



Episode 182: NO BONES?!

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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 Glynn MacKenzie plays)

Emily: Yeah, okay, this is Everybody Hates Rand. It's a friendly neighborhood Wheely Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: We're almost done with Crown of Swords.

Sally: I know. How does this happen?

Emily: We might, you know, do the next episode and then take a holiday hiatus.

Sally: Yeah. That sounds nice.

Emily: Come back in January.

Sally: Back in Januar.

Emily: Jan – Januar. The new year.

Sally: 2022.

Emily: 2022. That's a lot of twos.

Sally: ... Two, two, two ...

Emily: (laugh) What a stupid observation.

Sally: (laugh) I mean, it is a lot of twos. You're not wrong. Oh, hi, buddy.

Emily: Ahh! Hi, Pickle.

Sally: I did almost just say "Hi, Pickle," without even thinking about it.

Emily: We keep referring to my cat as Pickle because my deaf grandpa – he's not completely – my hard of hearing grandpa thought I said "Pickle" when I was telling him my – our cat was named "Tybalt."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. So we were like, "Hmm, that's a funny –"

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: "That's a hilarious name for a cat," and now his name actually might change to Pickle on accident.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Should we talk about that before we talk about Mat?

Sally: Yeah, we'll talk about Mat – or, no, yeah, we can talk about the magic boxes.

Emily: Okay, yeah, magic boxes. They're not actual magic boxes. They are little, like, pieces of – I don't know. I don't know if Sammael made them somehow –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If he commissioned them. Like, went to some – you know, he is in charge of Illian. Did he go to some blacksmith or whatever and be like, "I want you to make some sort of magic – vaguely magic-looking cubes."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they were like, “Oh – okay, High Lord.”

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Whatever the fuck your name is.

Sally: Oh, yeah, I don’t even remember what they call him in Illian. I’m sure we’ll find out in the next chapter.

Emily: I know it starts with a “B.” (mumbles) Okay.

Sally: High Lord Bitch.

Emily: (laugh) High – High Lord Bastard. Okay. So this – we’re skipping Mat’s chapter; we’ll come back to it. But this chapter, that is titled “Spears” because that’s always the chapter title when, um, Robert Jordan sort of amorphously wants to talk about the Aiel –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: As a general concept. Uh, but we are catching up with the Shaido and a few – we get a few points of view. Uh, we are finally getting to sort of the point, I guess, which is that Sammael is about to disperse them throughout the continent, although not to very great effect. He intentionally puts a lot of them right in the path of Rand’s armies, apparently as, like, a distraction?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is, I don’t know, silly, in my opinion, but I don’t really want to spend a lot of time talking about the tactics.

Sally: (laugh) Sammael’s military tactics.

Emily: Yeah, I mostly think that’s just sort of nonsense because, in a very real way, when Mat’s not on the page, we just don’t deal with it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Rand almost never is, like, sitting down, like, “I will deal with military tactics.” He either delegates that – he always delegates that. I guess he just – which is smart. He knows it’s not his strong suit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it’s not like we’re, like, with Rhuarc.

Sally: Yeah. It's not like we're –

Emily: Who's actually dealing with whatever happens here.

Sally: Yeah, even when we're in, like, Bashere's point of view, it's usually him, like, in the – in the middle of doing a military action.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's never really, like, the planning of it. Which is also, I think, a smart move on Robert Jordan's part. It's not actually that exciting –

Emily: No.

Sally: To watch people plan battles. Like, it's fun to get a few scenes of Mat here and there to be like, "Look at this military boy," but.

Emily: Yeah, but, like, imagine if we had to get a chapter where, like, Rhuarc is getting all the news of various places and had to be like, "Okay, well ..."

Sally: Yeah. Like –

Emily: "Do your things in those ... flanking maneuvers."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Whatever that –

Sally: Phalanx.

Emily: Phalanx. (laugh)

Sally: I know military stuff. I'm a genius.

Emily: Um, so we start out in Galina's point of view. Galina –

Sally: Jesus Christ.

Emily: Kindly, for us, summarizes everything she's ever been and done, which is just so nice of her. She's like –

Sally: "Here's my resume." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) It's a lot like that very bad fanfiction, you know, the girl who's like, *Ebony Dementia* –

Sally: Oh! (laugh)

Emily: Darkwing. “I have black hair and da da da da da, and this is what I like, and this is what I don’t like.” Galina is like, “I’m ninety years old and I’ve held this position and this position and I’m really evil.”

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: “And da da da da da.”

Sally: “I’ve tortured this person and this person.”

Emily: “Mostly I don’t like it, but I do get – I do personally derive pleasure from – I had a really good time taking down Siuan Sanche. Blah blah blah blah blah.”

Sally: Yeah, and you’re like –

Emily: “Here is the state of affairs: I’m miserable.” And it’s like, okay. Jesus.

Sally: A lot to take in all at once, but okay.

Emily: Yeah, it’s – okay, it’s – uh, another woman who’s miserable? Groundbreaking.

Sally: Wow. Truly. I was thinking about this, Robert Jordan’s just, kind of, like – we’re getting to the point in the series where I feel like most Aes Sedai are either, like, in captivity, fighting one another, bonded to Rand. Like, just, like, the various ways he’s made these really powerful women sort of caged in. Y’know?

Emily: Humiliated.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. Galina, um – pfft. We’re gonna have to deal with Galina for the next few books at least, um, since she is part of the Shaido sort of subplot. Um, which is frustrating. We’ve already covered all the reasons why it’s annoying to have to deal with yet another woman suffering, especially a – an evil or incompetent woman suffering because Robert Jordan thinks it’s kind of fun to humiliate or otherwise punish female characters for being bad.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, that’s just part of the thesis of this series, which really stinks, but that’s where – that’s what we have. Um. Galina is, I guess, the single Aes Sedai prisoner taken at Dumai’s Wells, which is – by the – by the Aiel, excuse me. By the Shaido.

