: So, presumably he wasn't all that gentle when he was like, "I'm gonna do some compulsion to this adventuring boy to go do shit." Anyway, Jain Farstrider was involved in all of that. Then he just sort of ended up in the Blight for a long time, but then he wandered out of the Blight, fresh from Ishamael's influence, wandered into an Ogier *stedding* and was like [in a raspy voice], "Oh my god, the Eye of the World is being threatened blah blah blah." And then that little story got back around to our main characters in *The Eye of the World*.

CAMBRIA: Okay.

EMILY: You probably don't remember that, but throughout the entirety of *The Eye of the World* they keep getting told these crazy stories about people showing up and being like, "The Eye of the World is in danger," which is Robert Jordan's only connective tissue between leaving the Two Rivers and going to the Eye of the World.

CAMBRIA: Right.

EMILY: Anyway, so Jain Farstrider did that, then apparently he recovered, went on his merry way, and then, um, Graendal found him

CAMBRIA: Oh no.

EMILY: And was like, "I want you to do – to go to Ebou Dar and probably look for the same" – I actually don't know what she sent him to Ebou Dar to do. The Wikipedia wasn't very specific.

CAMBRIA: I'm surprised she didn't keep him as a sex slave, because that's, like, her thing.

EMILY: Is he hot enough?

CAMBRIA: I don't know. Is he?

EMILY: Well, Noal is described as being kind of weird looking, which I find hot. But. Yeah.

SALLY: He's just an old, boney, gnarly looking dude. But, like, he's Jain Farstrider. He's got some sexy energy going for him.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, I feel like she would – like, it's just surprising. Like, if I were Graendal as she's described, he would be like a trophy of mine. Maybe not, like, a sex slave, but.

EMILY: Yeah, not one of the human footstools or whatever, but, like, look I have Jain Farstrider.

SALLY: In my human circus.

CAMBRIA: I'm, like, imagining that scene in *Hercules* when he's having his photo taken.

EMILY: [singing] Her-cu-les!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Oh yeah.

CAMBRIA: And he's like, "What am I fucking doing here?" Anyway.

SALLY: Jain Farstrider. He's in a little tunic as well like Hercules.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: And the, like, lion cape.

CAMBRIA: Yeah! Exactly! [laughs]

EMILY: Um, no. She just sent him to Ebou Dar to do her dark bidding, which, none of us knows what that is. So, here's – so, that's the breakdown of what's going on behind the scenes. There's simply no way for any of us to know that that's going on behind the scenes.

CAMBRIA: [laughing]

EMILY: Unless you read the encyclopedia that is *The Wheel of Time Companion*.

CAMBRIA: Oh good. Oh good.

EMILY: Or, you know, Wikipedia along with every chapter.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: So, that's obviously problematic.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, like mm.

SALLY: Yeah, um.

CAMBRIA: You guys should have an audio that you can press that's like, "And that's bad writing!"

SALLY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: With like a studio audience clapping.

EMILY: Just, like, a button.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

[all laugh]

EMILY: I wish I had that.

SALLY: It would be so good! If someone wanted to make that for us, that would be amazing.

EMILY: That's! Bad writing, y'all!

CAMBRIA: Get you, a little jingle.

SALLY: Yeah, as we talked about – I think, um, in the, in the lost tapes. Um.

CAMBRIA: [giggles]

SALLY: *The Wheel of Time* companion and the *The Wheel of Time* wiki are what would be considered a paratext, which is a text that is related to another text.

EMILY: Supplementary.

SALLY: Yeah, great word. And, in my humble opinion, you should not rely on a paratext to provide vital character information.

CAMBRIA: No.

SALLY: Or vital plot information.

CAMBRIA: No.

SALLY: That's very silly [laughs]. Like Cambria said it's bad writing, and I think you can compare it really well to *Lord of the Rings*, to which *The Sim – The Silmarillion* can function as paratext.

EMILY: Silly-marillion.

SALLY: But both texts can also function on their own.

CAMBRIA: Right.

SALLY: Like, you don't necessarily need to have read *Lord of the Rings* to get a lot of *The Silmarillion* nor, or vice versa. If you do it adds depth to your reading experience, but it's not like you need to read *The Silmarillion* to understand why Frodo is going with the ring.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: And thank god, right? Because most of us don't have the fucking attention span.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: It's a rough one. Like, I found *The Silmarillion* really interesting, but the actual reading experience is just like reading the Bible basically.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: Ugh.

SALLY: It's, like, not super pleasant.

EMILY: Been there, done that.

CAMBRIA: Mm-hmm.

SALLY: Yeah, so it's just ridic – it's bad writing. To be like, "You need to rely on one or two other full pieces of information *outside* the book you are reading to understand what Noal is doing and all these really interesting facets of his character."

EMILY: Which, presumably wasn't Robert Jordan's intention. He might have intended for the, uh, for all these details for Noal slash Jain Farstrider to come out eventually. But A) he died.

SALLY: [laughs] Sorry, I should laugh.

EMILY: It's okay. If we can't laugh, what are we going to do? Um, and B) it's like, he just – this is simply a detriment of writing a 14-book series.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: You can't keep track of all these details. Robert Jordan was a human not a robot.

