



Episode 190: Hatchetface
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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, stop 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. "Everybody," in this context, refers to us and our cats. You are free to feel however you want about Rand. He's a fictional character. Please don't DM us.

(theme song by Glynna MacKenzie plays)

Emily: This is Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I am Sally Goodger.

Emily: You know what, you guys? Winter's Heart really let us down in this one because it presented us this incredible opportunity for Elayne to be murdered – (laugh) and then didn't go through with it.

Sally: (laugh) And unfortunately, she did not die.

Emily: Unfortunately, she did not die.

Sally: Yeah, my favorite character this week is the person who tried to murder Elayne. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) Stop.

Sally: I know it was a group of very terrible Darkfriends, but it was, like – would be a really big W for the team if we could knock her out.

Emily: It took me a little while to compute because the Darkfriends trying to kill her is, like, part of a – an overall scheme –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: To get – what's his name –

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Um, Hatchetface is – that's the – that's the description they always give him, and I can never remember his name because he has so many aliases.

Sally: (wheeze)

Emily: So that's what I'm just gonna call him. Um –

Sally: Hatchetface.

Emily: Yeah, they're like – (laugh) They're like, “We're going to do this very elaborate scheme to get Hatchetface in charge of Elayne's bodyguard or, like, part of her bodyguard –”

Presumably they didn't – weren't like, “Specifically, we're going to make him the captain of the bodyguard,” although that did work out incredibly well in their favor.

Sally: I know.

Emily: And, like, what a thing for Elayne to do, you know?

Sally: She's an idiot for real, you guys.

Emily: (laugh) I know – she – we'll get to that in a minute. But yeah, the fact that they have this elaborate plan that hinges on people trying to kill Elayne and then Hatchetface murdering those people –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I was like – spent, like, several minutes being like, “Which guys agreed to this suicide mission?”

Sally: I know.

Emily: You know? Until it finally hit me that probably Hatchetface lied to them – (laugh)

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And was just like, “You guys are gonna go in and kill her –”

Sally: Yeah. But surprise!

Emily: “And I'll – I'll be watching the door,” you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then he comes in with a – and spears them or whatnot.

Sally: He, like, yeets his sword through one of the – she – he, like, throws it like a spear.

Emily: Yeah, which –

Sally: Which –

Emily: I mean, is cool.

Sally: It sounds cool, I just don't know logistically if that's how swords work.

Emily: I mean, I feel like you could do it across – if – if the room wasn't this big – if the room wasn't too big.

Sally: Okay. So, like, I could hit someone by the printer.

Emily: Well, I mean, you'd still have to be pretty dang strong.

Sally: I mean, I specifically couldn't –

Emily: Oh.

Sally: (laugh) But –

Emily: Yeah, if I were a strong man, I feel like I could throw a sword-spear. Um. But, like, not across, you know – you can't be hiking that thing like a football.

Sally: Yeet.

Emily: Yeet. Um, I don't – I am speaking like I have any authority on this subject. I do not.

Sally: I –

Emily: Despite my extensive research into swords, I have not, uh, researched the efficacy of sword-throwing. (laugh)

Sally: Apparently, Robert Jordan didn't either. Or maybe he did. Maybe Robert Jordan is right.

Emily: I can't believe this dude killed three people.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I mean, except that they thought he was their friend, so –

Sally: Yeah, especially –

Emily: He really – he really got a sneak attack on them, but, like –

Sally: Because, like, all of them have, like, poison knives and stuff.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: We're introduced – this might not be the first time we're introduced to it, but we are – in my memory – this is the first time we are introduced to the fact that peaches are poisonous in the Wheel of Time world.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: And, like, the peach pit in particular is very poisonous.

Emily: I don't know why that is.

Sally: I know. And it's – it's also very funny 'cause it's like – I'm sure at some point in history, someone tried to eat the pit of a stone fruit and was like, "No, this isn't going to work for me."

Emily: "This is no good."

Sally: (laugh) But they're like, "Oh, the peach pit will really get you. But will also the, like, fruit get you? I guess.

Emily: Yeah, which is it?

Sally: Peaches are just poisonous.

Emily: Peaches are just poisonous. Is it 'cause they're a very, you know, yonic fruit?

Sally: Robert Jordan was like, "No vaginas here."

Emily: Yeah, it looks like a vagina. Only one thing in the Wheel of Time is allowed to look like a vagina.

Sally: And that is all of Tar Valon.

Emily: And that is the entirety of Tar Valon.

Sally: So we're not allowed to have peaches.

Emily: Yeah. Here's the plot, you guys. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Here we get "A Cup of Tea." That's the title of the chapter, so you just know that something is coming with a cup of tea. I mean, or, you know, someone like Cadsuane will just be holding a cup of tea. Sometimes they just do that.

Sally: Yeah. Robert Jordan will be like – the chapter is titled "A Pen" –

Emily: "A Pen."

Sally: Because someone was holding a pen.

Emily: A knife. A child. No.

Sally: What do you have? A knife!

Emily: (laugh) Elayne goes back to her room and gets dressed. We're introduced to her, like, old lady body servant –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: From the pensioners' quarter. Um, and Elayne goes out to her sitting room to have her midday meal –

Sally: Could we pause for a second on the midday meal?

Emily: Well, we're not there yet.

Sally: Oh, okay. Oh, right, Norry comes in first.

Emily: Yeah, first –

Sally: I'm so sorry about – I'm so sorry, Halwin Norry.

Emily: First we get the man, the myth, the legend, Halwin Norry.

Sally: Yeah. I'm so sorry, I almost forgot about you, sir.

Emily: He's literally just standing there, waiting, with his little portfolio. And I'm like, "My beloved." (laugh)

Sally: There he is.

Emily: There he is. I've been waiting for you, Mr. Norry –

Sally: Mr. Norry.