Sally: By the Shaido, yeah.

Emily: Um, which is kind of surprising. You would think maybe they’d get a couple, but that’s who they have.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Uh, Galina – we kind of already know this – she’s in charge of the Red Ajah in the White Tower. Um, she’s also pretty high up in the Black Ajah. None of these things are actually relevant except for making her a powerful person who has been brought low.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But, like, we don’t really deal with things Galina has put in motion and, in her absence, things happen differently or anything like that.

Sally: Yeah. It’s not like Galina being gone is really changing –

Emily: Yeah, which is –

Sally: How the White Tower functions.

Emily: Sort of another facet of her humiliation and indignity.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know? She’s, like, comforting herself with the thought that she is such an important person that surely no one will just allow her to be captured and tormented and whatever. She’s like, “Well, Elaida won’t let things – bad things happen to me,” or “Alviarin won’t,” whatever, whatever. And it’s like, first of all, they would. Neither of them gives a shit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And second of all, they just don’t know that you’re –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Alive, even. Why would they?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It’s, um, you know, silly. And so it’s supposed to be sort of, like, an extended – we’re supposed to be laughing at Galina.

Sally: Yeah, like, how dare you think you’re so important.

Emily: Right. You’re just – at the end of the day, you’re just another woman who we get to step on.

Sally: Yeah, watch be stripped naked and beaten and humiliated.

Emily: Yeah. Galina – I think – was Galina the one who, in the last book, we made reference to her being a lesbian?

Sally: Uh, yeah, I think Galina is the one who is, like, most explicitly in the series referenced as having relationships with other women.

Emily: Yeah. Galina is Robert Jordan's notion of a lesbian, which is that she is also hugely a misandrist –

Sally: Yeah, absolute man-hating lesbian.

Emily: And that she is predatory in her sexuality.

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

Emily: I think that was what we specifically noted last book –

Sally: Yeah, I – I think so too.

Emily: Is that she was a creep about thinking about how women are attractive.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but yeah, she also does not like men, although hatred of men in this particular instance – sort of, the line is thin between that and being afraid of men.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She is – is, uh, very worried about them looking at her, seeing her, uh, naked and vulnerable in any way, which anyone would be, so it's a little bit –

Sally: I know, this scene is really funny; like, you can very much, I think, tell it was written by a man.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, usually I try to, like, remove gender from the author when I'm reading –

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: But it, sometimes, is literally impossible, like in this scene where Robert Jordan is like, "Galina is so angry that men are seeing her naked," and I'm like, that's not what's happening, bestie.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like – (laugh) Ahh! What are you saying? Like, I guess in Robert Jordan’s mind, women are just so delighted when men see them naked that she would just be like, “I’m so angry that I haven’t got to choose,” and it’s like, no, it’s – literally, my worst nightmare is being, like, in my underwear in a room full of men that I don’t know. Like, that’s a terrifying situation.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Ughhh.

Emily: And I’m sure we’ll have more – ample opportunities to talk about women being disrobed in front of men.

Sally: Yeah, we’ll get to the whole –

Emily: We’ll get to – we’ll relive this whole torturous scene with Faile and a bunch of other women.

Sally: Yeah, don’t worry. If you love this scene –

Emily: If this is – (laugh)

Sally: Get help, first of all. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, first of all, if this is awakening something in you –

Sally: Perhaps seek a therapist.

Emily: Time to go to therapy, bestie.

Sally: Um, but there’s more to come.

Emily: Babe. Babe. Go to therapy.

Sally: Babe. Babe. Help. Babe.

Emily: Uh, so Galina is – has been under Therava’s control. She hates Therava, obviously, why wouldn’t you? It’s – this is just all – it’s a bunch of terrible women being terrible to each other.

Sally: Yeah, it’s just, like, the worst sorority imaginable.

Emily: (laugh) The sorority from hell. That’s all of them, actually, I don’t know –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. Galina’s taken – the – we are with Galina as her little branch of the Shaido is – reunites with the main body of them –

Sally: Yeah.



Emily: Which is headed up by Sevanna. Uh, she's taken in front of the other Wise Ones, who – Sevanna's like, "Well, you guys have murdered Wise Ones," referencing this fake murder that the Wise – that the "Aes Sedai" did –

Sally: The Wise Ones themselves did.

Emily: And Galina's like, "You mean in battle? Where we all killed each other?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, it's an honest misunderstanding. I mean, that's dumb. It doesn't matter.

Sally: The whole thing is just, like, so constructed for – for Sevanna to just be like, "I'm doing whatever I want with you."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: 'Cause Galina's just like, "What?"

Emily: Yeah, she's like, "Hello? What are we even talking about?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But, uh, Sevanna's sort of nefarious plan, as we are later told, is because she can't channel, she wants to have Galina totally under her control to do channeling for her.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is sort of the idea, and of course, she is also a person who would be excited by the idea of having someone who is or was very powerful so debased –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because of her. Uh, but Galina is made da'tsang, whatever – I can't remember what that means, but it's basically, like, the Aiel form of – you're not gai'shain, because there is dignity and purpose in being gai'shain; if you are da'tsang, then you're just being punished.

Sally: Yeah, like, you're – her whole thing is she has to do, like, useless labor because it's humiliating.

Emily: She has to do menial labor, and we're supposed to be sort of like, "Oh, haha, the Aiel think it is humiliating because it is useless labor." Um, and Galina is less worried about the humiliation of it and is just – the physical labor of it is too much for her.

Sally: Yeah, she's basically being put in, like, a labor camp.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: Which, as we all know, is horrendous.

Emily: Deeply dehumanizing –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, uh, very physically – there's a huge physical toll.

Sally: Yeah, it's physically unsustainable.

Emily: Right.

Sally: Ahh!

Emily: Except for, apparently, among the Aiel, where no one is ever sick or disabled or wounded or anything like that.

