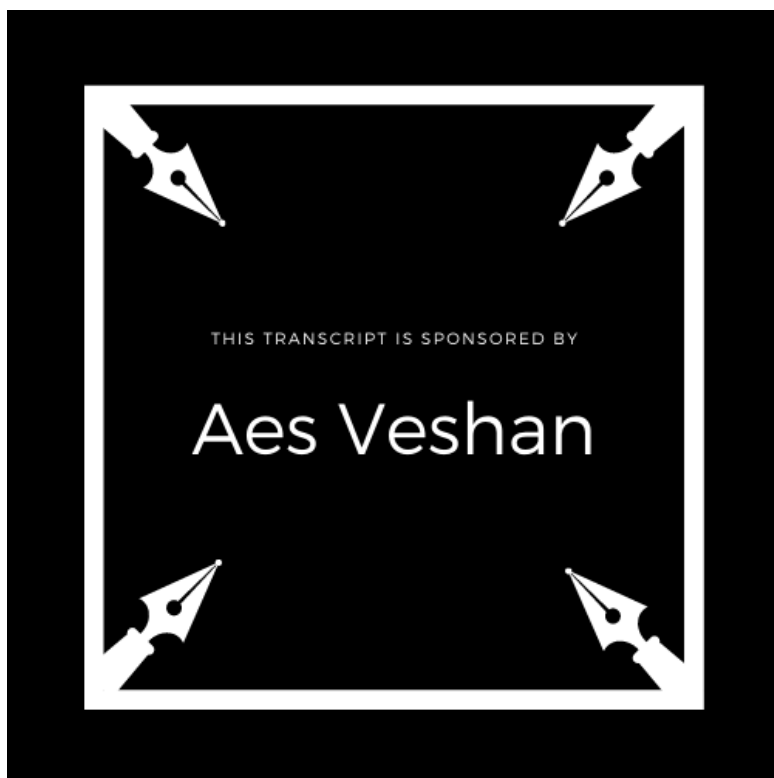


## Episode 174: Critically Acclaimed Sex Dungeon

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Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a Wheel of Time podcast that will contain spoilers for all 14 books. So if you're anti-spoiler, pause this, read all 14 books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

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

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Sally: Just a silly little goose.

Emily: Just a silly little --

Sally: Just a silly little goose.

Emily: Just a silly little goose. Speaking of silly little geese.

Sally: ... Sammael?

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I guess -- I guess that's where I was going. Ahh! What?

Sally: Listen, geese are unnecessarily aggressive, and so I feel like it fits.

Emily: So is Sammael.

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: Geese are pretty, um, mean birds.

Sally: Geese are fucking rude, is what they are.

Emily: Yeah, stop --

Sally: I do not like waterfowl.

Emily: Stop demonizing ravens and crows or whatever --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Demonize geese.

Sally: Demonize geese. And swans. Swans are also very mean. I know I've told this story, but there were swans at the aviary that literally fucking lost their shit every time they saw me. They were like, "I hate this bitch."

Emily: Have I -- have I told you that there was a short story -- a Roald Dahl short story collection that my parents owned that included a short story about a little boy who gets tied to train tracks by his bullies, and I think he turns into a swan at the end.

Sally: Yeah, he turned into the -- the ur-bully.

Emily: The what?

Sally: The ur -- like U-R. Like ur-text? Just -- it was a bad joke --

Emily: I don't understand.

Sally: Suggesting swans were the original bullies of the world.

Emily: Oh. Oh. (laugh)

Sally: It was a bad joke. Cut it out. (laugh)

Emily: Did you read it?

Sally: No! That sounds horrifying, though.

Emily: I legitimately lost sleep over it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because I was just, like -- I didn't understand. I kind of want to read it again --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just to, like, see if I better understand as an adult what the fuck it was saying.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause I think it was just, like, over my head --

Sally: Uh-huh.

Emily: As a child. But the memories I have of it are so distressingly late Sunday afternoon vibes --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And my, just, deep-rooted confusion that I, like, can't go back to it. It's too painful.

Sally: Um. Yeah, what the fuck?

Emily: If there's a Wikipedia article about that short story, then I would love to read it, you know?

Sally: Do you know what the short story's called?

Emily: No, I have to look -- I'll look in my parents' house when I go down this weekend for Otis's funeral. So this is Everybody Hates Rand. It's your friendly neighborhood Wheely Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: And there are --

Sally: I'm sorry it's just us this week, and you don't get --

Emily: Yeah. That's disappointing, isn't it?

Sally: The much cooler, lovelier thoughts of Cambria.

Emily: It would've been nicer to have her -- I mean, not nicer; she would have been great no matter what we did, and she was great --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it would've been nice if she'd been able to do these chapters with us.

Sally: I know.

Emily: 'Cause at least one of them is Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or partly Mat, and the other one is just, like, so weirdly bad guys.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, I feel like normally -- and we complain about this a lot -- normally when we get bad guy points of view, it's either torture scenes or machinations.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And obviously, after you've read enough Wheel of Time, you get to be like, ugh, at least it's a machinations scene --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That I can just sort of, like, tune out, you know? Um, as opposed to a torture sequence that I then just have to live through.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and this is one of the weirder machinations chapters because, unlike some of the machinations chapters -- I need to stop saying the word "machinations."

Sally: Machinations.

Emily: Machinations.

Sally: We can call them mach chapters.

Emily: Ah, the other mach chapters. Some, you know, Forsaken plotting chapters at least go somewhere.

Sally: Mm. Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know what I'm saying?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, even the -- the annoying scene -- I guess that would've been in the last book -- where, um, Aran'gar are Osan'gar are introduced, it's like, okay, at least these are two characters that we're now going to have to deal with.

Sally: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Emily: There's a point to that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In this chapter, which is told first from Sevanna's point of view, then from an unnamed watcher's point of view -- who, uh, context clues slash Wikipedia inform me is Moridin -- um, this is just so weird and, as far as I know -- I mean, there's a definite point A to point B here, right? We are getting set up the point where all the Shaido are gonna end up on the other side of the continent. But there is absolutely -- it's -- the -- the reasons for this are incomprehensible.