Emily: To save us. As we referenced last week is the, uh, First Clerk to Reene Harfor's First Maid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Although, uh, Norry seems to be, like, involved – like, his – if you're the First Clerk, then presumably you're in charge of the palace finances and things like that, logistics, but Norry seems to be responsible for most of the stuff going on in Caemlyn at large.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, so he's got a pretty big job. And a big team of clerks, we are told. Um, he's just a little old man, just like Balwer, very unassuming. Um, and he gives Elayne a lot of news, including the fact that, uh, some sort of mineral called alum has been found on one of her estates – just to remind you that Elayne is a rich bitch, with –

Sally: Many estates.

Emily: Many estates, and just as a stroke of luck, some – uh, something has been found that they can now sell in order to get the financial backing of the bankers in Andor. Um, and Norry's, like, super excited about this, 'cause he's like, "I just love to go to the bankers and be like, 'Hmm, if you don't give us money, then I'll just go to Cairhien,' and they'll be like, 'NO!'"

Sally: "The French!"

Emily: "We hate the French!"

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Even though Elayne's about to become the queen of the French.

Sally: Which is a stupid plot too.

Emily: Oh –

Sally: She's like, "My dad was French. That makes me queen." Like –

Emily: Like, no?

Sally: Well, lots of people have French dads. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, I don't know if you've heard? Uh, um, he says that the gold can even be used to back the Academy, which Rand established in Caemlyn and which Elayne, in a classic Elayne move, has decided is not going to be part of Rand's legacy; it's going to be part of her legacy and named after Morgase.

Sally: Yeah, the Academy of the Rose.

Emily: Yeah. Which – Rand is a petty bitch in a lot of ways; I do not think he would be mad about Elayne taking the Academy from him –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So I will be mad on his behalf. That's such an ungracious thing to do.

Sally: I know. Especially, like –

Emily: Because she understands the intent of it.

Sally: Yeah, if she was just like, "Rand can't have a weird school in the city," but she's specifically like, "I know this is part of Rand's legacy, but fuck my boyfriend's legacy."

Emily: Yeah, "But I want to – this is for me. Psychologically. I need to have a reason to have hope after the Last Battle." And it's like, so does Rand. What do you think?

Sally: Rand – she's like, "In case Rand breaks the world." I'm like, yeah, the person who might destroy the world deserves to have more hope about the world after he possibly destroys it than you do.

Emily: I know, it's just so fucking rude and thoughtless.

Sally: It is extremely – ugh.

Emily: So inconsiderate.

Sally: "Ungracious" is such a good word for it. It's just, like – it can belong to – Elayne's insistence that Rand have nothing to do with Caemlyn is just, like, ridiculous at this point.

Emily: I know. Like, at a certain point, you go from it being, like, a – a rational enough – if a bit girlboss-y – thing to be like, "I need to – I need to be responsible for this city –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Without just having, like, a powerful man –"

Sally: Yep.

Emily: "Appearing to be behind me, pulling the strings," and just, like, accepting the fact that the world is changing. Other countries are going through transitions. Cairhien and Tear and now

Illian don't really look anything like they did ten years ago, and, like, you are just going to have to go with the flow a little bit and accept that the Dragon Reborn is changing things.

Sally: Yeah. She has a comment later in the chapter where she's like, "Rand is out here, acting like king of the world," and I'm like, yeah.

Emily: He is.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: What do you want? If you wanted him to not be king of the world, you should've done something back when he was conquering Tear.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But I guess it only mattered to you when it was your country.

Sally: Your country. Be like, "Maybe you shouldn't take other people's countries."

Emily: Oh, well, maybe you should've said something earlier.

Sally: So – I hate her. I hate her, you guys.

Emily: I know, she's so insufferable.

Sally: This is now actually Everybody Hates Elayne, a Wheel of Time podcast.

Emily: It's really – it's pretty hard not to make that transition.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Especially because Rand, I think, becomes in some ways more insufferable but in other ways more sympathetic as the series goes on.

Sally: Yeah, as things get – I mean, things get more intense around Rand as the series goes on, I think it's fair to say. Um, I'm only not even through book – ten?

Emily: Ten.

Sally: (laugh) I can count. But, yeah, as things get more and more intense and more fights happen, it also – maybe it just seems this way 'cause we spend such huge chunks of time with characters – it feels like we're getting a little bit less of Rand?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That's just how it feels, even if it, like, page count-wise or point of view-wise, isn't the same way, and it's a lot easier and more interesting to deal with Rand as he influences other people versus, like, Rand himself.

Emily: Yeah, I agree. I also just think Rand struggling more and more, uh, obviously with encroaching –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Madness is a much more interesting plot line than some of his earlier stuff where he was just sort of, like, worried about going mad. But now he's like, ah, maybe you actually are going a little mad. You're hearing voices, da da da da da. You know?

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, you're doing – yeah.

Emily: Or maybe it's just that the trauma has gotten so gnarly at this point.

Sally: Yes, he also is a deeply traumatized character at this point, which of course makes him more sympathetic because it's like, now your bad choices are connected to the bad things that have happened to you. You're not just out here making bad choices.

Emily: Yeah. It's a lot easier –

Sally: If that makes sense.

Emily: To explain what he's doing.

Sally: Yeah, that's a better way to put it. It's a lot easier to understand where he's coming from than when he's just in the Stone of Tear, being like, “BAAHH! I'm going to resuscitate a child.”

Emily: But here we are with Elayne, who suffers at least one assassination attempt per book, which I think tells you all we need to know about her efficacy as a ruler.

Sally: Yeah, everyone's like, “Please.”

Emily: Everyone – “Please die!”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And yet she does not become more sympathetic. (laugh)

Sally: No.

Emily: And in fact puts herself in most of these situations. Which is partly Robert Jordan's writing. He loves to make Elayne specifically look stupid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway Norry, uh, tells Elayne that the White Tower – you know, Elaida's folks – have declared that Rand is in fact the Dragon Reborn and that no one should try to approach him, um, unless it's, like, through the Tower. And Elayne's like, “Oh, that'll thrill him.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Halwin Norry's like, “I know, right?”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: “That'll be fantastic.”