Sally: No, the Aiel have perfect bodies because they are just war machines and therefore they cannot be sick or wounded or disabled –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Or weak.

Emily: It's a really interesting way, actually, of – not interesting in a good way; interesting in a bad way – of also dehumanizing –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: An entire group of people.

Sally: Yeah, absolutely. Like, you're so superhuman.

Emily: Yeah, the Aiel are not ever vulnerable in that way –

Sally: The way –

Emily: The way normal people are. It makes us – it makes them easier to sort of categorize, view as an enemy force, because we're never humanizing them.

Sally: Yeah, and I can't remember if I mentioned this in my blog or on the podcast, but I feel like it's very akin to the type of medical racism that says that Black people do not feel pain.

Emily: Ah, yes.

Sally: That, um, arose during, um, slavery and the antebellum era in the American South, being like, "This is why we can use them for such extensive labor, like, they do not feel pain the way that white people do."

Emily: And which persists today in –

Sally: Yeah, absolutely.

Emily: The medical, uh, system.

Sally: People – the doctors – like, it's been proven by, like, studies that doctors don't think their Black patients experience pain the same way their white patients do. So. Just kind of an interesting, uh, little bit of –

Emily: Racism.

Sally: Racism creeping in there. Interesting in a bad way. We keep using the word “interesting,” but. (laugh)

Emily: Interesting in, “Oh, here's something I hadn't spotted before, but here it is.”

Sally: “Here it is.”

Emily: “It's also bad.”

Sally: “Everything's shitty.”

Emily: Um, so then Sammael – (laugh)

Sally: So then – so then. (laugh)

Emily: So then Sammael – it's just, like, a comedy of errors. Sevanna and the other Wise Ones are standing around, like, talking about their nefarious plans, when Sammael teleports like five feet behind them and is like –

Sally: “Ya-ho!”

Emily: “Ya-ho!” No, he's like, “Ho, ho, ho,” ‘cause he and Graendal are both carrying giant sacks, like Santa. (laugh)

Sally: Merry Christmas! (laugh)

Emily: And they're like, “Hello? What the fuck?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, “Yeah, I'm ready to go.” He also gives Sevanna an Oath Rod –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is like, “Oh, I acquired this yesterday.” We’re, you know, catching up a little to the idea that those were Sammael’s people who were, um, coming to the house where the Bowl of the Winds was –

Sally: Mm.

Emily: At the same time. Sammael’s gholam, presumably, Sammael’s thugs. Um, and they were able to make away with some things, so. Sammael probably didn’t get as much stuff as he wanted, but he did get some stuff.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That’s been kind of an ongoing – whenever we’re catching up with the bad guys, that’s been a subplot. So he hands Sevanna an Oath Rod and is like, “You could do terrible things with this,” and she’s just like, “I am but a simple idiot because Robert Jordan is a racist. I’m an idiot who doesn’t understand, quote unquote, technology –”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Actual magic, and so I will never utilize this to the full extent to which it could be utilized.” I think they, like, put Galina under an oath or something –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Later. But truly, they could do really horrifying things with this. It only works on women who can channel, but buddy –

Sally: That’s still quite an important subset of people in these books.

Emily: Yeah. Uh, Sammael’s like, “Okay, are you all ready? ‘Cause I’ve got these little magic cubes. Here’s how they work: They’ll just kind of stop working eventually. They have, like, a charge. You just set them up and then you can’t use them again for three days. And I’m just gonna send you places,” like the plan was. And Sevanna’s like, “Great, yeah, let’s do it.” Uh, we bounce – oh, he says, “Only men can use them, because a woman – a woman who can channel will turn them off.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And frankly, sa’angreal and angreal and ter’angreal are all so fucking weird that these magic cubes don’t sound that far-fetched.

Sally: No.

Emily: Except for the sheer amount of them. It is just simply unlikely that Sammael would get a hold of a bunch of these all at once.

Sally: Yeah, like, we have barely – I don't think we've really ever seen, like, two ter'angreal that do, like, the exact same thing and look the exact same way.

Emily: Yeah, this is the second Oath Rod we –

Sally: That's a good point.

Emily: Know of, but we also kind of get a little bit more lore about the Oath Rod specifically and find out what is going on there –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: For there to be multiple ones.

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

Emily: Um, it's –

Sally: But, like, there's no way for Sevanna to know enough about ter'angreal, sa'angreal, whatever, because the Aiel are so disconnected from any type of magic. Um, so that's why that makes them so easy for Sammael to take advantage of in this situation.

Emily: Yeah, they're easy targets. Um, and we, the readers, are kind of like, "Uh, something's up here."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We don't quite know what's going on yet, but, uh, then we go over to some guy named Maeric as he and his clan or whatever are jumping through the gateway, quote unquote, produced by the ter'angreal, the box. Um, he goes through with his wife, and a bunch of other people get in, uh, before it just stops working.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The gateway snaps shut, killing a bunch of people in the process. Maeric and his wife are shocked because, like, they have kids – not young kids, adult children – on the other side of the gateway, and now they're separated from them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but kind of before they can even process this – that – all their scouts come back and are like, "Hey, uh, there are armies literally surrounding us."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "So we're about to be in the middle of a big battle." And Maeric sort of prepares for that and is obviously thinking he's going to go to his death; he tells his wife to get ready to become a

gai'shain, which is generally what happens to non-combatants who are taken prisoner amongst the Aiel. Um, and he gives the cube to a man who is a non-combatant, uh, a blacksmith, and is like, "Keep pressing the cube to try and get the gateway open again for the next three days," which is sort of a tragic, human –

Sally: I know.

Emily: Little anecdote of a family separated.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, it's a little – it's more thoughtful than Robert Jordan usually is with his faceless hordes.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It is sort of a reminder that although the Shaido have been the bad guy entity, amongst the Shaido, there are families; there are people who are just doing what their leaders tell them to do –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who are also being taken advantage of and, in this case, pretty much murdered by Sammael en masse.

