

Episode 262: Go to Therapy, Mr. Stag

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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 antispoiler, 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: And it's just us complaining about Gawyn. (laugh)

Sally: Mm-hmm. Well, I've got a lot of that to do today.

Emily: Well, for sure. Every time he crops up, there's – there's something to be said.

Sally: I consider murder.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He's in his dumb bitch Sherlock Holmes era.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: CSI: Gawyn.

Sally: But he's, like, really bad at it. (laugh)

Emily: CSI, colon, White Tower –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Division.

Sally: Whatever.

Emily: Yeah, he is really –

Sally: He's like -

Emily: Bad at it. He doesn't find a single clue. They're all found by his buddy, Sleete. (laugh)

Sally: Sleete. His – this buddy cop duo.

Emily: Who I believe we are always like, "What's up with Sleete?"

Sally: Yeah, what is up with Sleete? Gawyn's like –

Emily: Gawyn is like, "What's up with Sleete?"

Sally: Gawyn –

Emily: And we're like, I don't know, I wish I – I want to know him carnally, though. (laugh) I

don't know.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: He's kinda hot.

Sally: I mean, Gawyn goes out of his way to tell us that Sleete is weird-looking, which is my

type in men for sure.

Emily: Yeah, men: weird-looking –

Sally: Weird-looking is –

Emily: Equals sexy.

Sally: Pretty ideal. Um, but Sleete is also competent.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, he notices really simple things, like a door has been forced open because you can see

the scratch marks on the wall and floor.

Emily: Sexiest attributes: Competence. Rat face. (laugh)

Sally: Rat – (laugh)

Emily: I don't even know if Sleete has a rat face.

Sally: Um, this is Everybody Hates Rand.

Emily: Yeah, it's your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger.

Emily: And that's the construction guys.

Sally: That's the construction crew that lives across from us and will never leave.

Emily: Yeah, we could guess at their names, but there's probably about ninety of them, so.

Sally: Yeah, I could be like, "That's John."

Emily: I only know so many men's names.

Sally: Yeah, could we run through ninety men's names? I don't know.

Emily: I – I wouldn't know. That's not my business.

Sally: You're right, men are not my business.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, unfortunately, there's a lot of them to talk about today, starting with –

Emily: All of them bad. Starting with Perrin.

Sally: Perrin.

Emily: Yeah, we get a classic – what will be a classic, um, in this book – Perrin slash Galad chapter. It starts with Perrin and his group encountering a, um – you can't really call it a bubble of evil –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause it's not, like, an ongoing thing. It's more of a, like, ongoing disruption in the Pattern where it seems that, like, a part of the Blight has been, like, transplanted into – just the middle of Ghealdan.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, so far we haven't had Brandon Sanderson's, like, horrible commitment to having a bubble of evil every other chapter. Like –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He was doing in the Gathering Storm. I far prefer the sort of, like, structural, um, food's rotting and we're going to keep talking about that, and, like, the weather's weird and there are, like, weird things happening that aren't necessarily, like –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Someone being bubbled of evil-ed. (laugh) Um –

Sally: (laugh) That's an official, canonical term now.

Emily: But it's like, everyone goes into it and they're like, "Well, this is weird," and Perrin's like, "Okay, burn it."

Sally: "Burn it."

Emily: "Burn it with fire." And everyone's like, "Yeah, okay, that seems like a reasonable request."

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Sometimes you gotta burn the landscape in order to heal.

Emily: It's an - an invasive species, the Blight.

Sally: Whatever.

Emily: Um, we then cut to Perrin in the wolf dream, talking to Hopper, best boy. Who's like, "Yo, come hunt," and Perrin's like, "No, I can't be a wolf," and Hopper's like, "This again?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Fucking – you are a half-wolf, so, like, can you just get it through your head?" and Perrin's like, "No, I must be a man," um, and of course, Hopper's like, "Okay, well, we're just gonna peer pressure you into turning into a wolf. They, like, go on a little hunt; Perrin transmogrifies into a wolf halfway through –"

Sally: Animorphs, one might say.

Emily: Yeah, excuse – excuse me. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: For missing the accepted parlance.

Sally: If anyone is inclined to do EHR fanart as of late –

Emily: Perrin animorphing into a wolf?

Sally: An Animorphs-style cover of Perin animorphing into a wolf would be much-appreciated.

Emily: I find the Animorphs covers so upsetting, so wildly upsetting.

Sally: They're really weird and upsetting, but also an iconic piece of literary cover art, much like Darrell K. Sweet. (laugh)

Emily: Perrin turns into a wolf while they're, like, hunting a – an elk or some shit, and he's like, takes – he's like, "This is the fucking best, I love being a wolf whenever I am a wolf because that's how it goes."

Sally: Because it sounds fun.