Sally: “Can’t wait.

Emily: He also is like, “Um, also, he might be – he might have gone to the White Tower. No one knows. He’s missing, ‘cause, um, his palace in Cairhien got blown up,” and Elayne’s like, “Whaaat?” (laugh) And he’s like, “I know, right?” And she’s like, “Okay, well, he probably isn’t dead,” and Norry’s like, “Yeah, I mean, I wouldn’t believe that man is dead unless I was three days with the corpse.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Elayne’s like, “Was that a joke?” And he’s like –

Sally: (laugh) It’s also a Jesus reference.

Emily: Yeah, he’s like, “First of all, it was a Jesus reference. But second of all, it was not a joke; I’m dead serious. That man’s terrifying.”

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, Halwin Norry doesn’t joke. He’s too busy running a country.

Emily: Yeah, Jesus. Um, he gives her some news from various correspondents. We are told he’s not an actual spymaster, although Elayne will sort of gently push him in that direction, um, as the later half of the series goes on, but he does have penpals, more or less, in other cities. Amongst the reports are the facts – are the fact that, uh, all the rulers of the Borderlands are missing?

Sally: Just gone.

Emily: Um, and we saw in Path of Daggers – sorry, y’all – uh, but in the prologue of Path of Daggers, we got to be with all the rulers of the Borderlands as they congregated and for reasons that were not made clear to us at that time, were all like, “We’re all moving south.”

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Um, so that’s the status that’s coming back around. Um, and he’s also like, “Oh, and there’s some stuff going on with King Roedran over in Murandy. I don’t know. Maybe he’s gonna do something to Andor, but we can’t really do anything about it ‘cause you’re not the queen, so.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “He can refuse to accept any messages from you.” And Elayne’s like, “Okay, well, I don’t know about the Borderlanders. It’s probably to do with Rand, ‘cause Rand sucks,” and I’m like, why are you dating him, then?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She’s like, “But I do know about Murandy, and that’s to do with –” And, like, there are some lords over there who are part of it, and Talmanes’s Dragonsworn army – this is another thing that happened in Path of Daggers. Egg and the Aes Sedai met with some Andoran nobility, uh, as they were crossing through Andor. Um, and not terribly significant, uh, mostly boring, but – except it did happen out on a big ice field, which I always thought –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Was very cinematic and fun.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but Talmanes was there. You may recall that Talmanes and his army of Dragonsworn were, per Egg's wishes, sort of trailing –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: The, uh, Aes Sedai's army to sort of motivate them to move toward Tar Valon. But Talmanes, when he makes his single appearance in Path of Daggers, informs Egwene that he does not want to travel any further north because he is worried about Mat because Mat's ta'veren influence is sort of exerting itself over Talmanes specifically and most of the men in the Band of the Red Hand. They're all like, "We're worried about Mat."

Sally: Yeah. They're gonna go back south.

Emily: "So we're gonna go back south, and we're going to – we're going to let, uh, the –" I don't remember if they were hired by the king of Murandy or, like, some Murandian lords or something, but it is so insignificant.

Sally: Yeah, they're working in Murandy to basically, like, put pressure on other –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Factions in Murandy.

Emily: As mercenaries but, like, not a lot of fighting. Pretty low-stakes stuff.

Sally: Yeah, they're just kind of there. It's more like intimidation work.

Emily: But that's your, boo ba doo boo boo, Talmanes update.

Sally: It's so nice when he appears, though, 'cause Egg –

Emily: I know.

Sally: Is just, like, sitting there being totally ignored 'cause she's not exerted her war powers yet, and up she looks, and across the room –

Emily: Across the pavilion, leaning against a pole, like a coiled whip – I love that –

Sally: Ugh. I know.

Emily: It's so fucking sexy.

Sally: And you're like, "Hello?!"

Emily: It's Talmanes and he's just, like, there.

Sally: He's –

Emily: And you're like, goddamnit. That's the most beautiful man.

Sally: That's the most beautiful man. And then he's like, "I'm really – just feel like Mat's energy," whatever, and I'm like, you're in love with him.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Just admit it.

Emily: The gays – it's the gay feeling.

Sally: It's – he's like, "I just feel a feeling –"

Emily: It's the gay agenda.

Sally: "Pulling me back south."

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: I'm like, yes, that is the gayness inside of you. What a –

Emily: Um –

Sally: Sexy man.

Emily: Anyway, Egg's knowledge of this, which is just luck because, you know, she still meets with Egg in Tel'aran'rhiod, as we get into later, sufficiently impresses, uh, Norry, that he informs her that, um, some Cairhienin people are, like, reaching out, wanting her to take the throne and also offer their support in Andor. And Elayne's like, "Well, obviously that can't happen, because then it will look like, you know, foreign, um – a foreign influence on the succession, so I also have to politely reject them," da da da da da. But she leaves this meeting being like, "Okay, maybe Norry is a little bit on my side." He seems to have been ambivalent toward her –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: At this point, but she made enough intelligent remarks in this meeting – I don't know what has happened in their previous meetings –

Sally: "Where's Cairhien?"

Emily: "Where's Cairhien?" Um, but now Norry is kind of like, "Whatever, I'm willing to work with Elayne."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He says that she reminds him of Morgase, which, from the time I've spent with Morgase, is not as complimentary as one might think.

Sally: I know –

Emily: The woman's insane.

Sally: It's – would be very funny if Elayne was like, "Oh, Halwin Norry is on my side," and he said that as, like, an absolute read. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "You remind me of your mother, the woman who ran this country into the ground."

Sally: Yeah. (laugh) Yeah. "And you're just gonna take it even further. Subterranean."