Sally: Yeah, absolutely. Um. And I think it's – it – yeah, also gives – like, it's more humanizing to the victims of, particularly, the Forsaken than we ever really get.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: They're just kind of like, the Forsaken are out here doing torture and murder, and we're just supposed to kind of, like, take that as par for the course. And this is a really unique little moment to be like, mm, yeah, there are really good people caught in the middle of all this who are dying and suffering, and it's really sad.

Emily: Yeah, RIP to Maeric.

Sally: Yeah, he seemed like a real one.

Emily: We then bounce over to Graendal, after all the Shaido are gone. Um, and she turns to Sammael and is basically like, "Are – why – you're –"

Sally: "Why?" (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: "Why would you – I can't believe you've done this."

Emily: “I can’t believe you’ve done this.” I don’t even think she says this outright, but their conversation – she’s just like, “Why would you do this?” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, she’s like, “I cannot see any benefit to this at all.”

Emily: And he’s like, “Uh, to distract Rand,” but mostly he’s like, “For the chaos.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And we catch up with Shaidar Haran, the sentient Myrddraal – I mean, I’m sure they’re all sentient, but –

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Shaidar Haran’s the only one who’s –

Sally: The narrating Myrddraal.

Emily: Yeah, the narrating Myrddraal, who’s, of course, watching them, much in the same way that Moridin was watching them last time. And he basically is like, “Yeah, as long as Sammael’s doing this for chaos, to sow chaos, then the – then the Dark One doesn’t care, really, what happens.” And I was thinking about that because sowing chaos – like, the creation of chaos is such a smart plot device for an author while being absolutely unsatisfying for the readers.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Robert Jordan can do whatever the fuck he wants with his villains and be like, “It’s for the chaos. That’s literally their mission statement, is they’re supposed to create chaos.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He can set up the Shaido being on the other end of the world to kidnap Faile, ‘cause that’s where he needs them to be –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Without having to do any of the actual legwork of giving them a conceivable reason to be there.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that’s great for Robert Jordan, but for us, as readers, we’re like, “For chaos? Really?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There’s zero payoff there.

Sally: Yeah, it's just, like, such a bizarre thing to do. (laugh) Like, whenever I think about, like, the weirdest plot points in Wheel of Time, this feels like number one.

Emily: Yeah. That the Shaido – the Shaido – apparently, a bunch of them get killed here?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We keep saying this. A bunch of the Shaido apparently get killed; there are still nine million of them –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just sort of milling about.

Sally: Yeah. It's just, like, this really, like, crunchy-in-a-bad-way plot point. It's, like, hard to digest.

Emily: Yeah, you're like, what? (laugh) Again –

Sally: What is going on?

Emily: Just why?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Sammael's like, "Just –" It's basically like he's just saying, "For the LOLz."

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "Yeah, just – sometimes you just gotta spark some joy for yourself."

Emily: And I'm like, okay, yeah, that's a human reason to do something, but it's like me watching Naruto for four hours –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Not me separating and – (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) It's –

Emily: Not me just transplanting an entire group of people from one end of the continent to the other.

Sally: Yeah. Ha, ha, ha! (laugh)

Emily: He can't – he won't even live to laugh about it. This bitch has –

Sally: That's true.

Emily: I think, less than 24 hours to live.



Sally: On the – somewhere in Cairhien, Rand al'Thor is rising from his coffin. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Sniffing the air and saying, “Time to kill Sammael.”

Emily: “Oh, hello. Sammael just did something chaotic? Time to die.”

Sally: “Sammael had a moment of joy?”

Emily: (laugh) Sammael’s joy makes – sparks the murderous rage in Rand. By the way, Galina did tell us that it has been – or, through Galina’s narration, we are told that it has been nine days since the, uh, battle of – it’s been nine days since Dumai’s Wells, and I dunno how much time will pass between now and when Rand wakes up, but presumably not long, so.

Sally: Yeah, so.

Emily: This is the ten-day book.

Sally: How to lose a guy in ten days. The guy is me.

Emily: The guy is Mat. (laugh) He’s lost now, under a building.

Sally: That's true. RIP.

Emily: How to lose a guy in ten days – (laugh) We lost a lot of guys in ten days.

Sally: You’re right. Nalesean.

Emily: (simultaneously) Nalesean.

Sally: How to lose Nalesean in ten days.

Emily: We lost Olver. I don’t really care about that –

Sally: You can keep Olver. (laugh)

Emily: But I do think it’s pretty funny that the only reasonable reason Robert Jordan could think of for Mat to stay in, um –

Sally: Ebou Dar.

Emily: Was child endangerment. (laugh)

Sally: I know. He’s like, “Kill the kid.”

Emily: He was just like, “The only thing Mat cares about is child welfare, I guess.” Okay.

Sally: Um –

Emily: Mat.

Sally: Mat. Oh, Mat.

Emily: Oh, Mat.

Sally: When will he rest?

Emily: Not for the next few books, I guess. So, uh, we, you know, did this out of order, but we pick up with Mat facing a large group of women back in the Tarasin Palace. We're told it's been a few hours since, uh, the events of the morning, when they recovered the Bowl of the Winds. Mat tells us that he's still in his grimy-ass clothes; he's probably covered in blood and mud –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Looking disgusting, smelling disgusting. He's like, "Somehow they all got fucking freshened up."

Sally: No, they all bathed. What's happening?

Emily: He's like – (indecipherable muttering) Elayne and Nynaeve are there, obviously; also Tylin. Also all of the usual Aes Sedai. Many of the Wise Ones are there, except for a few who are guarding the Black sister, Ipsan, as you noted.

Sally: Yeah. These Wise Ones are from the Kin, though. These –

Emily: Sorry, excuse me.

Sally: No, it's confusing, 'cause they call them Wise Women.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: Like, Ebou Dar calls them the Wise Women.