Emily: Yeah, it sounds great. Oh, it's a stag. He takes down the stag and then is, like, about to go in for the kill and Hopper is like, "Don't do that." Like, "That stag is also in Tel'aran'rhiod," which sounds like hell for the stag.

Sally: I know, RIP, you just have dreams where you're getting hunted by a pack of wolves every night or whatever?

Emily: Yeah, or, like, I don't know.

Sally: Go to therapy, Mr. Stag.

Emily: Does, like – Hopper went to Tel'aran'rhiod as, like, his afterlife, right? Do other animals do that?

Sally: That's a good question.

Emily: What – these are questions we'll never have answers to.

Sally: Are Ed and Tybalt gonna go to Tel'aran'rhiod?

Emily: They'd probably do pretty – I bet cats would do really well in Tel'aran'rhiod 'cause it's so slippery, you know?

Sally: Yeah. Tricksters.

Emily: Yeah, they would just love it. A little trickster realm, but instead, it's full of wolves. Anyway, Hopper's like, "Don't kill it, 'cause it'll die in real —"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, you die in Tel'aran'rhiod, you die in real life. And then is like – Perrin's like, "Oh, that – I don't want – I don't want this to happen to me, I'm afraid of that," and Perrin's like, "You're not afraid," and Perrin's like, "Fine, I'm worried," and Hunter – Hopper's like, "Don't worry, then." Have you considered not having anxiety?

Sally: Have you considered calming down?

Emily: Like, Hopper, I love you, but you sound like my dad.

Sally: Yeah. Don't worry about that.

Emily: Just don't worry about it.

Sally: I do also have to say, like, as annoying as it is for all of us to have been dealing with this since book one, can you imagine what it's like for Hopper?

Emily: Oh my God, yeah.

Sally: As Perrin's wolf mentor? To just be like, "What do you mean, we're still on 'Am I a man or a wolf?"

Emily: Every single night, Hopper's like, "This again?"

Sally: I thought we got over this yesterday.

Emily: I thought you said you were forty.

Sally: I thought you said were forty. And Perrin's like, no.

Emily: Hopper's like – this is like – this must be the most agonizing – yeah, this agonizing.

Sally: Hopper thinks he's in purgatory, actually.

Emily: Hopper is repeatedly watching season eight of Game of Thrones.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's the sort of hell he's in.

Sally: RIP. R.I.P. to a real one.

Emily: Anyway, Perrin is like, "Is this how you're gonna teach me, though? Is by running around and doing wolf stuff?" And Hopper's like, "Yeah, duh, that's what I'm trying to get you to do the whole time," and Perrin's like, "Fine, I accept." Even though it feels like he's accepted this like nine other times. Like, I almost want to, like, rip out every Perrin point of view we've had in the last six books –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And just, like, look at them all side by side and be like, it really feels like we're going over the same things over and over again.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So annoying.

Sally: And then I will send my manifesto to Tor Publishing.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And be like, "Who's responsible for this?"

Emily: Then we get to Galad, who's in his full KKK era.

Sally: Dude.

Emily: Yeah, it's pretty bad, this one.

Sally: Yeah, he has lost all prospect of being a funny –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Silly character who's just very hot.

Emily: It's just, you sort of lose sympathy after a certain point. When he's like, "Yeah, maybe everyone is evil and we should waylay random travelers on the road to appease my friend Byar, who does not need to be appeased."

Sally: Yeah, who is, um ... evil.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I wish I could form a critical thought, but the construction is slowly driving me mad.

Emily: It is pretty – yesterday there was some sort of alarm going off, and it went on for, like, long enough that I was like, "Is this just gonna be it now?"

Sally: Yeah, do we just live here?

Emily: I was like, so, like, is anyone gonna fix it? 'Cause, you know, usually when an alarm goes off, you're like, great, maybe a minute passes. But this was, like, fully four and a half minutes.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Long enough to really think about it, you know? (laugh)

Sally: To really be stuck there.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, yeah. Sorry for the sidebar. Um, Galad – Galahad – is riding around on a horse, surveying his camp, talking to his coterie of other terrorists.

Emily: Yeah, they don't want him to send out a letter to, um – he's like, "I've got this plan to send out this letter to the remaining Children of the Light who are not currently under my banner, just, like, telling them what the deal is and being like, 'Come along.'"

Sally: Most of the Children of the Light who are not under his banner are with the Seanchan –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So you can see why all of his officers think this is a very bad idea. To be like, "Hey, Seanchan, here's my deets."

Emily: He's like, "Here's where I am. Here's my GPS coordinates."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Come find me."

Sally: "Here's my -" Yeah.

Emily: "Come join me." Yeah, Galad, not tons of brains.

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "This is the right thing to do," and you're – and finally, I'm like, "Did Elayne have a point?"

Emily: Yeah, did Elayne – Elayne did have a point when it applies to fucking white supremacy.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When it was just Galad being like, "Maybe it's not right to steal," I was like, sure.