CAMBRIA: Right.

SALLY: Allegedly.

EMILY: Allegedly.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Well, he died. So.

SALLY: Maybe robots die. We don't know.

EMILY: Oh, boy that's a tough existential crisis for me to think about tonight. Staring at the ceiling.

CAMBRIA: I mean, AI hasn't functioned as a, like, a real entity yet the way that it's portrayed in sci-fi, you know, so, like, it wouldn't be able to live on, technically.

EMILY: So, Robert Jordan as a robot – Robot Jordan.

[Sally and Cambria laugh]

EMILY: Would have to have been programmed by some higher being to this purpose, and the purpose was to create the most [laughing] convoluted fantasy series the world has ever seen.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Including leaving all these threads that just sort of trail off. These story threads. Because if, for some reason, you're reading *A Crown of Swords* and you get hyper-fixated on this one point of view by this dude, who is very clearly a narrative foil to Mat we just don't have any details about him.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: You'd be like, "Hey, where the fuck's this guy?"

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And then you would never know. You'd just trail off into...[sighs] oblivion. So, although a 14-book series gives us a lot of content, we lose a lot of meaning in the, uh, in translation, I guess. So, RIP Noal slash Jain Farstrider. There's so much about you that we would have liked to discover, talk about, you know. Now to the actual chapters. I'm going to sum them up speed run. Go through it real quick.

SALLY: Okay. I'm gonna close my eyes so I don't interrupt you. I don't know how that works, but it does [laughs].

EMILY: Does that – do those two things correlate? Okay. Okay, Rands in the palace in Cairhien, he's talking to a bunch of Aiel guys. Three Aiel guys, three of the strongers doubters of Rand. Rand was facing the problem after Dumai's Wells that all of the Aiel chiefs now think he's under the thumb of various Aes Sedai. So, Rand has called this meeting to talk about normal political shit like what they're going to do about the Shaido – no resolution there as far as I know.

CAMBRIA: I don't think so.

EMILY: But also to display to them how much power he has over the Aes Sedai. And he's accomplished this by having Merana, who led the Salidar embassy to Caemlyn last book, he has her standing in a corner, warded, so she can't hear anything until he takes down the ward and has her serve tea for them.

CAMBRIA: I hate that.

EMILY: So, basically just an extended humiliation of this woman, who has agreed to this basically because she's like, "You need us. I understand that we need you, but you need us, so I will do whatever it takes to get you to actually use all the tools in your arsenal." Tools in your arsenal? Tools in your belt? [laughs]

CAMBRIA: Yeah. Tools in your belt. Tools in your toolbox, weapons in your arsenal. Whatever!

EMILY: Uh, the Aiel leave and Berelain and her Aes Sedai advisor, Anoura, arrive.

CAMBRIA: [gagging noises] She's just really annoying.

EMILY: She sure is annoying. She's about to fall out of her dress in this entire point of view.

CAMBRIA: Good!! Okay. I expect nothing less.

EMILY: Rand can't forget about it.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Berelain's like, "How the fuck? Why you sending me back to Mayene? I've been so good at my job." Rand's like, "Literally Coulavere, um, took power while you were in charge, so patently you're not that good at your job." But also he's worried because there was, like, an assassination attempt against Berelain. A bunch of Cairhinin who are loyal to Coulavere are mad at Berelain and Faile specifically for getting her arrested. And Rand obviously has problems with women dying so he's like –

CAMBRIA: [gagging noises]

EMILY: "I'm just going to send her back to Mayene for her own safety." Her argument is that she doesn't want to be forgotten amongst his other advisors. She wants to be part of the, you know, Dragon Reborn's coterie.

CAMBRIA: She wants to be a Rand groupie is what she wants.

EMILY: She does, yeah. You're right. You're so right. She also wants to sleep with Perrin and probably assumes that the best way to do that is to stick with Rand.

CAMBRIA: [sighs]

EMILY: Sigh. Uh, they are still arguing when suddenly Cadsuane enters. Uh, Anoura's like, "You're fucking alive?"

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] And Merana's like, "Oh my god! Don't hurt him!" So everyone freaks the hell out. There's, like, this Mexican standoff, you know? Is that what it's called? *Pirates of the Caribbean-esque* –

CAMBRIA: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

EMILY: Pointing spears at each other while Cadsuane's just like, "I'm Cadsuane and I'm here to be fucking rude to everyone."

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: And she proceeds to be rude to everyone. She tells Rand he's a good boy at one point, which is the most patronizing thing I can think of.

CAMBRIA: Champ!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Hey good – champ is funny, though.

[Sally and Cambria laughing]

EMILY: “Good boy” makes me think of, like –

CAMBRIA: Sport.

SALLY: Sport!

EMILY: Oh, good job, buddy.

SALLY: Go, sport. Go get ‘em, tiger.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Go get ‘em, tiger. See, that would have worked. I would have been like Team Cadsuane, sort of, you know?

CAMBRIA: I don't think the word champ had been invented. I mean champion, obviously, but champ. They hadn't thought to shorten it.