Sally: Yeah. I was trying to, like, think back through this plot --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: While I was reading it, and I was like, nope. (laugh) Just --

Emily: Can't --

Sally: Like, I -- I am documented as, like, a plot-illiterate idiot; I can never keep track of plot. But I couldn't even find footing for this one. I was like, box. Travel box. To what end?

Emily: Sevanna -- Sevanna has mentioned her little weird box, like, a couple times before, but it's been just such a little throwaway line --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That you could easily skim over it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Or you'd be like, what the fuck is this -- does she have a cell phone? Is she carrying microchips? What the hell?

Sally: (gasp) Okay, it would be way funnier --

Emily: If the traveling cube was just a -- was just an Apple watch?

Sally: Yeah, or if, like, her talking box was just, like, FaceTime.

Emily: Walkie talkie.

Sally: I know FaceTime probably didn't exist when Robert Jordan wrote this, but if the Wheel of Time show is listening, it'd be way funny if it was just an iPhone.

Emily: Yeah, it'd be really funny if the Wheel of Time show was like, "This is just hilariously going to be, like, some very obvious --"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "Our-time technology."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: And they're all like -- like --

Sally: "Oh my God!"

Emily: Spooked by it, you know? Like cavemen. (laugh)

Sally: "Witchcraft!" (laugh)

Emily: Which, by the way, is kind of a, like, bad trope. It's annoying that we're having the, um, Aiel, who are coded as --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Indigenous peoples interacting the most with this like, Forsaken tech -- not Forsaken technology --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This, like, long-time-ago but really futuristic technology, and they just have, like, no clue what to do with it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're all frightened and alarmed by it. As opposed to some of our more main characters, who have dealt with weird ter'angreal and stuff like that and been kind of -- a little more nonchalant about it.

Sally: Yeah, no, you're totally right. It is a really -- it is a really bad trope. It's more of Robert Jordan's, um, racism regarding the Aiel.

Emily: Yeah, Graendal literally calls them "savages" at one point.

Sally: Graendal can get fucked.

Emily: I mean, yeah, that's true. But, like --

Sally: Like -- I know.

Emily: It's just more of the coding.

Sally: You're right. You were making a good point, and I interrupted you.

Emily: No, I forgot --

Sally: But, um --

Emily: The plan -- okay, so Sevanna's with a bunch of her other, uh, Shaido Wise Ones --

Sally: Her little murder cult.

Emily: Yeah, part of her murder cult; not all of it. Apparently Therava got separated from them, with some other Wise Ones. I can't even remember the number that Sevanna says. She's like --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: "There's two thousand or twenty thousand," or whatever, and either way, just, like -- it's just oil on water for me, baby. Nothing about the numbers of the Shaido is ever going to make sense for me, so I have decided to just intentionally not know what that is.

Sally: (laugh) Good choice.

Emily: Um, but Shaido and a few Wise Ones are, like, literally sitting in a circle, like, staring at this cube. (laugh)

Sally: It's so absurd. They're, like, in some wack forest.

Emily: Yeah. They're all super stressed out and traumatized by, um, getting attacked at Dumai -- I mean, they did the attacking, but then they also got, uh, meat -- human meat grinder-ed at Dumai's Wells, and they've been, like, running for their lives.

Sally: I mean, yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Okay, we finally feel like the -- Rand al'Thor is not going to catch up with us." Yeah, Rand al'Thor was never going to catch up with you; Rand al'Thor was, like, going back to Cairhien to recover from being in a box for -- although it would've been pretty funny if Rand went on, like, a Kill Bill murder spree --

Sally: Of the Shaido?

Emily: Of the -- well, of like, the individuals, specifically --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Responsible for his box time.

Sally: Oh, no. Box time.

Emily: Box time.

Sally: Living on box time.

Emily: Yeah. I hope Gojo in the cube isn't, like, all curled up in a box.

Sally: Um, what I've read -- I --

Emily: 'Cause that's another lanky boy who shouldn't be put in a --

Sally: That's another -- well, he -- as Sarah McClintock said, he should be in a time-out of some sort. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Okay, but Rand also should have been in a time-out --

Sally: (laugh) You're right.

Emily: But I did not want him to be in a box -- literal.

Sally: Not in a box. Um, the one -- I'm not caught up on Jujutsu Kaisen, the manga, but, like, the one panel I remember of him in it, he was just, like, sitting normally.

Emily: Okay. Good.

Sally: Like, he wasn't, like, folded up in this tiny little cube. He was just sort of, like, chilling, and he was just kinda like, "Meh, well."

Emily: Sipping martinis, watching the drama.

Sally: Oh my God. Gojo's in there watching Keeping Up with the -- he's getting caught up on Keeping Up with the Kardashians.

Emily: He fucking would. You're right. Gojo should be in the cube.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thanks, Sarah McClintock.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I want that on a T-shirt. (laugh)

Sally: It truly is -- Emily and I reference it all the time. (laugh) Like, it is our favorite tweet of --

Emily: Jujutsu Kaisen can't come up without me saying, "Gojo should be in the cube, actually."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Like, it is so funny. Um. So anyway, Sarah, if you're listening, thanks for that, um, eternal joke. Anyway.

Emily: Um. So, yeah, cubes, cubes, cubes, cubes, cubes. We're just the cubes episode.



Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They're all staring at this cube, and Sevanna is like, "Okay, here's what you do. You touch -- you do this specific thing with the Power, and then we'll be able to contact him." So we know that Sevanna has had contact with this mysterious man, and we're clued in enough to guess, oh, this is probably one of the Forsaken.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And a lot of the male Forsaken have died off pretty recently, so --

Sally: Yeah, so we've got --

Emily: There's a limited number of people it could be. Um, so it doesn't surprise us too much when a disguised man and woman -- well, first they call Sammael.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And his voice is like, "What? What do you want?"

Sally: "What do you want?"

Emily: He's like, "Have you captured Rand al'Thor?" and she's like, "No."