Emily: Ahh! I think it would be funny if Norry just, like, got poached by some other –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If Rand – here's the – here's the actual late plot, um, I want from the Wheel of Time. I don't want the Seanchan.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: In fact, I just want Rand to be not having to deal with any invasion of the Seanchan but just, like, focused on getting more and more countries on his side and, like, supporting him, and I want him to, Goblin Emperor-style, just, like, be building an extremely efficient household –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And poaching people from –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Other people. So he's like, "I will take Halwin Norry. He'll be my accountant. I'll take Sebban Balwer. He'll be my spymaster. I'll take fuckin' Talmanes." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. "He'll be my general."

Emily: "He'll be my general." Mat's like –

Sally: "He – but he's mine?"

Emily: "But he's my boyfriend," and Rand's like, "He is playing a two-part role. If I have him in my hands, then you will come to visit –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And occasionally do things for me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Hostage – hostage situation.

Sally: Holding Talmanes hostage.

Emily: Um, so now we get the midday meal, which, as I'm sure you were about to refer to, is just casually about fat-shaming.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, Reese Harlow has sent these delicious, you know – they're intricately described –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, dishes for a pretty well-balanced meal –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Elayne is like, "It's so annoying that she does this; she knows that in the midday, I only eat, uh, bread and broth." Which is, like, what people in a dungeon eat. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, she has this comment about how Lini would always say, "A full meal at midday makes for, like, a dull head in the afternoon," one of Lini's dumb sayings. But Elayne seems to connect this to the fact that Lini is very thin and all of her current maids are very fat or are fatter than Lini.

Emily: Yeah. "Comfortably padded" women.

Sally: And it is – just, like, so much of it is so fucked up. Like, the fat-shaming is fucked up, the fact that Elayne thinks she can't eat is fucked up. The fact that she thinks having a full meal will dull her wits?

Emily: Which I think is supposed to be, like, connected to the idea that, like, any rich meal, you are going to, like – it's like that post, you know, Thanksgiving haze.

Sally: Yeah, like, it's gonna make you sleepy.

Emily: But it's like, you can have the self-discipline to eat good food at lunchtime and not overeat. And anyway, sort of everyone just gets sleepy in the afternoon regardless of what you eat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's what siestas are for. And maybe just listen to your body, you know?

Sally: Yeah, it's –

Emily: I think the real thing worth noting is that as we are more and more frequently with Elayne and the Caemlyn succession plotline, a subplot is always going to be about her relationship with food.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, specifically – like, once she gets pregnant in this book, in a few chapters, and everyone knows she's pregnant immediately, people are constantly trying to monitor her diet, and she is pushing back or not pushing back variously. Um. And we are – there is a point, partly – and this is something we get with Egg too – as these people are updating us to the fact that food is spoiling –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: As they're getting closer and closer to the Last Battle.

(engine revs in the background)

Sally: (sing-song) Zoom, zoom, zoom.

Emily: And we don't get sidebars like that about the food going bad with Rand, Mat, or Perrin, because food does not go bad around Rand, Mat, or Perrin; that's part of their ta'veren influence, which is sort of referenced –

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Uh, more directly in Perrin's plotline. But I do think with Elayne specifically – and it's like Nynaeve's obsession with dresses – Robert Jordan is just, like, projecting this thing he thinks about women –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Onto his women characters. He's like, "Women are really preoccupied with food and their diet, right? So I should make Elayne really preoccupied with food and have this really weird – and – and her weight."

Sally: Yep.

Emily: And stuff like that. And it's just, like – none of the men are thinking about this stuff.

Sally: Well, and it's one of those things that I simply do not – not – and this is definitely not the case in general, because men and anyone of any gender can suffer from bad relationships with food –

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Eating disorders, all of those things. But the socialization of women in particular – if you've been socialized as a woman, you have such a particular relationship with food and your weight that is – it's true, that Robert – what Robert – in a way, it's true that – what Robert Jordan is saying. Like, I don't know a single woman in my life who has not had comments made about her weight or what she is eating or whatever, and that really starts to fuck with you. It is not something that men are qualified to write about, because it is not just – because they're so – not – these are very large, like, male/women, male/female binaries. I just think this is something men can't write about with any nuance. It is always played off as a joke. Women are concerned about what they eat, ha ha ha. And it's like, that is a deeply psychological thing.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That needs a lot more unpacking than Elayne just being like, "I only eat broth at midday so I don't become sleepy or fat."

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like, a societal trauma that's been inflicted –

Sally: Yeah, that's a good way to put it.

Emily: Upon women, so, like, I don't know, if you don't know enough about it to recognize that, then shut up.

Sally: 'Cause it's also one of those things that don't need to be in a story. I read tons of books where it's never commented on that people are eating, and it's not a big deal because I don't –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I assume they are eating because they're still alive. You know?

Emily: Yeah, I don't need you to talk about, like, every time a character eats something or takes a shit, you know?

Sally: (laugh) Yeah, like –

Emily: These are just normal human functions.

Sally: Yeah, I just, like, fill those in.

Emily: Yeah. But so much of, like, Elayne and Egwene's days are structured around mealtimes and stuff like that, which is just a very different thing from, I think, Mat, Rand, and Perrin, our main male characters, whose, uh, plots and, you know, chunks of time are sectioned more around – are – are structured more around action.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Things that they're doing.

Sally: Yeah, like they don't have to have these constant touch points of meals.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: We don't have to constantly be reminded that Egg or – and Elayne are just, like, not eating.

Emily: Or getting dressed. We're constantly dealing with Elayne's wardrobe changes.

Sally: And I'm like, I don't need to know.

Emily: Yeah, just – she went and changed clothes. I don't need to know what she's wearing one hundred percent of the time. In fact, I actively wish I did not know what she was wearing.

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. And also –

Emily: 'Cause then I have to waste valuable brain function –

Sally: Being like, "Where's the embroidery?"