EMILY: They haven't thought of that little abbreviation.

SALLY: Cadsuane invents the word ‘champ’ [laughs].

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: Her one good legacy.

[Sally and Cambria laugh]

EMILY: Anyway, Cadsuane's fucking rude to everyone. Uh, and the Aes Sedai who are still like, “What the fuck are you doing here?” She patronizes Rand and then asks him if he has started to hear voices in his head yet. He's like, “Hello?” And she's like –

CAMBRIA: Who told you?!

EMILY: She's like, "Yeah, that's definitely a symptom of men going insane." Like, obviously.

SALLY: Yeah, it's a symptom of anyone going – [crosstalk] mental illness.

EMILY: Rand's like, "This is just a normal thing happening."

CAMBRIA: Do you hear voices in your head? I hate to tell you, but it is a symptom of insanity.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: He's like, "Oh my god." He didn't have the, you know, health class. The 8th grade health class rundown.

SALLY: He couldn't WebMD his symptoms. "I'm hearing voices in my head."

CAMBRIA: He couldn't text Cha-Cha.

SALLY: Text Cha-Cha!!

EMILY: CHA-CHA!

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Throwback!

SALLY: Oh, man.

EMILY: Fucking –

CAMBRIA: I'm crying.

SALLY: [laughs] That truly is. I haven't thought about –

EMILY: Yeah, when did Cha-Cha go out of vogue?

CAMBRIA: I don't know!

EMILY: Ninth grade?

CAMBRIA: You said something about health class, and I remember it was like, yeah, ninth grade.

EMILY: Health class.

SALLY: Holy shit.

EMILY: Okay.

CAMBRIA: So, Rand couldn't text Cha-Cha about the voices in his head.

EMILY: So he's, like, stunned.

[Sally and Cambria laugh]

EMILY: It's a huge revelation to him. He's like, "Get out, everyone!" Everyone gets out. Cadsuane, along with Anoura, Berelain's advisor, and Merana go to one of the rooms that the various Aes Sedai are staying in, and is like, "What the fuck is happening?" Questions Merana and Anoura without giving any answers in return. We're introduced to two members of Cadsuane's coterie, Daigian, if that's how you pronounce her name, who is well known for being, uh, the woman who spent the most time in recent history as a Novice and as an Accepted. Apparently she just barely got Aes Sedai because she's that low in the Power.

CAMBRIA: [sniffs] Hmm.

EMILY: And that's her only real trait. Then there's a woman named Corele?

SALLY: Sure.

EMILY: I don't know. Who's just kind of, like, a smiley bitch. I don't know.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: She's just like, "Ha ha ha, it's so funny that all the Wise Ones are so mean to the Aes Sedai and vice versa." And I'm like, "It's not, actually." We've been over this. Um, this is just Cadsuane asking questions. We find out details about Cadsuane's past, that she's super fucking old. She's a legend. She's always turned down political positions in the Tower. She didn't want to be a Sitter, she didn't want to be the head of the Green Ajah, she didn't want to be the Amyrlin Seat. When they tried to make her the Amyrlin Seat, she just fucking peaced out.

CAMBRIA: Fuck yeah.

EMILY: Those traits alone are, like, cool.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: You're like, "Oh, sweet. This lady's awesome." Except, she's super not. She's the rudest hoe imaginable.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: Um, she's also spent a great deal of her life hunting down men who can channel, apparently just for the thrill of it. Uh, she had a hand in capturing Logain. She also had a hand in capturing Mazrim Taim. So, great.

SALLY: Cadsuane is literally just playing the most dangerous game.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

SALLY: [laughs] Like her entire life.

EMILY: She's like, "I just love hunting men." And they're like, "What do you have to do with Rand?" And he's like, "Why were you so mean to Rand?" And she's like, "I just wanted to see what he was made out of."

SALLY: Flesh, actually.

CAMBRIA: No, it's actually stone, remember?

SALLY: Oh, that's right.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: And iron.

SALLY: Beg pardon [laughs].

CAMBRIA: Iron.

EMILY: Hard as diamond.

SALLY: Disgusting.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Stupid asshole.

CAMBRIA: Has he started that, like, metamorphosis yet?

EMILY: I think he starts talking about how he's going to be hard as stone.

CAMBRIA: I feel like Cadsuane, I feel like she –

EMILY: Which is always so funny, because it's, like, boner jokes.

CAMBRIA: She, like, initiates that in him. Like, "You have to be strong!" I know it's, like, Lan from day one, that kind of sets him up for that.

EMILY: Oh yeah. Toxic masculinity.

CAMBRIA: But I feel like his, like, interactions with Cadsuane, like, really reinforce that, but, again, I have not read these books in 10 years.

EMILY: Cadsuane does nothing good for Rand. I think we can just say that flat out.

CAMBRIA: Oh, yeah!