Sally: He's like, "Then why are you calling?"

Emily: He's like, "Okay, at least you're honest. What do you need?" And she's like, "Well, I want to talk to you." And he's like, "Okay, stay on the line," basically, "and I'll come --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Talk to you." And they're all like, "What? Now?"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: They don't know what to do, so they just sit there. All of the Wise Ones are, like, at each other's throats, by the way. They're all upset. I mean, and why wouldn't they be? They murdered a woman together. They all went through Dumai's Wells together. Those sorts of things don't really bring people together.

Sally: No.

Emily: It's more of a ...

Sally: More of a reluctant bonding.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Bonding in, like, the -- the chemical sense, like you're stuck together. Not bonding in, like, the emotional sense.

Emily: I mean, no one, like, wants to be around Sevanna, given her personality --

Sally: So true.

Emily: And it seems to be pretty similar with most of the Shaido Wise Ones. At least the way Sevanna describes them. They all seem like rancid people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I know she's probably not a very reliable narrator.

Sally: Yeah, reliable narrator.

Emily: But, like, Therava's a fucking sadistic lady. A bunch of them are just, like -- I mean, they all participated in the murder plot, you know?

Sally: Yeah, I mean, we do get women who had a -- a pact to murder someone and then never talk about it, which is, like --

Emily: And then make it look like the Aes Sedai did it.

Sally: Yeah, it is -- it is a funny, like -- I don't know if I necessarily want to call it a trope -- but it's, like, the way that the Aiel have separated into, like, our Aiel and then the Shaido. It's like the Shaido gets all of the bad Wise Ones. It's not like we have anyone --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In our group of Wise Ones who's, like, particularly rancid. And it's like, group dynamics don't really work like that, you know?

Emily: No, yeah.

Sally: Like, not all the rancid people join one sorority or whatever. I mean, maybe that's how it works, but.

Emily: I don't think so. I think -- I -- I mean, I think group dynamics have people sort of, um, conform to whatever dynamic is there, but yeah, that doesn't mean all of the Shaido are -- should be evil, but that's the way Robert Jordan has chosen to present them --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: More or less without any nuance.

Sally: Yeah. Once again, we run into Wheel of Time's, um, inability to write nuance.

Emily: Um. But Sammael shows up in disguise, as a guy named Caddar, accompanied by a woman who has a very low-cut dress, so we're like, "Oh, that's obviously Graendal."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Because cleavage is the only defining characteristic of most of the female Forsaken. Um, but, like, they both don't look like themselves --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We're just going based on personality and our sort of vague understanding of the Forsaken dynamics. Sammael -- they argue for a minute, out of --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They, like, ward their conversation, so we're like, okay, what the fuck is happening? Presumably, Sammael got this wack call and was like -- then called up Graendal and was like, "Come with me to this dumb meeting," and she was like, "Could I please not have to do that?" (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I have better things to do in my, you know, sex dungeons," or whatever the hell Graendal gets up to in her spare time.

Sally: Yeah, running a sex dungeon takes a lot of time and effort, Sammael, okay? They don't run themselves.

Emily: This is a four-star sex dungeon. (laugh)

Sally: This is a four-star sex dungeon.

Emily: We have to keep up our reviews.

Sally: (laugh) Critically acclaimed, award-winning sex dungeon. Um, I can't just be going fuck all around the continent with you. And he's like, "Actually, you can and you will. So."

Emily: At some point, Sammael apparently convinced Graendal that he's the guy who's going to be on top.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't remember when that --

Sally: (sing-song) "I'm gonna be on top." It's the America's Next Top Model theme song.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Sorry, I'm being so annoying. (laugh) Please --

Emily: No, I just don't -- I never watched that show.

Sally: Please -- I'm a little hyper. Um. Yeah, he's convinced her he's gonna be Nae'blis or whatever.

Emily: yeah, I don't remember if that happened in the last book on-screen for us, but it's sort of like the Shaído numbers.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I have sort of given into the idea that I will ever understand what's going on, and so I'm just -- go with the flow, you know? Whatever happens, happens.

Sally: Yeah, well, it's, like, a dumb -- another dumb thing about the Dark One, being like, "I will tell all of the Forsaken they will be Nae'blis," or whatever. I feel like it happens with Demandred. It happens with Sammael, obviously, or he's lying. I don't know.

Emily: Who cares?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sammael's like, "Graendal --" so he can boss Graendal around, basically. And he shows up to talk to these ladies and, um -- oh, he gives Graendal a code name that, based on context, is apparently insulting, but of course, we do not know what it means.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I frankly do not want to know what it means. But I'm just like -- it's a dumb thing for Robert Jordan to throw in there.

Sally: Yeah, like --

Emily: Be like, "Sammael is insulting Graendal but in a way you don't and will never understand," and it's like, okay? Why show us that, then?

Sally: Yeah, like, is he saying -- is he just being like, her name is Slut, but it's slut in, like, the Old Tongue or whatever? Like, what is happening here?

Emily: Yeah. Who knows?

Sally: Like, that's what we're kind of given to believe, and it's like, that's not interesting, Robert Jordan.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Shut your mouth.

Emily: But Sevanna's like, "Have you brought the thing that can control Rand al'Thor?" and we, the reader, are like, does Sammael have the male a'dam? That doesn't seem right.

Sally: He does not.

Emily: He does not.

Sally: Egeanin still has it.

Emily: Egeanin --

Sally: Before she gives it to Suroth.

Emily: Oh, she does?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, in the book you're in currently?

Sally: Mm-hmm, in book nine.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: And Nynaeve and Elayne -- no, Thom and Juilin are like --

Emily: "Stupid."

Sally: "Well, that could've gone better." (laugh)

Emily: That could've gone -- yeah. We -- where we're at now, we know that Egeanin and Bayle Domon were gonna, like, throw it in the ocean.

Sally: Yeah, throw it in the ocean.