Emily: Being like, "What's that look like?"

Sally: "I don't understand."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Anyway. Get fucked, Robert Jordan, just being like, “Ha ha, isn’t it funny that women don’t like to eat?”

Emily: (sigh)

Sally: No!

Emily: Anyway, Elayne’s drinking her broth and, um –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Just – (laugh) So sad.

Sally: Dyelin kicks the door open –

Emily: And drinking her tea, which she’s like, “It’s nice and minty.” How would you ever trust mint tea again after what happened to you?

Sally: How do you drink –

Emily: Fucking hell.

Sally: Like, broth and peppermint tea?

Emily: Oh, I know.

Sally: That is such a disgusting combination to me.

Emily: It’s insane. Absolute – the weirdest thing that happens.

Sally: (laugh) The weirdest combination of flavors. I know people eat, like, mint jelly on stuff, but, like –

Emily: Uh-uh.

Sally: Like, the meaty flavor of broth with, like, the very, like, particular flavor of mint tea –

Emily: (gagging noise)

Sally: Sounds really unsettling to me. Whatever.

Emily: But yeah, Dyelin kicks down the door – you’re so right – and is like, “Guess what?” (laugh) “The Borderlanders are all in the forest.”

Sally: “All of ‘em.” (laugh)

Emily: “All of ‘em, in the fucking forest,” and Elayne’s like, “Aw, dang, Rand. At it again.” And it’s like, he didn’t do this.

Sally: He did not do this.

Emily: (laugh) It’s not his fault. I mean, eventually, we will find out that the Borderlanders have gone south to find Rand, which is such an insane subplot for them to do.

Sally: Yeah, they're just like, "We're gonna take all four of our countries and march hundreds –"

Emily: I'm like, bud.

Sally: "Of miles."

Emily: "Abandoning our posts by the Borderlands."

Sally: (laugh) "Abandoning our very important mythological duty to guard the Borderlands."

Emily: And they're like, "We just have to find Rand, who can teleport." Just message him and be like, "Hey, yo. Can we set up a meeting?"

Sally: Elayne will also – in the next book, in *Crossroads of Twilight* – give them false information about where Rand is.

Emily: Oh, yes.

Sally: Just extending this plot indefinitely. (laugh)

Emily: I know. Awful. But Elayne's like, "Aw, that's super weird," and, like, before they can get farther than that, she realizes that she's feeling incredibly sleepy and, you know, stiff, and is like, "Oh my gosh, I've been poisoned." So she's like, "I've been poisoned," and Dyelin, like, jumps up, grabbing a knife –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Elayne's like, "Ah, this is – it's finally going to happen. She's finally going to kill me." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. I wish she did.

Emily: I know. Dyelin makes her move. Dyelin could have killed you at any point, Elayne –

Sally: I know.

Emily: It's not hard. You're –

Sally: Apparently not.

Emily: Walking around without guards. But then some – Dyelin starts screaming for help, um, and some guys enter who Elayne at first assumes are Dyelin's compatriots – I guess those things happen in reverse, guys enter and –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Dyelin starts screaming for help. Um, but she holds them off, I guess, long enough for, uh, Hachetface to enter and kill them, and Elayne faints. She comes to in bed, um, surrounded by Aviendha, Birgitte, and Nynaeve.

Sally: It's a long time she is unconscious.

Emily: Yeah, that whole afternoon, we are told.

Sally: Um, yeah, she wakes up; she's got, like, hot water bottles all around her, and she's in a dark room with Nynaeve, Birgitte, and Aviendha.

Emily: And Elayne's like, "Is Dyelin okay?" and Nynaeve's like, "Yep. She – I had to Heal her, 'cause she took a knife wound and lost a lot of blood, but, you know, she's okay." And Elayne's like, "Wow, I guess she really proved her loyalty." Um, this scene is mostly fraught with Birgitte, Aviendha, Elayne, Nynaeve's sort of usual bickering and back-and-forth, um, nonsense, but the main points are that Elayne agrees to bodyguards.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Uh, and Birgitte specifically says that she's already sort of picked out some women that she wants to do it and that she wants it to be women because women can go places with Elayne that male bodyguards wouldn't be able to go, and because, uh, they will have the advantage of being underestimated –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Is her logic. And she says, "We will actively play into that by, like, giving them fancy dress uniforms and whatnot."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, she doesn't really know who to make the captain of Elayne's guard, though, and Elayne is like, "Oh, what about that guy who saved me?" and Birgitte's like – Birgitte gives her his resume, which includes the fact that he, um, pinches women – you know, assaults women regularly. She is like, "A cold-hearted fellow, though he smiles a lot, mainly at women. He pinches serving girls, and he's tumbled three in four days that I know of. He likes to talk about his conquests, but he hasn't pressed anyone who said no." Now clearly, in Robert Jordan's mind, and I guess in Hatchetface's mind, the fact that, uh, Hatchetface has not outright raped anyone means that these women wouldn't find him untrustworthy, when all of that behavior: red flags.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Red flags everywhere.

Sally: Yeah, like –

Emily: And women would know that.

Sally: Yeah, it's very silly for Elayne to hear that and be like, "Not a problem."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "He – he's –"

Emily: Yeah, "Put him in charge."

Sally: “He deserved it.” It also is very, like – this is an issue with, like, the omniscient narrator. But we learn very quickly that this man is a serial rapist –

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: And one of the main reasons he took this job, in order to get close to Elayne, is ‘cause he was promised that he would be able to rape her.

Emily: Which is insane.

Sally: Which is disgusting. Um, absolutely not a character Robert Jordan needed to create. But that is –

Emily: Nope.

Sally: For future discussion. But yeah, it’s like, you’ve got this man who assaults women, has been sleeping his way through the palace – not inherently a bad thing, but the way that he’s talking about it is obviously –

Emily: Very bad.

Sally: “I don’t respect these women.”