EMILY: But we'll come back to that. Summation continuing. We leave Cadsuane and the others, go back to Min's point of view. Min is running through the halls to see Rand. She comes into the room, sees all the mirrors broken. The – he fucking threw the Seanchan spear thing through a chair. He's clearly in a great headspace.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: He's like, "Oh my god. I just found out that Harid Fel, that researcher guy who's at my school, who was looking into various philosophical questions for me, is dead. He's been literally torn to pieces. Here's a graphic description of his death." Min is like, "Oh my god, and here's a graphic description of Coulavere who, I just went into her rooms, and she had hanged herself." And she's like, "Kiss me, Rand" [laughs].

CAMBRIA: I was gonna say. Is that their version of foreplay?

EMILY: Yeah. She's like, "Kiss me, Rand. I need to feel alive." And he's like, "Okay." Kisses her awkwardly and then it turns into a sex thing and Min's like, "No! Don't stop." And like grab – apparently he is fighting her at one point, but she keeps going until he stops, so that's not great. And eventually it progresses to them tearing each other's clothes off. Clothes. And then they presumably have sex on the floor in a room that's full of broken glass? So, that's –

CAMBRIA: Ahhhh.

SALLY: That's what works for them.

EMILY: A safety issue among other things. Has Min taken contraceptives? Who knows? We then get –

CAMBRIA: Are those ever even mentioned? In *The Wheel of Time*?

EMILY: Yeah, Elayne talks about taking a tea. Actually, Elayne talks about deliberately not taking a tea.

CAMBRIA: Of course it's a tea.

EMILY: So she can get pregnant with Rand's kids.

CAMBRIA: I see.

SALLY: After one time!! Just – I know that happens.

CAMBRIA: That Jesus dick. I don't know.

[Sally laughs loudly]

EMILY: That Jesus dick.

CAMBRIA: Fantasy Jesus. All it takes is once.

EMILY: Um, we get one last point of view as Cadsuane is leaving the palace. And she's like, "Mahahaha! This will be a fun challenge." So, she's fully a psychopath.

CAMBRIA: Oh my god.

EMILY: So that is our rundown. I think the two most obvious discussion points are Cadsuane herself.

CAMBRIA: Indeed.

EMILY: And the Rand and Min...if we can call it such, sex scene.

SALLY: There's literally a line at one point where she's like, "If Rand tries to stop I will go grab a spear from one of the Maidens and stab him."

EMILY: It's so healthy.

CAMBRIA: Oh.

SALLY: Like, cool, cool, cool, cool, friendo!

EMILY: This is the sex scene that, infamously, Rand himself believes is rape.

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: Not of him by Min, but of Min–

CAMBRIA: But it sounds like it is more likely that that is true.

EMILY: It sounds like there was, uh, there was – there is – this would be called on, on fanfic websites "dubcon."

SALLY: MM.

EMILY: Dubious consent.

CAMBRIA: Blegh.

EMILY: Did Rand really consent to this? It didn't start out as a yes.

SALLY: Yeah. Go ahead, Cambria.

CAMBRIA: No, I just.

SALLY: Unload.

CAMBRIA: It's bad. It sounds bad.

EMILY: It's just bad. The context of this sex scene is awful. They have just heard that two people are dead in actually really gruesome ways. Like, it's not just like, "Wow, our friend the old man died in his sleep, peacefully." Like, okay, yeah. That's a part of life and death. Death is a part of life, we can move on from that and have sex if that's what we want. But, like, this person got ripped limb from limb, literally. And it's like, are you horny though?

CAMBRIA: I mean, it sounds like he wasn't, though. Is the thing.

EMILY: He was not. Rand was not into it until Min was suddenly into it.

CAMBRIA: I'm feeling like a shred of sympathy for Rand in this moment, exclusively.

EMILY: I think we can feel a lot of sympathy for Rand. Min has never clearly communicated to him that sex is something she genuinely wants. And you can say as much as you want, "Oh, she's quite obvious about it."

CAMBRIA: Mm-mm.

EMILY: But being obvious in your flirtations is not a substitute for clearly stating your desires.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So, it's not fair for Min to come on to Rand without any sort of discussion of what that might entail.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, especially during such a traumatic – after such a traumatic chain of events. I feel like that's...really, I mean. Yeah [laughs]. I don't know where I'm going with that thought, but I hate it.

SALLY: I feel like, first of all, this is a weird thing to say, but being quote unquote obvious in your flirtations is so subjective.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

SALLY: Because what I think would be, like, super “I’m obviously flirting with this person,” they can be like, “She hates me!” Like, people can perceive things very differently. Which is obviously the case with Rand and Min. Like, there’s obviously a disconnect in how they perceive one another.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

SALLY: When we get each of their points of view. And also, as someone who just recently lost someone very close to me in a sudden and traumatic way, if someone had tried to initiate sex with me after found out that news, I truly would have murdered them. Like, that was –

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: To me it is so – the trope that people, like, are like, “Let’s have sex after we found out something gruesome.” Like this seems to happen frequently.

CAMBRIA: It happens a lot in fanfiction, especially.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: It’s a romance trope.

SALLY: Yeah! Absolutely. Like, not saying that everyone has to respond to things the way I did, but just the way that my nervous system immediately after finding out that news. I was so keyed up, I was so like not – I could barely decide if I wanted to eat or anything like. So, like Min being like, “Let’s fuck” is just so – just such, I don’t know exactly what I’m trying to get at either [laughs].