Emily: Robert Jordan, stop talking about wise ... stuff. Wisdom –

Sally: So it's, like, – no, it's very confusing.

Emily: Wise Ones –

Sally: I would be reading these chapters, and I'm like, "Why is there a Wise One? Oh my God."

Emily: The Kin. The Kin. That's who I'm talking about.

Sally: The Kin. And also a bunch of Sea Folk women.

Emily: A contingent of Sea Folk women, which, uh, Mat tells us, that grouping is a little bit confusing, because he knows a fair amount about the Sea Folk, thanks to his old memories –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, "This is sort of a weird group of women." There's, like, you know, some deckhands here –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who aren't really – don't really have –

Sally: Not usually part of the negotiation team.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So Mat's in a room with, like, thirty-five women, it feels like,

Emily: And he is in the middle of saying, "We have to leave because what we just saw was a killing machine specifically designed to kill channelers."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Channeling women, in this case. And everyone's like, "Well, but we've never heard of gholam."

Sally: Therefore, you're lying.

Emily: And Mat's like – Mat's like, "Umm, well, let me give you a little history lesson, then," verbatim, that he got from Birgitte ten minutes ago.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they're like, "Where'd you hear this?" and he says something about, like, he will NOT give up Birgitte as a source of information –

Sally: I know.

Emily: It's very sweet.

Sally: Journalistic integrity.

Emily: He's like, "Um, I read it in a book?" and everyone's like, "What – pfft."

Sally: Everyone's like, "LIAR. You can't read."

Emily: "You've never read a book." He's like, "Ugh." Uh, but he tells us that six gholam were created: three men-shaped, three women-shaped, more or less.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um, some fun facts about the gholam: you can't touch them, do anything to them with the Power. They are sort of human versions of Mat's foxhead medallion in that way. Uh, they're supernaturally strong, and they have no bones.

Sally: (simultaneously) No bones! They have no bones!

Emily: They have no bones, Mat tells us. I don't know how that can literally be true.

Sally: Yeah, they're just these, like, plasma-type blobs –

Emily: Yeah, how do they –

Sally: But somehow they're walking upright on two legs.

Emily: Do they just – is it just sheer willpower that keeps them upright? I don't – they don't obey the laws of physics.

Sally: It's all the blood they consume. (laugh)

Emily: You're right.

Sally: But they have no bones.

Emily: No bones!

Sally: No bones.

Emily: No bones about it. (laugh)

Sally: Heh, heh heh. No bones about this gholam.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And everyone is like, "Mat, you're obviously a lying piece of shit. Why would we listen to you when you're trying to save our lives?"

Emily: And Mat –

Sally: So, the usual fare.

Emily: Yeah. Mat, the whole time, is like, "There's something very weird about this situation. Why am I the one arguing?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Why is this happening? Elayne and Nynaeve haven't said shit –"

Sally: Yeah, they're just, like, not talking.

Emily: “Which is weird, ‘cause usually they can’t shut up.”

Sally: Yep, that’s true.

Emily: Um, “The Aes Sedai are being kind of weird. The Kin aren’t saying anything at all, which isn’t too weird, because they’re, um, usually pretty, like, subservient in the presence of Aes Sedai, but also, they have, in the last few hours, gained a lot of respect for me, and so it is weird that they would sort of leave me hanging in this way.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “And also, I’m the only man in the room. Like, where is – how – why am I still here?”

Sally: Yeah, where’s Thom and Juilin? What –

Emily: “Why am I representing, like, the only logical, rational –”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “Choice?”

Sally: Oh, Birgitte and Aviendha are also here.

Emily: Birgitte and Aviendha are just sort of, like, hanging on in the background.

Sally: I just need to add to the sheer number of people in the room.

Emily: Yeah, this is a packed room. And Mat is just, like, “Yeah, here’s the gholam; they’re very scary. Can we leave now?”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He’s basically like, “I don’t know what this guy was doing there, except maybe he wants – maybe he’s been sent by someone who also wants the Bowl of the Winds.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is a, like, a fair guess, you know? They have no way of knowing that the Forsaken have been hunting down this random cache of angreal, ter’angreal. As far as we know, Sammael doesn’t give a shit about the Bowl of the Winds specifically –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but you know, Mat is like, “For all I know, they want the same MacGuffin that we want.”

Sally: Yeah, no, they're all very logical, um, guesses. They're very educated guesses about what could be happening, basically all pointing to, like, it's just safer if we leave Ebou Dar.

Emily: Yeah. And this isn't emphasized enough, but this would be a hard sell for the Sea Folk.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Sea Folk are not people who typically just, like, travel on land.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They spend their entire lives on ships.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But we don't really talk about that, because Mat is so, like, caught up in the weirdness of the situation, and also Robert Jordan just doesn't sort of tell us, "Here's a couple of real reasons why these people might be resistant to this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's not like Mat is like, "Okay, well, I see why the Sea Folk might not want to do this."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, we're not really getting their actual arguments; you know, we're just sort of getting nonsense arguments.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that's a little frustrating. But eventually Mat sort of, uh – enough of his little logical brain workings come together and he makes a couple of accurate guesses, and also his temper snaps.

Sally: Yeah. Mat loses it. Which, I mean, his – one of his best friends was murdered this morning because Nynayne and Elaeve – Ny ... Nynaeve and Elayne. (laugh) Sorry, my brain was like, "They don't have names."

Emily: (incoherent mumbling)

Sally: Nynaeve and Elayne are stupid. He's covered in blood, probably Nalesean's blood.

Emily: His, um, abuser is in the room.

Sally: His abuser is in the room.