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Just, like, a shitty dude. And Elayne is like, “Mm.”

Emily: “Promote him.”

Sally: “Promote him. And I will tell everyone he’s the father of my children.”

Emily: Which is just, like – oh, yeah, I know, that’s another insane plot point that we will get either later in this book or in the next book –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Which is all just, like, manufactured so that Elayne has to have this guy be close to her and has to put up with his constant –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Harassment. Which, Robert Jordan just seems to enjoy having her in that situation. It’s really creepy. I hate this man.

Sally: I do hate him so much. Ahh!

Emily: I don’t even know if I’m referring to Robert Jordan or Hatchetface. They’re both bad.

Sally: Anyway, we end up – we go to Tel’aran’rhiod.

Emily: Yeah, there – after some fighting about it, Elayne and Nynaeve both go to Tel’aran’rhiod to meet with Egg. They update her on what has been happening in Caemlyn, and Egg gives them

a few updates on what is going on in the Aes Sedai camp, which is important mostly because Egg, um, as far as I know, does not have a point of view at all in this book.

Sally: I don't think so.

Emily: Uh, she's sort of like Mat in the last book; we're not getting any, uh, direct interactions with her except for in scenes like this one. Egwene tells them that the Aes Sedai haven't made any serious forward momentum, um, that she is still having to deal with a bunch of flak from the Sitters.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: In Path of Daggers, she got war powers; that was the major plot point that she'd been building to. Uh, but this basically ensures that she has, um, direct authority over everything pertaining to the war because she got the Sitters to officially declare war on Elaida specifically. So that has eased some of her authority issues –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it is still a problem, of course. No one respects her, really, although they are underestimating her less now –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I would imagine. Uh, but her – the problems she brings up, mostly, are that they have too many novices because, also in Path of Daggers, Egwene opened the novices book, basically saying, “We will accept any woman who wants to learn how to channel into – and who can be taught to channel, regardless of her age and situation.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: “We will accept her as a novice.” So apparently there has been a huge influx of people, including women old enough to be grandmas.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Um, and the problem is that none of these novices are getting promoted to Accepted because they need the special ter'angreal, so there are still only sixteen Accepted trying to handle all these novices, and the full Aes Sedai don't want to do anything about it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, Egwene also lays out her plan to incorporate the Kin into, um, uh, the White Tower's structure. Her idea is that, uh, the Kin can be a sort of retirement plan for Aes Sedai. Which, um, is not an inherently bad idea, I would say, especially because Egwene, uh, insists that the Kin would maintain their own traditions and culture, even though that would mean Aes Sedai who have been Aes Sedai for possibly hundreds of years would then be at the bottom of the pecking order –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Once they're in the Kin. Um, but Egwene says women should have to take the Oaths on the Oath Rod if they want to be Aes Sedai, but they can be released from the Oaths if they want to retire into the Kin, but that would also mean they are no longer Aes Sedai.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uh, because the point that has been slowly building up for the last few books is that, uh, taking Oaths on the Oath Rod halves your lifespan. People who can channel seem to be capable of living hundreds and hundreds of years, up to six or seven hundred –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Which is how old Reanne – what's her name?

Sally: Corly. Reanne Corly.

Emily: Reanne Corly in the Kin is. She's the oldest. Uh, whereas most Aes Sedai, people like Vandene and Adeleas, who look ancient, are only two or three hundred years old.

Sally: Which is still so old. (laugh)

Emily: Which is insane, yeah. And Elayne and Nynaeve are like, "We don't want to take Oaths on the Oath Rod; that would shorten our lives," and I'm like, at a certain point – listen, I read "Tuck Everlasting" –

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I think that at a certain point, you'd be like, I don't want to live six hundred years.

Sally: Yeah, it's just –

Emily: Everyone I know is dead.

Sally: Yeah, their, like, obsession with being like, "Why would I cut my lifespan in half?" You'd still live three to four hundred years.

Emily: Yeah. I mean, like, I – I get it. Nobody should be forced to cut their lifespan in half –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But I'm also just, like, I personally would not find a problem with it.

Sally: And you also only recently learned that taking the Oath Rod shortens your lifespan. Which is a ridiculous plot point in general, I think; I don't really understand the point of it. I don't really understand the point of this "how long do people who channel live" plot. But maybe I'm just not quite there yet, to the, like, fruition of it.

Emily: Nope, there's nothing.

Sally: Oh, great. Super. Then I just don't get it. Um.

Emily: It's pointless.

Sally: So anyway.

Emily: Um, yeah, I would say that's not an inherently bad idea that Egwene has, working within the structure, you know, that Robert Jordan has given her. I do think it is, um, interesting in a neither good nor bad way – I don't really have an opinion on it – that they – that this – this channeling woman's life cycle has been so neatly divided into pre-channeling, childhood; uh, being an Aes Sedai, which is your sort of working adult woman; and then retirement. Which, traditionally, women have these really – not women – uh, people who menstruate specifically – have these really, um, solid, like, thresholds –

Sally: Right.

Emily: For puberty and then menopause.

Sally: Right.

Emily: So, um, I just think those sort of hard lines are an interesting reflection of that.

Sally: You – yeah, you're so right, bestie.

Emily: Um. I don't know, though. I think it would be funny if the Black Tower had a retirement plan too.

Sally: Yeah, I was gonna say, wouldn't it be funny if they have their equivalent of the Kin –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And it's just, like, these old men.

Emily: It's just those – it's just a –

Sally: Damer Flinn out here.

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like, a golfing course.

Sally: (laugh) Amazing.

Emily: Where they just go to golf.

Sally: They just go to golf.

Emily: Yeah. Doo ba doo boo boo.

Sally: They can just take all of, um, the Whitecloak place. Amadicia. They could just have Amadicia as a golf course.

Emily: Oh, yeah, God. It's just sitting there.