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: But it’s just so nasty.

EMILY: Well, just the concept that any sort of traumatic event, uh, is appropriate initiation.

CAMBRIA: Right.

EMILY: For sexual content. Content?

SALLY: [laughs] Yes.

EMILY: For any sort of sex is, I think – it’s so easy to call things toxic, but I do think this enables a sort of culture of miscommunication between people in their actual sex lives.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, and I will say that this definitely sets a really toxic, like, foundation for the rest of their relationship.

EMILY: Much like Rand and Aviendha.

CAMBRIA: Oh my god, yes. I feel like that is a lot of the reason why Min thought she was being obvious, but really the only woman, outside of Elayne maybe, that has ever really flirted with him was Aviendha, but then there's that cultural difference, which you guys have talked about a lot, how she, like, is so set in being Aiel that, like, she can't understand anyone else. She's like, "Everyone is so other." So, like, really his only intimate, romantic interactions with other women have been his childhood friend and the Aviendha where that's, like, was all really confusing.

EMILY: Oh, and Lanfear.

CAMBRIA: Oh! And Lanfear!

SALLY: [laughs] Ugh!

CAMBRIA: Who's like, "I worship your dick." That's it.

EMILY: Berelain one time basically came to him naked and was like, "I would like to have sex with you," and, I mean, it doesn't get more obvious than that.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, and honestly, props to Berelain.

EMILY: I mean –

CAMBRIA: She's annoying but be a hoe. Be a hoe.

EMILY: [laughing] Don't go into people's rooms naked.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, that's not very cool, but at least she was like, "I would like to have sex if you're interested."

EMILY: At least there was clear communication.

SALLY: Yeah, I was gonna say [laughs].

CAMBRIA: Like what you see? Oh.

SALLY: Oh. No? You're also covered in blood [laughs].

EMILY: Oh!

CAMBRIA: Oh, maybe I should come back another time!

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Oh, worm?

SALLY: Is this actually not a good time? [laughs]

CAMBRIA: Rain check? Do you need me to come back in – like – okay. Let me know if you need a reminder. This is available.

EMILY: Berelain should wear a sign saying, “This is available.”

CAMBRIA: She basically – the way that Robert Jordan writes –

EMILY: I mean, she basically does. Titties out.

CAMBRIA: I mean, titties out should not be an invitation, but like the –

SALLY: The way that Robert Jordan treats it.

CAMBRIA: Even in her own points of view I feel like she’s like, “My tits were out. Why don’t they want me?”

EMILY: Well, Berelain, it’s your personality, actually.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, sorry. You’re insufferable.

SALLY: Great tits, *horrible* attitude.

[all laugh]

EMILY: It be like that sometimes.

SALLY: Like a Yelp rating.

EMILY: AHH!

CAMBRIA: [giggles]

SALLY: No, but truly, going through Rand’s, um, sexual encounters with women, it truly is – it’s like classic Robert Jordan being like, “It’s really funny and entertaining when women come on to men when they don’t want them to.” Because you go through and it’s like: Aviendha basically, like, sex igloo – consent is also a little dubious there. Obviously this one. Elayne and Rand have sex right after the three women trap Rand in a room and bond him. To which Min says, in *Winter’s Heart*, “If you had not consented, we would have tied you down and done it anyway.” Like, it’s, it’s so frustrating because Robert Jordan in so many scenes presents Rand as, like, a character who has been deeply victimized particularly by the women in his life.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: And then it's, like, that is something I want to hold so much space for, but then Rand turns around and, like, his attitudes towards women in general are very hard to reconcile with the way that women treat him.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: It's just...all so bad. It's so bad. Robert Jordan was like, "I will create a relationship [laughing] to women that is so toxic."

CAMBRIA: The worst. The worst relationship dynamics. Okay, I was talking to my little brother about this yesterday. He's also read all the books. And he told me that his, the best –

EMILY: Really?

CAMBRIA: Yeah, Sam.

EMILY: Hmm.

CAMBRIA: Yeah. My younger brother was telling me that he thinks the best relationship in the series is Perrin and Faile and at first, I started to argue with him. I was like, "No, no, no. There's all these problems." Then I was like, "I think you're right that it might be, of the relationships of *Wheel of Time*, the quote unquote best one."

EMILY: It's certainly the longest lasting and experiences the most growth.

CAMBRIA: Anyway, sidebar.

SALLY: No, I agree.

EMILY: And they do, when they have sex, genuinely enjoy having sex with each other, which is step up from many of the relationships happening.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

SALLY: Wow, the bar is [laughing] so low.

CAMBRIA: And they actually develop a kind of relationship before they're paired together. Kind of. Like, they have an adventure together first.

EMILY: Yeah, no Sam's totally right. It is the relationship that, in real world terms, not fanfiction terms, experiences the most normal arc, I think. And that allows it to be a little healthier in our view than most of the relationships here that happen so weirdly and in such bizarre contexts. So suddenly.

CAMBRIA: They are prophesied and so can't be escape and no one really has a choice.