Emily: He is fighting for his right to leave his abuser –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Alongside everyone else's safety.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: No, as a character in this situation, Mat is perfectly justified.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's a little frustrating because he is being used as yet another mechanism for Robert Jordan to have men be bullies –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: or, um, otherwise humiliating to women.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: What is also nice about this is that we get to see someone weaponize their ta'veren-ness.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, which we had Rand doing a bit earlier in this book, and Mat is – I think – the one who most consciously does it –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: With his luck powers, because, you know, that's such a visible thing that happens. But, um, probably the one thing I would actually change about this scene is just have Nynaeve and Elayne tell him, "We want you to spearhead this because you're ta'veren."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "We're hoping it will –"

Sally: Like, there's no reason for them not to tell him, except for them to be manipulative, shitty pieces of shit.

Emily: And they're, like, embarrassed about making a bad bargain with the Sea Folk.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But whatever. Um, yeah, the idea also is that the Sea Folk don't really have any justifiable reasons; they're just drawing this out because they want to extract more from the bargain that they made with the Aes Sedai.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So yet another group of women being bad. Um. Naughty. Just naughty women everywhere. Shut up, Robert.

Sally: Yeah. Can it. We've had – I've had enough of this dude. (laugh)

Emily: I've had enough of this guy. (laugh)

Sally: It's Robert Jordan.

Emily: Um, so Mat – I'm gonna get that meme and cut it out, just put it right over his little face – (laugh, incoherent mumbling)

Sally: (laugh) "I've had enough of this guy."

Emily: "I've had enough of this dude." Um, so Mat finally turns to the Sea Folk and is like, okay, target locked.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Advances, and is like, "Okay, you're all here because you're women who can channel. That doesn't mean shit to me. I've got my magic necklace." (laugh) "You don't scare me."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: And he just has this really funny exchange where –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, like, a woman – the – Renaile, I think is her name – is like, "You can't boss me around," and, like, "How dare you speak to me that way," gets up with a knife, and he just grabs it. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Is like, "Sit back down."

Sally: Yeah. He's throwing a bunch of insults – Sea Folk-specific insults –

Emily: Sea Folk-specific insults!

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Everyone else in the room must be like, "What the –"

Sally: "What is he saying?"

Emily: Birgitte, probably, in the background like, "WHOO!"



Sally: “Go, bestie, go!”

Emily: “Go with those archaic insults! We love to hear it!”

Sally: (laugh) Ugh. It’s a very funny scene.

Emily: If I were Birgitte, I’d be reconsidering my stance about ugly men, because –

Sally: Yeah, I’d be like, that man is sexy.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And just, like, ugly enough. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, just – eh.

Sally: Which, as we all know, makes men hotter, actually, when they’re just a little bit ugly.

Emily: Yeah, perfect-looking men are upsetting.

Sally: Who wants that?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I mean, usually – (incoherent)

Emily: What – what do I need with a Ken doll? Come on.

Sally: (wheeze)

Emily: I want some personality in the face region.

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: Um, so finally Mat is like, “Here’s our – I don’t care what bargains you’ve made in the past. Our bargain is that you’re gonna do what I say, and in exchange, I won’t kick you.” (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. “I won’t kick your ass.”

Emily: And she’s like, “Fine!” And he’s like, “Great.” Seals the bargain, and then she’s like, “Alright, well, it appears I’ve just made a bargain with ta’veren.”

Sally: And he’s like –

Emily: Which is a word that gets thrown around a lot more than you would expect based on how – how seemingly nouveau it is in the first couple books.

Sally: I know, everyone seems to know immediately that they’re ta’veren and what that means.

Emily: Yeah, whatever.

Sally: Um, but yeah, Mat just has some, like, real bangers, when he's like, "You can consider me the Master of Blades, and my blades are bare."

Emily: And I'm like, "What the hell does that mean?!" What are – he doesn't know. He's like, I've heard it in some –

Sally: He's – but everyone is like, "Ohhh."

Emily: "Ahhh!"

Sally: The Sea Folk are all like, "Oh my gosh."

Emily: Yeah, I wish in Mat's points of view, we'd had more, like, reaction shots –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: From the other Sea Folk.

Sally: One woman faints. (laugh)

Emily: (makes swooning woman noise, laugh)

Sally: Like in the scene where Egg gets war powers from the Tower, and a woman just faints straight away.

Emily: (laugh) I love that scene. Another woman vomits.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: So good.

Sally: Ahh!

Emily: Uh, so Mat manipulates – doesn't even manipulate – gets this out of them, and the whole group disperses to get ready to go. Uh, Mat gets assaulted by Tylin one last time –

Sally: We wish it was one last time.

Emily: Yeah, what he believes is one last time, and then he's like, "Thank fuck I'm getting out of here." Kind of out in the hallway, he meets up with Thom and Juilin, who are like, "Uh, we can't find –" Or, no, they don't tell him that they can't find Olver, they're just, like –

Sally: Yeah, they go to get Olver, and Olver's shitty babysitter is like, "Uh, why would I have your kid?"

Emily: Yeah, Olver has this shitty babysitter, who's like, "Who? He did his reading and now he's gone. I dunno, he's running with the street urchins."

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, "I set him loose with a bunch of feral children."

Emily: Yeah, "The Artful Dodger came and picked him up from daycare –"

Sally: "It's good –" (laugh) "It's good for him to run with the street urchins."

Emily: And Mat's like, "What?!"

Sally: (laugh) The Artful Dodger came and picked him up for daycare.

Emily: That's just what's happening.

Sally: His daycare is run by an eight-year-old.

Emily: Yeah, that's – so Mat's like, "Uh, okay," runs and tells Nynaeve and Elayne, "Okay, look, I can't leave 'cause Olver's just –" This actually doesn't make a lot of sense to me. Olver is, um, missing, and says he'll be back by sundown. Uh, Mat and his people, uh, went out to the Rahad in the morning, were there for a couple hours, at least, traveling included –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Came back, and it's been another few hours. So at the – at the, um, earliest, it is noon. Could be a little past noon. So – I know the Seanchan invasion is about to happen, but if I were a reasonable person who didn't know the Seanchan invasion was about to happen, I frankly would risk the six hours where the gholam might hunt me down in the well-guarded palace –

Sally: Yeah, to just stay there.