Emily: So we're like, oh, that's weird. I don't think Sammael has that. So either he's lying, or he has some other way to control Rand, which I don't believe he does, or maybe he would use it when Rand attacks him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I -- so no idea what's going on here. So -- he's like, "You don't even have him," and Sevanna's like, "I'm gonna get him," and Sammael's like, "Okay, then I'll bring it to you then." Then he says, "What I have will control him once he is taken, but it cannot overcome him. I won't risk him finding out about me until you have him secure." So he -- it's unclear how much Sammael is involved in Dumai's Wells, how much he motivated -- like, it seems like Sevanna was gung ho to do all this before he got involved, and he just maybe gave her some of the tools --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To do it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And to feel confident that they could, you know, control Rand? Although she did also, like -- there was that whole thing with her bringing the Wise Ones to the Aes Sedai to make sure the Wise Ones understood how to shield and, um, keep Rand captive. So I don't -- it's sort of overwritten --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A little bit here. But Sevanna asks, "Well, can this thing control Aes Sedai?" and Sammael's like, "Oh, you -- you didn't get Rand, but you captured a bunch of Aes Sedai?" Um, and they don't answer him, so we're not sure if Sevanna and the others have captured Aes Sedai, although we do know in later books that Galina, at least, has been captured, but that might've been by a different group --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Of Wise Ones. Um. And she's like, "Well, can you control Aes Sedai?" And he's like -- he tells Graendal to, like, do something. He's like, "Play with the cube," and Graendal starts doing it, and all of the Wise Ones are like, "Whoa. This means he commands her." And I'm like, or she's just doing what he --

Sally: Yeah. When --

Emily: Told her to? Like --

Sally: When Emily's like, "Will you bring me my Diet Coke?"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I'm not like, "Wow, Emily commands me."

Emily: I mean, given, we don't hate each other.

Sally: That's -- that's true, bestie. (laugh) Well --

Emily: So it is sort of impressive that -- wow! On the podcast, no less.

Sally: (laugh) No, I don't hate you, you're my favorite person ever.

Emily: Yeah. Um. You're my favorite person too.

Sally: Aw, thanks.

Emily: But, like, Sammael and Graendal do hate each other, so that makes it, like, a thing, but, like, there are many reasons why a woman might choose of her own free will to obey something a man tells her to do.

Sally: I know, like, not to harp -- not to beat the dead horse, but Wheel of Time's, like, insistence that every interaction is all about power dynamics and who is in charge and who gets the say -- who has the most say -- it's like, not every interaction is just this, like, struggle to be like, "I am the most important person in the room." Like, it's really exhausting to read.

Emily: It's just dumb.

Sally: That too.

Emily: Um. She's like, "Well, I want stuff to control Aes Sedai," and Sammael's like, "Okay, but it'll be at a high price." Meaning, I think, he doesn't have shit like that, and I don't know why ... and she's like, "Can you also teach us how you got here so fast?" and he's like, "I can't teach you how to do that," 'cause he doesn't want to give the Traveling ability to the Shaido, which is Sammael's one intelligent move.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: But he's like, "But you can use this special cube." Basically -- I don't think that -- this cube can't make gateways. But it can presumably summon Sammael and Graendal to make the gateways.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Blah blah blah.

Sally: You get the Uber app.

Emily: He's like, "I can teach you that," and sort of thus plants the idea, uh, in Sevanna's mind that they could go to, quote unquote, richer lands.

Sally: (inaudible)

Emily: I don't see what's wrong with these lands. I mean, the entire continent -- Sevanna doesn't know this, but the entire continent is pretty fucked right now.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So, it's just sort of a grass is greener on the other side type thing, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it's like, this won't solve your problems. Going to a new place won't solve your problems. It's just, like, a matter of pride at this point. Sevanna's like, "We can't go back to the Aiel Waste with our tail between our legs because that would mean we have been defeated." And I'm like, what a dumb --

Sally: You have. It's fine.

Emily: You have, yeah. People lose in war. The French do it all the time.

Sally: (laugh) Roasted.

Emily: And they just -- you deal with it.

Sally: Yeah. Like --

Emily: You make a museum about it. The end.

Sally: There you go. And just, like -- it's just so, like -- Sevanna is just, like, the shittiest leader of all time. Like, you have thousands of people following you. Take them home where they can be fed and shit. You bish. Whatever. Not that anyone would be like, "Sevanna is the Leader of the Year."

Emily: Well, it's just incomprehensible why people like Sevanna and Elaida maintain power for any length of time.

Sally: I know.

Emily: I know it's not actually, like, that long a time. You know --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Between when Sevanna and Elaida both came into power at about the same time, right, and when they are both separately dealt with, that's probably only a year and a half, two years, tops. In, like, the political scheme of things, that's a very short amount of time.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But in these books, it's like, oh my God, Sevanna is still in power? None of the Wise Ones have just been like, "She can't channel, she has zero, like, basis for leadership except that she's the meanest bitch in this place."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "We can easily find a meaner bitch."

Sally: Yeah. Or one that's more well-respected.



Emily: Yeah. It's just ...

Sally: Like, it's truly just like, she's not smart, she's not charismatic, she's not empathetic, she's not anything. She's just mean.

Emily: Same with Elaida.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Robert Jordan just loves to be like, "Women are all in -- bitches? Are always the ones who get put in charge, and they're always the most incompetent. We should never have a female president of the United States, 'cause she'll be a bitch." Do you get it?

Sally: (groan)

Emily: 'Kay, whatever. Then we cut to Moridin, who is described as "the watcher," much as Carridin is once described as "the man who called himself Bors --"

Sally: Oh my God.

Emily: Needlessly, Robert Jordan. Not everyone needs a fucking alias.

Sally: Like, I don't understand. It's like, at this point, Moridin is enough of a mysterious-ish figure that you could just say "Moridin."

Emily: Has Moridin even been mentioned more than a couple times in passing?

Sally: I don't think so. He's been mentioned few enough times that at the beginning of the Path of Daggers, I was like, I don't know who the fuck Moridin is --

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: Or why he is important.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So just be like, "Moridin." Why does it have to be "the watcher"? And it also, like, has Moridin doing all this weird magic that he says that Sammael never bothered to master, and it sets it up to be, like, he's this sort of non-human figure who can do things, special things. Sorry. And no, it's just Ishamael.