EMILY: Yeah, RIP.

SALLY: RIP, Mat.

CAMBRIA: Anyway.

SALLY: I also feel that Perrin and Faile are the ones that have the most genuine affection towards their partner. Like, they have a lot of really sweet little moments.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, I agree.

SALLY: When they're not being completely toxic and insane, [laughs] which is maybe the other end of the pendulum.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, they have some conflict resolution issues, it seems like.

SALLY: They get really domestic and cute, which I was like – nice. Like, this is just a couple brushing their teeth together in the morning and so excited to be together. Then you flip over, Mat has been trapped by his wife [laughing] the Seanchan Empress. They're in a circus.

EMILY: Mat and – Mat. Rand and Min are having sex on broken glass.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: I assume.

SALLY: Like that Annie Lennox song.

EMILY: What?

SALLY: [laughs] Walking on Broken Glass, but it's fucking [laughing] on broken glass.

EMILY: Jesus Christ.

CAMBRIA: [laughs] Anyway.

EMILY: Speaking of Rand's horrible relationship to women. Here's Cadsuane, who does nothing to improve it.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: What to – I mean there’s no closure about the Rand/Min sex scene. And there’s no closure about Cadsuane, either. All we can say is, “She’s awful! What’s she doing here? Why did Robert Jordan feel that this particular character was needed at this particular moment?”

SALLY: Yeah, I also feel like the introduction of Cadsuane at all is such a wild choice.

EMILY: There are so many Aes Sedai currently on the scene. One more, and also she has a full coterie.

SALLY: Yeah, I also feel like – so Cadsuane, in, like, terms of, like, structure, you know, is supposed to be stepping into Moiraine’s point of view.

CAMBRIA: Right.

SALLY: As Rand’s number one Aes Sedai advisor slash mentor. But, like, the whole thing with the Hero’s Journey, which *Wheel of Time* roughly is following, you know, is when the mentor dies, the mentor is gone. That’s the point of the mentor dying, is like the character needs to step up and learn to make decisions, right?

EMILY: Be a grown up.

SALLY: Yeah, so either Robert Jordan was like, “I simply did not set my character up to be big enough and grown up enough to make decisions” or just, like...I – was just like, “I’m going to completely fuck up the structure for, like, no reason.” It’s such a weird choice to me to have her exist at all.

EMILY: Or, he was like, “Oh, actually this series is going to be way fucking longer than I thought. It thought Moiraine was going to die at the two-thirds point.”

SALLY: Good point.

EMILY: And actually it turns out she died at the one-third point.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Which is quite a difference.

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: So I’m just going to throw Cadsuane into the mix, the worst woman on the planet. I mean, I can’t think of any – Cadsuane’s only redeeming quality is that she didn’t want to be the Amyrlin Seat.

SALLY: [laughs] She just, like, fucked off for a whole decade.

CAMBRIA: In my opinion it’s her hair, uh, jewels.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

CAMBRIA: Her hair ornaments.

SALLY: Those are so sexy, yeah.

EMILY: She has a great aesthetic.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: She's constantly knitting, you know, doing shit like that.

CAMBRIA: What I think would be even funnier is if she had never be in any positions of power because she's so insufferable.

EMILY: Everyone was like, "We hate this bitch."

CAMBRIA: And we can't get rid of her.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: God.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: You're so right, bestie.

SALLY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: I feel like that would have –

EMILY: Could you imagine if Ted Cruz walked up.

SALLY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: She's the female Ted Cruz, everyone fucking hates her.

SALLY: Yeah.

CAMBRIA: Yeah, dude. And actually –

EMILY: She is the Zodiac Killer.

CAMBRIA: And that would make her hair accessories the worst character trait, just like Ted Cruz's weird hair – new hairdo and beard.

SALLY: Oh yeah.

CAMBRIA: Like, we can't fucking get rid of him and now he looks like he, like he, he pretends that he surfs.

SALLY: [gasps]

CAMBRIA: Like that, ugh, he's so weird.

SALLY: The beard is truly – like, not to sidestep into Ted Cruz discourse –

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

SALLY: But the beard is so bad.

CAMBRIA: [laughing] It's so bad!

SALLY: Who on his, like, PR team or whatever, like his handlers, were like, "Good choice, Ted."

CAMBRIA: Or, like, even his wife.

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: Now Ted, they're calling you the Zodiac Killer, among other things. They're saying you abandoned your people to *the cold*. What do you have to say to that? Well, I'll grow a beard.

[Sally and Cambria laugh]

EMILY: And look a little bit, like, I don't know, a guy from *Game of Thrones* who's prepared for the cold.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: They can't get me then, surely.

CAMBRIA: Oh gosh.

SALLY: Okay, another point about Cadsuane to actually reference the notes that I took last night. Um, it is interesting to me that she is introduced right after...Jain Farstrider [laughing] is technically introduced to the story.

CAMBRIA: Right!

SALLY: Because there are ways in which they kind of parallel one another. You have these, like, very old adventuring figures. Like, objectively the fact that Cadsuane is an Aes Sedai who's like been of the world a little bit more.