Emily: To be just like, "Okay, well, we gotta wait for one more person." Or just be like, "Okay, open a gateway, get started. It's gonna take a while."

Sally: Yeah, like, "You guys go, but I'll wait here for Olver – Olver."

Emily: Yeah, and then we'll just –

Sally: "And then you can open a gateway back and come fucking get me."

Emily: It's – yeah, there's no – instead, what they decide on is – first, everyone's like, "Oh, well, let's just all go out and search," which I feel like Robert Jordan only threw in there to be like, "Oh, look, they're not awful people."

Sally: These – yeah.

Emily: Uh, well, they are. But everyone's like, "Okay, well, we can't just, like, ditch Olver." Um, which they do ditch Mat later, so then they do ditch Olver later to the Seanchan invasion.

Sally: Yeah, they're like, "Well, sometimes you lose a child to the Seanchan invasion."

Emily: Not to mention the millions of actual other children in the city.

Sally: Yeah, also – yeah, all the other people living in Ebou Dar. The Artful Dodger himself.

Emily: The Artful Dodger got taken by the Seanchan. (laugh)

Sally: The Artful Dodger is organizing the resistance. Viva la resistance. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Viva la resistance. Ah, that's the story I want in Path of Daggers.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. This eight-year-old.

Emily: Uh, for some reason, what they settle on is Mat, Thom, Juilin, and the rest of his guys –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Who are under his command are gonna go out looking for Olver in the city, try and get him pretty quickly. Uh, but Egwene and – excuse me, Elayne and Nynaeve and everyone else are not going to wait; they're just going to go.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, their plan, by the way, is to go to the Kin's farm out in the suburbs.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and Mat is basically just like, "I'll catch up."

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Uh, I guess on foot. They're like, "Tylin has directions to the farm, so you can come back and get them from her."

Sally: Why don't they just give Mat the fucking directions?

Emily: I don't know. I don't – I wish they'd just had, like, Google print-out.

Sally: Mapquest.

Emily: Yeah, Mapquest it, bitch. Whatever. Um, Mat is like, "Okay, great." Uh, before he leaves, he sort of hands over his responsibilities to take care of Elayne and Nynaeve to Birgitte and Lan.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Alright. Keep them safe." And they're like – Aviendha's like, "We will."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) He wasn't even looking at her, and he's just, like, "Oh – okay."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um. He then leaves, uh, after Nynaeve is like, "Remember, a storm is coming," and he's like, "Okay. Hooty hoo."

Sally: "Okay, thanks, Mom."

Emily: "Whatever that means." Um. We get a very weird line here, where he says, oh, it'll rain again when they use the Bowl of the Winds. "It seemed years since rain last fell. Something tugged at his thoughts, something about the weather and Elayne, which made no sense, but he shrugged it off." I looked it up on Wiki, could find no explanation for that. I figure maybe it was supposed to be something to do with the holes in his memories, but –

Sally: Mm.

Emily: Can't figure it out. So if any one of you knows, I'm throwing it out there. Um.

Sally: What a weird thing to say.

Emily: I know. I was just like, what? Is that a callback to something that happened in this book?

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: 'Cause I couldn't figure it out.

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: Uh, but he goes and gets his men, gives them instructions. He has a little, uh, epiphany; he sort of ends this book on a high note, where he's like, "You know what? Maybe being ta'veren isn't that bad." 'Cause, you know – I dunno.

Sally: It is a really – like, as much as I hate that he stays in Ebou Dar, period, especially for Olver, who feels like a really frustrating plot device just sort of foisted upon Mat – I've talked about that at length, though – there's this very cute little scene where he's like, "Look at all these men gathered here, who are, like –" It's like –

Emily: Who are very different.

Sally: Very different. Here's Thom, who's been, like, basically the king of Andor –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And then here's Vanin, who was a horse thief, and just, like, all these men.

Emily: But he and Juilin both have so much, like, pride, and yet they're taking orders from me, a twenty-two year old, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's basically – it's just sort of a moment of introspection that is surprising for Mat, first of all –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As a character, but also just surprising generally, 'cause it's the sort of thing we get, tinged with humiliation, from Perrin –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, he's just, like, so ashamed to be in charge, and Rand, at this point, kinda just thinks it's nonsensical –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just like, "Whatever. I don't understand it, and I'm just – I have to take advantage of it."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But Mat – this is the only moment of actual, like, adult growth, it seems like –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a mature way. Where Mat is just like, "Wow, they're taking instructions from me." And he's not just like, "I'm the worst person to be giving instructions." Mat has a lot of confidence. He knows that he's a smart guy –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He knows that he's not giving bad instructions.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And mostly he's just like, "This is really neat."

Sally: Yeah, no, it's really fun, in this moment, to have a character that, like, takes pride in being responsible for other people.

Emily: Yeah, he's like, "I'm – I don't like being responsible for people –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "It is not something that I enjoy –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "But I am able to do it, and, you know, if this is – if I'm able to competently lead people and it gets the job done, then great."

Sally: Yeah. And it's just, like, so sweet, because he's got just, like, such a – a good attitude, and he's just proved over and over again to all these men in front of him that he knows what he's doing, that they're all just like, "Yeah."

Emily: Yeah. I love him.

Sally: "I would do anything for you, Mat Cauthon."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's just such – yeah, it's just a very good leadership moment in a book full of really – in a series full of bad leadership moments, which we've also talked about at length.

Emily: Yeah, he's a sweetie.

Sally: He's a cutie. But then he goes into Ebou Dar, talking to people selling sweets and hot women, because apparently the only, uh, personality traits a child – a male child – is allowed to have is candy and titties.

Emily: Candy and horny. He's ten, what the fuck. Um –

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. Which, is like, it's obviously fine to have a, like, a growing sexuality, but also, like, maybe don't make this ten-year-old into some sort of, like, lecher. What's happening?