Emily: Moridin is using -- and this is deeply confusing --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Because as you may recall, there's the One Power, or the True Source. And those are both the same thing, and both refer to saidin and saidar. Now, then there's the True Power, which

is the Dark One's special magic that he can, like, give to people and be like, "You can use this." And sadly enough, this will be an important development in the later series --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That some people can use the True Power. Among them, Moridin is our top practitioner because he is most connected to Daddy Dark One. Um --

Sally: He's daddy's special little boy.

Emily: Yeah, that's Moridin.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So we don't know enough about Moridin to know why he's here or what he's doing. Um. I mean, once you know it's Moridin, you're like, he's just spying on the other Forsaken the way all the Forsaken spy on each other, although I would like it if Moridin was above such petty things --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's sort of the way he's portrayed later in the series.

Sally: Nah, bitch.

Emily: But he's, like, invisible with some special technology called a fan cloth or some shit. He's like, "I'm invisible. They can't see me, and I just am eavesdropping on their conversation while they bitch at each other relentlessly." He's like, "I don't know why Graendal's letting Sammael boss her around. Oh, it's 'cause he's lying to her and saying he's gonna be Nae'blis." Da da da da da.

Sally: Yeah, "But Daddy told me I'm gonna be Nae'blis." I mean, he doesn't say that, but.

Emily: But it's the implication.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: God.

Sally: Yeah. And then he just uses his special, evil powers to --

Emily: Travel away.

Sally: Travel away. (laugh) It says he sidesteps the pattern, which I find is very interesting.

Emily: And, yeah, he has his special little flecks moving across his eyes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, I admit, staring into your eyes right now, if I saw little flecks moving across them, I would be fucking horrified.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'd be like, oh, demonic possession.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's what's happening here.

Sally: Demandred possession.

Emily: So --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Thanks for the visual, Robert Jordan, I guess, although it would've been cooler if you introduced it by, like, having a different character notice that about Moridin.

Sally: Are they actually in his eyes? I thought he was just, like --

Emily: Oh, in his, like, vision?

Sally: Like, dizzy. (laugh)

Emily: He's like, "Ahhh ...."

Sally: It's way cooler to be like, yeah, he's literally got stuff moving across his eyes.

Emily: No, I think he literally has stuff moving across his eyes.

Sally: That is creepy but cool. I will give Moridin this one point.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: This one -- this one neat point.

Emily: One: visually, aesthetically neat. Okay. We then --

Sally: We then switch over to Mat, who --

Emily: Who has just killed more people in an alley. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: This is the same day.

Sally: I know. Mat's like --

Emily: Mat's like, "I just had three beggars -- in my -- they looked like beggars to me --" and since we read this pretty recently, I am remembering that amongst the Darkfriends at Carridin's command is a group of, like, beggars led by some street lord named Old --

Sally: Old Cully.

Emily: Old Cully, yeah. So presumably this ties back to Carridin.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Still not sure about the earlier kidnapping attempt.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Mat's like, "They sure were ambitious with the size of their sack. It would cover me from head to knees."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So clearly Mat has -- is not picking up on the fact that these people are here to kidnap him, not rob him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which, I mean, okay, fair enough, Mat hasn't had to deal with many attempted kidnappings before.

Sally: Yeah. Many robbings, though, I guess.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: 'Cause he's a --

Emily: Lots of muggings, I would assume.

Sally: Rich bastard. (laugh)

Emily: But not a lot of, um, kidnappings.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, you know, people just trying to murder him. There was that -- there's that great Tar Valon sequence --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: In book three, where it's just, like, people trying to slit his throat.

Sally: (whisper) Damn, that sequence is good.

Emily: So Mat's just like, "Well, this has been sufficiently weird."

Sally: "I'm just --"

Emily: "Just people trying to kill me a lot."

Sally: "Trying to get back to the inn, and I've been attacked."

Emily: "I'm just trying to get back to the goddamn inn." Yeah. "What the hell."

Sally: He's like, "Well. Son of a bitch."

Emily: Pfft. Pobody's nerfect.

Sally: Pobody's nerfect.

Emily: "I guess I'm just --"

Sally: "I guess I'm just, um, robbable. I guess I just look robbable.

Emily: "I guess I just look like I have money."

Sally: It's like -- it's like -- I mean, I don't know if he does look like he has money. (laugh)

Emily: No, he looks like a dirtbag.

Sally: He -- yeah, he -- Mat is the teenage dirtbag. Um, but he goes back to the inn.

Emily: He goes back to the inn. It's totally packed. It's lit, 'cause it's Swovan Night --

Sally: (whisper) Swovan Night.

Emily: Still don't really know what that means or what it commemorates, but --

Sally: It's a big party. Everyone is, like, drunk and dancing.

Emily: Drinking wine, whatever. Mat's, like -- goes to the serving girl who, previously, he flirted with, and he asks -- he says he asks her some questions and flirts with her a little bit more. And she, uh, offers a different reception.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: She's kind of cold toward him, and she's like, "Olver's in bed, I haven't seen Nalesean, I haven't seen Harnan."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Da da da da da, and I don’t know --” Oh, he orders dinner or whatever, and she’s like, “I don’t know -- if you’re gonna get drunk, then all you can get is, like, bread and stew.” That’s the only thing Setalle Anan is going to give people, which is a smart business move on her part.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Don’t waste fancy food on drunks, you know?

Sally: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Emily: Um, but she’s like, “But there’s a gilded lady up in your room,” and he’s like, “Exsqueeze me?”

Sally: He’s like, “Wow, I wish there wasn’t.” (laugh)

Emily: “Boy, I just wish that I could have -- could one normal thing happen to me, once?”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Could I just, like, have three hours?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Uninterrupted hours where things are normal?” He’s like, “Oh my God, the dice are rolling in my head; is this lady going to be whatever it is?” But he goes up to his room, all, like, sneaky, like, is this going to be yet another murder slash robbery attempt? He opens the door and sees Birgitte, like, looking at his fancy Two Rivers bow and he, like, looks at her and immediately has this flashback to blowing the Horn of Valere.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: With, you know, requisite mentions of various other mythological figures. But he’s just like, “Oh my God --” He, like, shuts the door behind him and leans against it. He’s like, “Oh my God, you’re actually Birgitte.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And she’s like, “Dang it. I thought you might remember.”