CAMBRIA: And is also as old as she is.

SALLY: Yeah! And is as old as she is and has just like seen as much of history and what's going on, could be a really interesting thing about her. Because I feel like we get very few Aes Sedai, Moiraine has kind of been our exception up to this point, who actually, like, besides going on Aes Sedai assignments they don't really go see what's going on.

CAMBRIA: Yeah. Yeah.

SALLY: So that could, could – all this could add up to a really interesting figure.

EMILY: Oh, I think –

CAMBRIA: But we also don't know that it's Jain Farstrider at the time.

SALLY: Yeah! Yeah, so it doesn't – again, the, the impact isn't there [laughing] because Robert Jordan wouldn't tell us.

EMILY: I can think of a dozen ways to make Cadsuane a more interesting character. If she was a Darkfriend.

SALLY: Ooh.

EMILY: If she was Semirhage in disguise.

SALLY: Ooh.

CAMBRIA: That would have been sick.

EMILY: It would have been sick! Right?

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: If she was, I don't know, like you said, a hated figure among the Aes Sedai. This weird outcast, who's like, "I'm going to go advise the Dragon Reborn duh duh duh duh."

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: [small cough and some choking noises]

CAMBRIA: Or if she had a reason for why she hated men so much, also. Like I know there are people who just, like, hate men and hate women, but, like, just this like – how aggressively she hates men. Like, I would like to know why. Even if it's – like, it doesn't have to be, like, a huge plot point. Maybe if one of her coterie was like, "Oh, yeah, the reason she's a bitch to you is because x,y,z happened in her past." It's like, "Okay, sure. I'll take that crumb."

EMILY: Oh, if there was any reasoning for Cadsuane to be a bitch, then that would be more than we're given.

SALLY and CAMBRIA: Yeah.

EMILY: Because now what we're presented with is Cadsuane is a calculated bitch, which is nothing.

SALLY: [laughs] She's a bitch who thinks.

EMILY: She's a woman who's like, "The best way to achieve my ends is to be as big of an asshole as possible." And it's like, "Cadsuane, I don't know if you read Nicolo Machiavelli or some shit, but everyone knows that's not how it works."

CAMBRIA: Yeah, I was gonna say, she's never read *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

SALLY: Yeah, but like Cadsuane isn't saying anything that people want to hear, she doesn't have an agenda besides, "I'm going to direct Rand." And it's like, "Direct him where?" What?

CAMBRIA: Yeah, what does this even mean?

SALLY: What is the end goal here?

EMILY: I can't think of a single instance in this series where Rand is like, "I'm going to listen to Cadsuane."

CAMBRIA: He goes out of his way to not do that.

EMILY: Yeah, the few times he goes to Cadsuane for advice she's like, "Here's my advice," and he's like, "Well, fuck that. It's shitty advice."

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: And, like, moves on with his life.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah.

EMILY: And it's, like, if Robert Jordan's introduction is what he eventually goes with, that Cadsuane is here in order to, um, guide Rand back to emotional stability. Which is what Cadsuane most frequently claims in the later series is her sole purpose. Cadsuane, emotional abuse ain't how it's done.

SALLY: I would like Rand to feel like it is safe to emote, so I'm going to scream at him.

CAMBRIA: Yeah.

SALLY: And belittle him.

CAMBRIA: Constantly, about everything that he does.

EMILY: And tell him he's a jerk, no one likes him, all the fucking time. Okay, Cadsuane.

CAMBRIA: I when I do say something positive it's backhanded and condescending. Good boy. Great job, champ.

SALLY: So, truly, truly, she is one of the worst characters I've ever had to read about. I hate her so much.

EMILY: I know. Every time she's in a, in a scene I'm like, "Ugh."

CAMBRIA: Here we go.

EMILY: It's like Robert Jordan was like, "How can I make Rand's points of view [whispers] even worse?"

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: And he was like, "Cadsuane, that's how I'll do it." And I'm like, "Yeah, you had this redeeming moment of introducing the Asha'man, Rand's little Asha'man groupies. Narishma? Love that guy.

SALLY: He's a cutie.

EMILY: Dashiva? Evil, but super entertaining [laughs].

[Cambria and Sally laugh]

EMILY: Damer Flinn? Love that guy. Love that, love that little dude, you know?

CAMBRIA: [giggles]

EMILY: And Robert Jordan was like, "I just need to negate all that positive energy I've thrown into this atmosphere, by introducing Cadsuane, the most toxic person alive."

SALLY: Mm-hmm.

EMILY: It's like, "Cool."

CAMBRIA: Robert Jordan was like, "I need to remind everyone that I, too, hate Rand al'Thor."

SALLY: Yeah. "I will make him suffer."

EMILY: I don't have anything further to say about Cadsuane, because we're just going to be like, "I hate her," every time she's on screen for the next...

SALLY: Seven books.

EMILY: Seven.

CAMBRIA: Jesus Christ.

EMILY: I know. This is the halfway point! We're halfway through the series.

CAMBRIA: She literally is – she's like present for most every, like, major plot point, I feel like.

EMILY: I know. It's a real, real burden.