Emily: Yeah. Uh – yeah, I don't want to cast aspersions – whatever.

Sally: Um, but –

Emily: Throughout, we're getting little hints of the Seanchan coming.

Sally: Yeah, Mat keeps hearing weird things from people about, "Oh, there was a battle over here," and "Something was happening over there –"

Emily: "There's a riot."

Sally: "And there was a riot," and things are blowing up, and –

Emily: And Mat –

Sally: And what sounds like thunder but is cannons, we can assume.

Emily: Yeah. Mat is just, like, sort of dismissing everything at first.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's such – it is a really good scene –

Sally: It is a really good scene.

Emily: Because we, the readers, are so clued in already –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To what's happening. And I was kind of thinking about how last time – a few weeks ago – we talked about how we wished we didn't have to deal with the Whitecloak invasion of Amadicia –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Through anyone's – we wish we'd just gone straight from Pedron Niall getting rumors of the – of the Seanchan in Tarabon to this, right?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We basically said that. So I was, like, trying to figure out, okay, would that still work –

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And I think it would. It is just so, like – or even if, you know, we just – he was able to sprinkle in more rumors about the Seanchan going further.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But you can tell, as a reader, something's actually happening.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Something is going on. So you just get this, like, perfect moment of tension as Mat walks out to – on the docks – to look out –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He – first – it's so good. He hears these loud, explosive noises, and he looks out on the docks, and everyone on the ships has stopped –



Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is looking toward the noise. And I think this might be so good because we are a nation that has dealt with – not a nation; excuse me – we are a world that has dealt with this sort of emergency – we sort of have a shorthand for this type of thing –

Sally: Mm.

Emily: It's not necessarily armies invading, uh, but we know what happens – we know what happens when things get attacked: buildings fall.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, or when there is violence somewhere close by –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That doesn't necessarily involve us immediately, but we are able to see it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Even if it's on our phones.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so we have this great moment of Mat walking out to the end of the docks and looking out and seeing these ships in some sort of battle and, like, that moment of recognition with the ships.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, "What the fuck? The Sea – the Seanchan?"

Sally: "The Seanchan?"

Emily: And everyone's like, "What the fuck are you talking about? It's the Aes Sedai."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "The Aes Sedai are coming for us." And Mat just is like, "Holy shit."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And kind of is – starts frantically, now, looking for Olver.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Running around. And eventually he, like, runs and, uh, kind of comes to this street where the Seanchan are just, like, marching past, so there's, like, a land invasion –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To match the – uh, the naval invasion, on their, like, weird animals. He sees their sort of scouts flying up above. Um, and he actually sees – at one point, he's in an alley, and he sees a sul'dam blow something up, and he sees the building across from him, like, the facade crumble.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is also great, because it gives us another shorthand of what's about to happen to Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As he tells us specifically that he is staying close to buildings to be in the shadows. And then, you know, Robert Jordan is always great at writing explosions. I dunno why; it's a gift of his.

Sally: Yeah, he does have some talents.

Emily: Um, but Mat is running, has not found Olver, and is an explosion and looks up and a building is –

Sally: (whisper) Falling.

Emily: Falling on his head, and the dice stop.

Sally: Yeah. Which is, like, if you're reading the series for the first time –

Emily: You're like, "Mat just died."

Sally: And then Mat doesn't appear in Path of Daggers, you're like, "They killed Mat."

Emily: "What the fuck?"

Sally: They didn't. Thank God.

Emily: They didn't; Mat's alive.

Sally: Otherwise I truly would have stopped reading.

Emily: He got pretty – pretty banged up, though.

Sally: Yeah, he breaks his leg. Um, and it's really sad in Winter's Heart, because he's still recovering, and everyone is like, "Could you speed up?" basically.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah.

Sally: Walks with a – with a –

Emily: Walking stick.

Sally: Walking stick. I almost called it a crutch, but it isn't exactly a crutch; it's just a staff. Like a big cane.

Emily: Okay, that was a long-winded, uh, discussion of those two chapters.

Sally: Well, you can just lop off –

Emily: I will.

Sally: The first fifteen minutes of us talking –

Emily: I sure will.

Sally: Nonsense and throw that in the internet garbage can.

Emily: Um, we'll pick up next week with the end of Crown of Swords. But hey, thanks for listening; thanks to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song –

Sally: Absolutely.

Emily: To our patrons on Patreon, um, and our followers on social media. We referenced this last week, but here it is again: if you're looking for a podcast that will talk about, uh, the Wheel of Time show, which is currently, uh, being released, as we're recording this, um, then go check out Never Mind the Trollocs –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You can find them probably by looking through our Twitter if nothing else.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Uh, but you can just also search that on any social media of your choice and locate them.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Um, that's it from me. Do you have anything?

Sally: Um, yeah, this is a circle back to a couple weeks ago when I said we were going to be doing a special promotion on our Patreon, where if you joined at any level, I would send you a sticker. Um, that is still happening. Like, I haven't set up the official promotion, um, first because I wanted to make sure everyone who is currently a patron was able to get stickers if they

wanted to, and we have, um, put out the call and sent stickers to all the patrons – I mean, there are a few that still need stickers, but I – like, that need to be sent – but I still have them reserved, don't worry. We still do have some stickers, um, and I'll put this all over social media too so you'll have the details. So if you join, um, within the next little while, if you want to join our Patreon, we have, like, so much bonus content for, like, really cheap; like, we're probably the cheapest Patreon you'll ever find.

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: So if you want to spare a couple dollars and get our extra bonus podcast, our blogs, um, the blooper reel, all that good stuff, you can also get, um, one sticker at the one dollar level or all three stickers at the three dollar level and above. So pretty good deal.

Emily: Check that out.

Sally: Check that out. Uh, Patreon dot com backslash Everybody Hates Rand.

Emily: Thanks for listening, everyone! Don't have time for a sign-off.

Sally: Bye!

Emily: Bye!

Sally: Yeehaw.