Sally: “Aw, farts.”

Emily: “Aw, dang it.”

Sally: “Cowa-bummer, am I right?”

Emily: Cowa-fucking-bummer.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And he’s like, “What the -- what the -- how’s this even happening?” and she’s like, “Well, I got ripped out of the Pattern and now I’m bonded to Elayne as her Warder; that’s how they rescued me,” and he’s like, “I don’t know any of the words you just said, but okay.”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “Moving right along.” He’s like, “Why aren’t you the boss of those ladies?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “You’re the -- you’re cool.”

Sally: “You’re Birgitte!”

Emily: “Have you met them? They’re the worst.”

Sally: “They suck.”

Emily: “They’re very incompetent.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Birgitte’s like, “Well, I’m the Warder, so I -- I follow orders, don’t give them.” She just kind of laughs at him --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which I just think is funny.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he’s like, “Okay?”

Sally: “It’s more evidence of a bad system, if you ask me.”

Emily: Yeah. They’re, like -- there’s some more banter back and forth about secrets, and she’s like, “You have lots of secrets. You haven’t told them about blowing the Horn of Valere.” Elayne and Nynaeve knew -- know he blew the Horn of Valere. Like --

Sally: Yeah. Mat -- like -- yeah. I feel like they would know, also, Mat’s like, I’m not really trying to keep that a secret from them.

Emily: Or, I guess -- maybe they don’t know he blew the Horn of Valere? I remember they took him back to Tar Valon with the Horn.

Sally: Yeah. I dunno.

Emily: I always felt like --

Sally: I just always feel like they would know. Maybe not.

Emily: Yeah. Maybe. They don't -- well, they have to know, 'cause, like, later in the series, Egg is like, "We have to get the Horn of Valere to Mat."

Sally: Mm.

Emily: So, like, I think they know.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Mat doesn't correct her, which is just, like -- I don't know. Um. He's like, "I don't have any secrets," and she's like, "Oh, yeah? What language are we speaking, Horn Sounder?" And he's like, "Ah, dang it. Fucking again."

Sally: I love that she calls him Horn Sounder. I think it is one of the more fun epithets that he gets.

Emily: I know. I wish Birgitte -- I just wish he would have all sorts of epithets.

Sally: I know.

Emily: Gambler.

Sally: Gambler.

Emily: Horn Sounder.

Sally: Son of battles. "Run, trickster. Run, son of battles."

Emily: Fuck. Fuck.

Sally: Son of -- (sigh)

Emily: Get that tattooed on my body. "Run, trickster."

Sally: I -- yeah, run, trickster.

Emily: It's a little fox.

Sally: Ugh. So good.

Emily: I love a fox. And I love Mat Cauthon. God fucking damnit.

Sally: Um. Yeah.



Emily: Anyway, Mat's like, "Goddamnit, this is the second time today this has happened to me." He's like, "I just have -- I have the Old Blood." And Birgitte's like, "No."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: She's like, "You legit sound like you just stumbled out of, you know, in Wheel of Time terms, the fourteenth century Renaissance."

Sally: Yeah, like, you're speaking Old English.

Emily: "You're speaking Old English, but then sometimes you switch to an entirely different dialect."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "You sound like a wild --" And like, it's nice 'cause the phrasing in the, um -- like, the phrasing of their dialogue is a little off-kilter --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I think, so there's some, like, sort of clues that they're speaking in the Old Tongue. Like, he says, "You're she" to Birgitte --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Instead of, "Ah, you're her." You know?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "Birgitte for true." Whatever. Whatever. It's nice.

Sally: It's very -- it's a very well-done little scene. Yeah, I agree.

Emily: But he's just like, "Wow." She's like, "Don't worry, I'm not gonna tell your secrets," and he's like -- she's like, "Are you gonna tell my secrets?" and he's like, "No, do I look like I tell people's secrets? What are you fucking talking about?" and she's like, "Let's go get a drink," and he's like, "... Okay?"

Sally: "Women are allowed to drink alcohol?" (laugh)

Emily: He's like -- she's like, "Yeah, Elayne has a real stick up her ass. She won't let me --"

Sally: (laugh) "Do anything."

Emily: "Fucking -- she won't let me drink, she won't let me look at men," and Mat's like, "Yeah, that sounds awful. Yeah, let's go get some -- let's go look at men." (laugh) Whatever.

Sally: (laugh) I wish that was what he -- ah. In the alternate reality where Mat also likes boys, that would've been the best response.

Emily: Yeah, like, "Let's go --"

Sally: "I'll look at men with you."

Emily: "I'll look at men with you. Okay. And drink. That's a fun party."

Sally: Yeah. Fuck yeah.

Emily: So then they go downstairs --

Sally: And get absolutely shit-faced.

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: We then switch over to Nynaeve in the, like, their rooms at the Tarasin Palace.

Sally: yeah.

Emily: She's like, "There's a big party going on downstairs, but all of us turned it down, 'cause we're too stressed out and anxious or whatever," apparently about Birgitte's conversation with Mat. I don't know why they're all so --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Stressed about it.

Sally: Like, especially Thom and Juilin. I don't --

Emily: I don't think Thom and Juilin are. They're just playing their little fantasy chess game.

Sally: That's true. But doesn't she say Thom and Juilin also turned down the invitation? Like, Thom wouldn't go to the big fancy party?

Emily: Oh. I would imagine that's 'cause they're like, "We're going to guard the ladies whenever they will fucking let us."

Sally: Oh, you're so right, bestie.