SALLY: She's nasty. Like, the one, *one* good thing Cadsuane has done, up to my read in *Winter's Heart*, at least, has been like, "It was gross the way Alanna bonded Rand." [laughing]
The only positive thing she says.

CAMBRIA: I mean...

EMILY: Even though, in this scene, what we hear from Merana, is that they tell her about Alanna bonding Rand and Cadsuane's like, "Ugh." But Merana's like, "Except Cadsuane herself was saying that she wants a new Warder," so the implication is that Cadsuane's like, "Dangit. I wanted to – I wanted him to be – I wanted to bond him."

SALLY: [gasps]

CAMBRIA: Ew.

SALLY: Gross! She is a nasty woman [laughs]. I know that language has also been co-opted by Trump.

EMILY: Nasty woman! Yeah.

SALLY: But, she is –

EMILY: Lean in, ladies.

SALLY: She is nasty.

EMILY: Wash your face, girl. Well, does anyone have anything else to say about these cursed chapters?

SALLY: No. Cambria, do you want to rapid fire any *Wheel of Time* opinions for the people? Just have – anything you want to say?

CAMBRIA: Rapid fire *Wheel of Time* opinions. Um, well, okay. I've been thinking about the show most recently and one...I have, my expectations are on the ground, which means I'll probably still enjoy it. And I think that it's hilarious that they are making it a girlboss show, because it's not actually feminist as we know. Um, which is the same relationship that the general, like, consumers of *Wheel of Time* has with the books. Like, "Oh, this feminist text," and it's not. So, I think that that's really funny and ironic. And I'm actually really glad that it's not Rand-centric, only because I really, really love his monologue at the end of the series when he's like, "It was never about me." I've always loved that, so those are my opinions about the show. It shouldn't have taken Perrin four books to, uh, uh save Faile. There's that.

EMILY: Hot take. Scorching hot take [laughs].

SALLY: Four books?

CAMBRIA: I feel, like, yeah. That's all I've got right now.

SALLY: Those are good ones.

EMILY: Yeah, powerful.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

SALLY: I love Perrin slander on my podcast. It's my favorite thing.

EMILY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: He is so boring.

SALLY: Truly.

CAMBRIA: He is so boring.

SALLY: What is he doing? For four books? While his wife is in a slave camp?

CAMBRIA: He's doing politics! In the wilderness.

EMILY: Ah. I feel tired.

SALLY: It's time for some Shake Shack, ladies.

EMILY: It's time for Shake Shack, to purge ourselves. And Zelda Windwaker.

SALLY: Fun!

CAMBRIA: I forgot about that!!

EMILY: We gotta take Bingus on his journey.

CAMBRIA: Bingus!

SALLY: Who's Bingus?

EMILY and CAMBRIA: Bingus is –

CAMBRIA: Link.

EMILY: You get to name your little avatar in Windwaker, and we named him BINGUS, all caps.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

EMILY: Hey! Thanks, everyone, for listening. Thanks to Glynna Mackenzie for our theme song. Thanks to our patrons on Patreon and our followers on social media.

SALLY: Absolutely.

CAMBRIA: Thanks –

EMILY: Check out our – Oh!

CAMBRIA: Thanks for letting me be here!

EMILY: You're welcome!

SALLY: You're so welcome.

EMILY: Thanks for being here.

CAMBRIA: Yeah!

EMILY: We're delighted to have you. Uh, check out our online. [Bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org)

SALLY: It's [Bookshop.org/shop/everybodyhatesrand](https://bookshop.org/shop/everybodyhatesrand).

EMILY: Dang.

CAMBRIA: I actually use it all the time when I buy books, so.

EMILY: Well, there you go.

SALLY: Thanks, Cambria!

CAMBRIA: It's very easy. You can bookmark their page, and if you have an account it saves your wishlist and, um, it's just really nice and cool.

SALLY: Thanks, Cambria.

EMILY: So nice! Hey, do you have a sign-off?

SALLY: Um, I don't. Well, earlier Emily was testing audio and the test that she captured was a horrifying story about the album I have on my phone of weird skin things, [laughing] so that was fun to listen back to.

EMILY: Yep. Just out loud, in a room, echoing against the walls.

SALLY: Horrible. And Cambria walked in and it was like, "So, my skin album."

CAMBRIA: I was going to tell you to text Cha-Cha with all of your random question needs.

EMILY: Is it not still up?

CAMBRIA: But it was, yeah, it was shut down in 2016.

EMILY: NOOO!

SALLY: RIP Cha-Cha.

CAMBRIA: Only the real ones remember Cha-Cha.

EMILY: [laughs]

CAMBRIA: If you're too young to remember Cha-Cha, you're too young to be listening to this podcast.

EMILY: The loss of a real one.

CAMBRIA: [laughs]

SALLY: The other day my friend Gethin, who is 22, asked me who Paris Hilton was.

EMILY: Okay, we're ending on that.

SALLY: [laughs] And I truly was like, "You're not that much younger than me."

CAMBRIA: How does Gethin not know? What?

EMILY: Goodbye!

CAMBRIA: Especially –