Sally: They all just go to Amadicia. (laugh)

Emily: Our retirement in Amadicia. (laugh)

Sally: It's like Florida.

Emily: It's better than what men have traditionally been doing who find out they can channel, which is going into the Blight to fight the Dark One.

Sally: I know. The Aiel are –

Emily: Haunting.

Sally: Hardcore, man.

Emily: Yeah. Um, this meeting ends with the girls realizing that they are being eavesdropped on, first by a guy who's just standing there. (laugh) Which I think is so funny.

Sally: I know, it's so good.

Emily: This is meant to be, um – what's his name? Isam slash –

Sally: Luc.

Emily: Luc, yeah. Lord Luc. God, we haven't seen him in books, you know?

Sally: Yeah, so I'm like – the –

Emily: It's been literal books.

Sally: I was reading this, and I'm like, "Who the fuck is this?"

Emily: The tell-tale sign is that he looks like he could be Rand's uncle.

Sally: Yeah, and, like –

Emily: And Elayne has the only funny line in this section, where she says, "If Rand had a mean uncle."

Sally: (laugh, whisper) He does.

Emily: Um, I mean, and he is Rand's uncle, so –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's the hilarious part.

Sally: He's Rand's mean uncle.

Emily: He is Rand's mean uncle. Um, but I guess he's there, eavesdropping on them. I don't know what Luc takes away from this.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "Yeah, they're just girl-talking. Whatever." Uh, we also find out that one of the Black Ajah ladies who is in Caemlyn was eavesdropping but that there was also another unknown person –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So I guess everyone is fuckin' in Tel'aran'rhiod, listening to these meetings. Uh, after this meeting is broken up, we switch points of view to one of the Black Ajah women. These are all – we're going to be reintroduced to six Black Ajah ladies whose names and personalities are mostly irrelevant. Um, four of them are just in Caemlyn. They have set up shop here. Uh, they were in Samara with Moghedien, or, you know, kind of in that area, but Moghedien went missing once, uh, she was wounded in Tel'aran'rhiod, you know, and Moiraine – Moiraine? God – Nynaeve and Elayne captured her. And these women have been just sort of, like, leader-less ever since.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And they probably would've just stayed in Samara except that, um, one of their Warders was chasing after them. Which is an interesting point, you know? A lot of these women have Warders, and not all of them are also Darkfriends. The woman narrating apparently has four Warders, and she tells us that only one of them is a Friend of the Dark –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that the other three she thinks she can manipulate into helping her anyway.

Sally: Yeah, it's this fascinating plot about – this one lady's Warder is like, "I'm going – I know she's Black – Black Ajah, so I'm going to kill her –"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "No matter the consequences to me."

Emily: It will kill me, but I will kill her.

Sally: This is fascinating.

Emily: What's his story?

Sally: Yeah, why isn't he the main character?

Emily: Kennit, I think, is his name.

Sally: Kennit.

Emily: I want Kennit and – what's Sareitha's Warder's name?

Sally: Ken.

Emily: His name's Ken?

Sally: Ned! Sorry, Ned. Sorry, I was –

Emily: Ned! Kennit and Ned. (laugh)

Sally: I was thinking of Kenneth from 30 Rock.

Emily: Ahh!

Sally: Kennit and Ned should – (laugh) uh, team up. Buddy-cop duo that turns into a –

Emily: And get married.

Sally: Little bit of romance.

Emily: Yeah. Woof.

Sally: Buddy cop to lovers. There's the new – (laugh) There's a –

Emily: There's a new genre. (laugh)

Sally: Romance genre for you. (laugh)

Emily: The one we've all been waiting for. It's kind of like what that, you know, little cowboy and Augustus had in Night at the Museum.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: That's very buddy-cop to husbands.

Sally: (laugh) "It's Octavius –"

Emily: "It's Octavius, Mary." (laugh)

Sally: That's exactly what they have going on.

Emily: God. Um.

Sally: They can even be played by Owen Wilson and Hank Azaria. (laugh)

Emily: Uh, these four women are just sort of in Caemlyn, being nefarious. They haven't done anything yet.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: They will eventually, though, intersect with this other group of Darkfriends slash Black Ajah, which includes Mili Skane – (laugh) which is the most nefarious –

Sally: I know.

Emily: Evil lady name – who's masquerading as Lady Shiane.

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Uh, we last saw her in Ebou Dar. Mat, like, saw her. You know that, um –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, like, meme set of the two guys looking at each other from across a room? Just realizing that the other one is there? Mat did that with her while he was at a – at the race, remember?

Sally: Oh, yeah, and he's like, "She tried to kill me."

Emily: He's like, "She tried to kill me," and Nalesean was like, "Okay, good luck, bestie."

Sally: "Have a good time." Yeah, and then he chases her to what's-his-fuck's house.

Emily: Eh. Doesn't matter.

Sally: And then Sammael shows up, and they're like, "I think that's Mat Cauthon," and Sammael's like, "Not important." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) "Irrelevant to – to – to my plans."

Sally: "Completely irrelevant."

Emily: "Good luck, though." Um, yeah, she was last in Ebou Dar but has now moved to Caemlyn for whatever reason and, uh, under her control is Falion, the other Black Ajah lady who was in Ebou Dar. Apparently Moridin specifically put her in charge of Falion, and they are working with, uh, this other Black Ajah lady who has one of those M names –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: With a bunch of Ls, so not really worth keeping track of. Um, but she is the one who says, "Oh, actually, there's a Black Ajah sister in the palace," which brings us back to: who killed Adeleas?

Sally: Who killed Adeleas? Finding a murderer.

Emily: The murder mystery – yeah. Making a Murderer. Catching a Murderer. Whatever.

Sally: Catching a Murderer. Adeleas edition. Adeleas is such a sick name.

Emily: I know, it is cool.

Sally: Assuming we're pronouncing it right, but.