Emily: Instead of disguising themselves and leaving. Which they finally find out about here. Nynaeve's, like, pacing around, being like, "Ah, I just wish Birgitte would get back. She's so fucking late." And then Elayne starts acting super weird. She's, like, giggly and acting drunk. And Nynaeve's like, "It's like she's been sneaking sips of wine."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "But I know she wouldn't do that, 'cause we've both had shitty experiences with wine --"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And neither of us drinks a lot of it anymore." Um. But Elayne, like, is like, "We could look like different people," and does her little magic trick to make her and Aviendha and Nynaeve all look like different people. Which -- of course, Nynaeve flips out because Elayne does the -- chooses to make her look like a Sea Folk woman --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Including topless, and it's, like, irrational, Nynaeve; they aren't your breasts.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They're an illusion's breasts.

Sally: Yeah. She also gets -- like, you can get mad at Elayne, be like, "Don't do this --"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "That's stupid," but she gets mad at Thom and Juilin. (laugh)

Emily: Well, she gets mad for the wrong reasons. Like, in the back of her head, she's like, "Oh my God, Elayne is revealing everything."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When it's like, that's your top reason to be mad.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Elayne, what the fuck are you doing? We've, for a month, apparently --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Been keeping this under wraps from everyone.

Sally: Uh-huh.

Emily: And now you're just giving it away?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And Elayne's like, "You're right; I'm acting super weird." Meanwhile, Thom and Juilin, by the way, are, um -- oh, Thom or Juilin asked, like, um, "Why didn't you guys just send us to Mat?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Nynaeve's like, "Goddamnit, I didn't even think of that."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "I forgot Thom and Juilin existed." And I'm like, I mean, relatable.

Sally: Yeah. They're like, "Oh, right. Our errand men."

Emily: They also talk a little about Carridin. Like, Nynaeve has Mat's note, and she's like, "Did you guys not tell him anything?" 'Cause he says something -- she's like, the line about, "We can get plenty of heat and flies in Caemlyn --"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: I don't know why she is so struck by that line.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What she thinks they might have told Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I literally have no clue.

Sally: I don't either.

Emily: Um, but --

Sally: It's a good line.

Emily: It is a good line.

Sally: Maybe she's like, "Oh, Mat, had a good poetic turn to him."

Emily: She's like, "Wow, his handwriting fucking sucks."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "It's like a child." But, "Boy, he seems to know what's going on better than we want him to." Anyway, um, they have, like, a little conversation about why Tylin can't just, you know, execute Carridin.

Sally: Yeah, Aviendha's like, "Why don't you just kill him?"

Emily: And I fucking think Aviendha has a point. You could just assassinate him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Well, I feel like there should be more assassins, perhaps because I am reading a book about assassins right now. But I feel like assassins should be a little bit more part of this universe, and you should just be able to kill people. Sorry.

Sally: Yeah. Like, it feels like Thom Merrilin is the only who's committed assassinations.

Emily: Regicide, specifically. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Thom "Killed Two Kings" --

Emily: Merrilin.

Sally: Um. Yeah. And, like, just send Thom to kill Carridin.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I bet he could do it.

Emily: He'd be like, "Fuck yeah. I love that. I love killing Whitecloaks." You could send -- literally, most of the members of your party would be competent. Just have Birgitte snipe him.

Sally: That would be so sick and sexy.

Emily: Have Mat be like, "I'm gonna pretend to mug him but then actually murder him --"

Sally: Stab stab.

Emily: "In the street."

Sally: Right? Send Aviendha. She's ready.

Emily: Yeah. Everyone's ready except you ladies.

Sally: They're like, "Ah, well, killing is bad." It's like --

Emily: Shut up. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Okay.

Emily: So is enslaving people, but look who did that.

Sally: So is -- yeah, like, your guys' shifting morality center is --

Emily: Boring.

Sally: Yeah. Anyhoo.

Emily: So Elayne's acting weird and realizes she's acting weird right as Birgitte swings in.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Totally soused and, like, is like, "Hey, just a second."

Sally: "One moment."

Emily: Walks into her room; they hilariously hear, like, the splash of water, and then Birgitte comes out, like, soaked, like, apparently she just dumped a bucket of water over her head.

Sally: I'm so obsessed with her.

Emily: I know. And just, like, sits down. And they're like, "Have you been drinking?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And she's like, "Yeah. Fuck." They're like, "Were you drinking with Mat?" and she's like, "Yeah, that guy can drink."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "He outdrank Beslan, and I thought Beslan was, like, legitimately an alcoholic." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "It was insane, you guys," and they're like, "what are you doing?!" Elayne's like, "This is the worst -- I could feel drunk through our bond," and Birgitte's like, "Ah, well, we're just the only two women Warder-Aes Sedai, and bound -- weird shit is bound to happen."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, Nynaeve's like, "Thom, Juilin, get out." Thom and Juilin are like, "Fine, we'll go on with our fantasy chess somewhere else. So long." They leave. And then they're like, "Birgitte, what did -- what -- is Mat going to present himself tomorrow?" Because apparently Birgitte was supposed to ask Mat to show up in the morning.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like for a doctor's appointment. And Birgitte was like, "I don't know. He might. But it sounds to me like you guys should go to him." And they're like, "No." Birgitte -- Nynaeve's like, "Why would I ever need to speak to Mat in a polite way?" And Birgitte's like, "Well, it

sounds to me like he rescued you from the Stone of Tear. Um. He and Juilin. Which I would not have done for most people, so.”

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Birgitte’s like, “Not the Stone of Tear, bitch, absolutely not.”

Emily: No, the Stone of Tear is, like, an unbreakable fortress. Do you think Mat told her about the fireworks or he just was kind of, like, casually like, “Yeah, I broke into the Stone of Tear?”

Sally: I bet he was probably just like, “Yeah, we just, like, broke into the Stone of Tear.”

Emily: Just very nonchalant.

Sally: Yeah, because then Nynaeve goes on this rant, and she’s like, “There was only one Black Ajah, and, like, Bel’al wasn’t even interested,” and Birgitte’s like, “There was Black Ajah and a Forsaken there? Mat didn’t even mention that!”

Emily: Did Mat even know? Question mark? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Okay, that’s a good point.

Emily: But also, yeah, it was a very dangerous situation.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Birgitte’s like, “You guys are fucking insane.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “You -- he -- the way he told it, you guys just sort of gave him a backhanded ‘thank you’ and were like, ‘Goodbye.’”

Sally: Get -- yeah, “Get out.”

Emily: “Get fucked.” Didn’t even really thank him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Elayne’s like, “Well, I guess when you put it that way, that’s pretty bad,” and Aviendha’s like, “Yeah, Elayne, that sounds like shitty behavior. You should --”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “You should make that up with Mat.” And Elayne’s like, “Well, I don’t really care about Mat’s feelings, but I do care about yours, Aviendha, so if you think I should apologize to him, then I will.”

Sally: Yeah, which is, like, so obvious when she does apologize. Like, it is the fakest apology.

Emily: I know. She is --

Sally: Like, it is very obviously about Elayne.

Emily: Yeah. Pfft. And Nynaeve, the entire time, is just protesting that she's not going to apologize or thank Mat for anything. And it's just like, why? Why? I don't really understand this dynamic at all between them except that Robert Jordan thinks it's funny, which is -- seems to be the reason for a lot of things that happen in the Wheel of Time: Robert Jordan thinks it's funny.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's just like, humor is not universal.

Sally: I know, and it's so sad, because there are parts of Wheel of Time that are so funny. Like, Birgitte stumbling in and being like, "Mat must have a hole in his leg, because that boy --" (laugh)

Emily: "Drank so fucking much."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then we see Mat the next day, hungover as shit. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Like -- like, it's so good. It's so funny. Like, it's actually just, like, charming. And I feel like most people find, like, alcohol humor pretty funny, you know?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So, like -- and then we turn around and Robert Jordan's like, "Isn't it so funny that Nynaeve is such a raging bitch?"

Emily: (forced laugh)

Sally: "Alcohol humor" is such a weird phrase. But I hope you guys get what I'm trying to get at there.

Emily: No, yeah. No. I personally am not, like, a huge fan of slapstick hangover comedy --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, like, I can see the appeal. You know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The humorous appeal. But I -- I'm just frustrated because I feel like Robert Jordan has often put Mat in the position of saying, like, mean and disparaging things about Nynaeve and



Elayne, either to their faces or behind their backs, but he has also very carefully inserted many things about Mat's loyalty to them.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, Mat, hearing other people talk shit about Nynaeve, quickly jumps to her defense. And I feel like Nynaeve and Elayne would be able to get away a lot more with their behavior toward Mat if they had the same loyalty --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I am fine with, like, members of a fellowship, you know, bickering, being at each other's throats, as long as they are, like -- have the sibling relationship of, "No, you can't talk shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "He's mine to talk shit about."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's just, like, frustrating because we do not get that.

Sally: No, they just are, like, one hundred percent pure disdain.

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like, one-sided loyalty is not very fun --

Sally: No.

Emily: Relationship-wise.

Sally: And it's really just frustrating for Mat. I just want to be like, "You actually don't owe them any loyalty."

Emily: Yeah, I just want people who are willing to go to bat for each other.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know?

Sally: Yeah. But --

Emily: Anyway, those are those two chapters.

Sally: Another good -- another good, um, Mat chapter, opening in the middle of a murder --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Getting drunk with Birgitte. (laugh)

Emily: Fucking iconic. Um. Our next few chapters, uh, deal with Nynaeve and Elayne coming up against and meeting the Kin --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Or the Ebou Dari Wise Women, you know, the, um --

Sally: Knitting Circle.

Emily: The Knitting Circle, excuse me, I couldn't remember their fancy name. Uh, so we'll get, like, a very funny appearance by Mat when he's hungover as shit --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But mostly it will deal with that, which I'm sure will get a little frustrating, just by how much of it there is. But, uh, that's what's, uh, up on the docket. Um. Thanks for listening. Uh, thanks again to Cambria for guesting on the podcast last week. We had a great time, a very fun discussion. Good to have you. Um, thanks to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song, to our patrons on Patreon, and our followers on social media.

Sally: Um. Yes, thank you to everybody, we love you super duper very much.

Emily: Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: Uh. Yeah. Last night, uh, we were having, like, a lazy Sunday watching Sex Education season three, and Emily was like, "I need to FaceTime my family, 'cause we're having, like, a family FaceTime," and I was like, "Yeah, no big deal, I will continue editing, um, this writing project that I'm working on." So I, like, put my earphones in, and, like, every time the song would change, I would just get these snippets of dialogue, like, "I don't know where we're gonna find that many black umbrellas." (laugh) And, um -- and, "Sarah, you'll need to send out the dress code to everybody." And finally, Emily turns to me and is like, "If you and Elise want to come to Otis's funeral on Friday, you're invited." Otis being the family dog, who tragically passed away earlier this summer.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: So -- (laugh) not what I expected to hear at all.

Emily: I didn't realize the whole FaceTime call was going to be a funeral planning call --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: But that's what it was. My mom had, like, a list of assignments to dispense.

Sally: Oh my God. (laugh)

Emily: And, yeah, we're all hoping it will rain for the aesthetic.

Sally: It would be very good. Then you can look up at the rain like Roy Mustang.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Oh, no, wait, but it's not raining in that scene, never mind. He's crying.

Emily: Oh, well, yeah, but still.

Sally: Um. Yeah, so he will have a proper send-off.

Emily: Yeah, we're -- we talked for a long time about the logistics of a Viking funeral. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah -- oh, yeah, that was another thing. At one point, Emily was like, "Oh, they send them out on the water, and then they light them on fire," and I was like, "Why is she talking about Viking funerals?"

Emily: My mom didn't understand what a Viking funeral was. She thought we would just, like, send Otis across the pool, not on fire, and I was like, no, the fun of it is that you set them on fire.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Okay, anyway, I will give a full report on the dog's funeral --

Sally: I can't wait.

Emily: Next week.

Sally: I hope I get to come.

Emily: Yeah, me too. Okay, goodbye!

Sally: Bye!