Emily: Oh, and all this is – they're just chatting when who should come in but Hatchetface being like, "Guess what, guys? The plan worked." And that's when Robert Jordan, you know, really wanted to write but didn't write, "DUN DUN DUN."

Sally: "Dun dun dun." I know we've already talked about this at length, but it makes literally no sense for Elayne to be like, "This man saved my life. He should be –"

Emily: I know.

Sally: "The captain of the bodyguard." It could've literally been Halwin Norry out there –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Rushing in – would you make Halwin Norry the captain of your bodyguard? It's just, like, a time and place thing.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's very stupid. It is –

Emily: Birgitte's like, "Yeah, it's just luck that he was there," and Elyane's like, "No, he should be the captain of my guard, as, like, a reward." And I'm like, personally, if I saved your life, Elayne, the reward I would want would be to be far away from you.

Sally: Yeah. Actually, send me out of Andor entirely.

Emily: Yeah. Give me a different assignment so I don't have to see you every day.

Sally: It just is really – it's a very, very thin plot in a – in a – larger plot, Caemlyn, that is already full of very very thin plots. So.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It just starts to grate after a while.

Emily: It's like gluten in bread. You hold it up and you see the light through it.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Um. Rapid fire: favorite character, least favorite character. You –

Sally: Am I allowed to say Halwin – I mean, I did already say the people who tried to kill Elayne, but that was a joke.

Emily: Yeah, okay, yeah, you're allowed to say Halwin Norry.

Sally: Okay, it would definitely be Halwin Norry.

Emily: Yeah, he's iconic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'll say Dyelin because I think it was very brave of her to, um, rush in and save Elayne from a knife even though she didn't have to.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I think she's really cool and doesn't get as much nice things as she deserves.

Sally: I know.

Emily: I think someone should give her, like, a spa package.

Sally: That would be lovely.

Emily: (sigh) And maybe she should be queen of Andor –

Sally: I –

Emily: But I know that's not going to happen.

Sally: I know –

Emily: And she doesn't want to be queen of Andor, so I guess I understand that. It's one of the reasons I like her.

Sally: I know, her just, like, absolute rejection of power.

Emily: She's like, "Fuck that."

Sally: Is really interesting.

Emily: Yeah, very Cincinnatus thing going on over here.

Sally: I love you, Dyelin.

Emily: I love you, Dyelin.

Sally: And I love you, Halwin Norry.

Emily: Least favorite character.

Sally: Ooh. Hatchetface.

Emily: It has to be Hatchetface.

Sally: I fucking hate that man.

Emily: He's just right there. We might have to eliminate him from the pool later.

Sally: (laugh) If we get up to, like, five times at Hatchetface –

Emily: I know, every time.

Sally: We'll have to take a break.

Emily: He's just so gross, you guys.

Sally: He's disgusting.

Emily: And the worst part is we all know a guy like that.

Sally: Oh, yeah. When – as soon as Birgitte – anyone who says he talks about his "conquests," I'm like –

Emily: I'm like – (gagging noise)

Sally: He's out.

Emily: Buzzer.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gone.

Sally: He's been voted off the island. That's a disgusting way –

Emily: You've been voted off the island.

Sally: To talk about women.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: In general; especially women who had sex with you.

Emily: Icky.

Sally: Foul.

Emily: And Robert Jordan, you didn't need to make that character; it's pretty gross that he was rattling around in your brain. I mean, I shouldn't cast aspersions; writers can have gross guys rattling around in their brain, but then you put him there.

Sally: Yeah, and then you put him there.

Emily: But then you put him right in front of me. (laugh)

Sally: Instead of just being like, "You know what?"

Emily: "We don't need that one."

Sally: "He doesn't need – that one can stay in the brain."

Emily: Stay on the drawing board.

Sally: Sometimes things –

Emily: Hatchetface.

Sally: Can stay inside of our heads. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. Sometimes – it doesn't – you don't have to write the man every time. You don't have to write the torture porn every time it enters your head.

Sally: Every –

Emily: Sometimes you can just be like, click. That's the lock on that.

Sally: Be like, "Yeah. Hmm." And then you're done.

Emily: And then you're done. And you go about your day.

Sally: I frequently have ideas that I don't write down.

Emily: Yeah, I have ideas that I reject every day of my life.

Sally: Yeah, I'm like, "You know what, that is –"

Emily: It's called intrusive thoughts. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Driving along, "What would happen if I pulled the emergency brake right now?" and then I'll think, "I'd better not find out."

Sally: Yeah. No, same. "What happened if I closed my eyes while I was driving?" What? (laugh)

Emily: I think I could make an accurate prediction.

Sally: Maybe I won't do that.

Emily: Maybe I won't. Okay, that was a weird tone to end on, but that's – I'm sticking to it. (laugh)

Sally: Yep.

Emily: Um, thanks, everyone, for listening. Thanks to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song and to our patrons on Patreon and our followers on social media.

Sally: Yes. You're all very pretty.

Emily: (kissing noises) Kisses. Do you have a sign-off? (laugh)

Sally: I do. You guys, this one is maybe the most tragic one I've ever said.

Emily: Oh, no.

Sally: I was having –

Emily: And you've said some bad ones.

Sally: I know. That's how –

Emily: Okay.

Sally: That's how upsetting this one is to me personally.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: I was having a really bad day yesterday, and I forgot to play Wordle.

Emily: (gasp)

Sally: So I lost my Wordle streak.

Emily: (scream) NOOO!

Sally: And I'm really upset about it. I had a 30-day Wordle streak from when I first started.

Emily: Oh my God.

Sally: Like, I first started it one random Saturday morning –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And I played every day since.

Emily: Like we all did.

Sally: And I lost it.

Emily: I'm so sorry.

Sally: So now I had another bad day, 'cause I lost my Wordle streak.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Ridiculous.

Emily: We should invent a time machine. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Just for that.

Emily: Goodbye, everyone.

Sally: Bye.