Sally: Yeah, it's fine. It's – depending on who you steal from – it's not right to steal.

Emily: Yeah, maybe this is a whole personality flaw. Anyway, his – like, the officers he's talking to are like, "We don't like that you're planning on allying with the Tar Valon witches," and Galad's like, "The Last Battle's here, so we really don't have a choice because, like, they are the lesser of these two evils," and then Galad says the bold statement that, like, "And maybe we should stop assuming everyone we come across is a Darkfriend because clearly Asunawa and all of the Questioners have this issue where you're guilty until proven innocent —"

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "And it's impossible to be proven innocent, and we have to, like, talk to monarchs and stuff and, like, be respectable and maybe, like, get some land or some shit so we can build up our white supremacy empire," and they're like, "That sounds great, except all the monarchs are Darkfriends." And Galad's like, "Not my mommy." (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, and then everyone's like, "You're right, not your mommy, sorry."

Emily: "You're right; not your mommy. Okay, fine. Everyone else is, though," and Galad's like, "Yeah, sure, because I don't know them personally."

Sally: So –

Emily: Which is the same problem, Galad, that the Questioners have, just on different levels. Anyway, and then Byar comes up and is like, "I've found some Darkfriends on the road," and Galad's like, "Why – I just told you to, like, watch for passing soldiers," and Byar's like – he just keeps calling them Darkfriends, and Gawyn – like, Galad, you could take this moment to be a teaching moment –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And be like, "Let's not assume that everyone we meet is Darkfriends or even really doing anything suspicious; like, what business is it of ours —"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "If people are on the road?" But instead he's like, "I have to, I don't know, placate Byar for some reason because he was loyal to me in the past"? It's just, like – in a way, it's very, um, you know, telling rhetoric. Like, these are how these movements stay operational and, like, everyone, even the, like, quote, good guys, like Galad, just succumb to peer pressure and prioritize their, like, bonds with their bros, who are way more intense than them, and eventually fall into that trap too. Like – but that's not really the intention here, is my vibe.

Sally: Sure. I mean, I don't think there's, like, a single critical intention behind what the Whitecloaks are doing. Maybe like a light sprinkling. Um, but it does not read that way, definitely. It just reads like Galad doing more of his, like, "It is more correct in this instance to be loyal to Byar," but there's also kind of a larger – to my reading, there was just kind of a larger implication of just, like, despite everything that he's saying, Galad does believe – like, even regardless of Byar, he believes it is correct to question these people on the road because he puts together that they're somehow connected to an army, as if there are not many, many armies doing many, many things –

Emily: On the move, yeah.

Sally: None of which is Galad's business.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But he's like, "It's correct for me to understand if this army is working with the Light or the Dark," and it's like, he really believes that is his business.

Emily: Yeah. Like, we're operating from a military standpoint in this really weird space where they're in territory – they're in Ghealdan, I believe, which is –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is that Alliandre's town?

Sally: I think so?

Emily: Like, land? She's not Amadicia, 'cause Amadicia was, like, Whitecloak –

Sally: The Whitecloak town.

Emily: Place.

Sally: Do you want me to Google it?

Emily: No, I think I'm good. So we're in Alliandre's, like, territory, not the Whitecloaks' territory. I'm just, like, repeatedly confused by how the Whitecloaks have any authority in any of these places.

Sally: Yeah. They don't, and they don't care about that.

Emily: Yeah, but, like, we never see any monarch –

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Of any sort – like, Galad references here that, like, "We need to gain monarchs' respect – "

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Because, like, whenever I saw Morgase, she was just exasperated by the Whitecloaks," and I'm like, yeah, because they're exercising extrajudicial authority over citizens of a country that doesn't belong to them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, they're just a police force that doesn't belong to anyone.

Sally: Yeah

Emily: And so I'm like, how is that not a major legal problem?

Sally: It should be. You're right.

Emily: Like, they shouldn't just be able to, like, travel from point A to point B and exercise authority just because, I don't know, they have a bunch of guys?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But that's the way that the book treats it. And we're not getting a lot of, like, background for why that would possibly be.

Sally: Yeah, it's not – it would be one thing if, like, it was like the American police force, where every, you know, Congressman was, like, just absolutely mad horny for the American police force, you know, and they were all just, like, really in support of the Whitecloaks' mission and were just letting them move in whatever way they wanted. That is antithetical to everything that we have been presented with, so it's like, why are –

Emily: Yeah, every monarch we've encountered, when they've said anything about the Whitecloaks, has been like, "Fuck the Whitecloaks."

Sally: Yeah, "Fuck the Whitecloaks," so it's like, why are you not using your considerable power and resources to stop them?

Emily: Yeah. Like, I know that there's a certain amount of, on this continent, like, unoccupied land –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where there is no authority, so it would be one thing if the Whitecloaks were, like, specifically operating in those areas.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know, north of Tar Valon but south of the Borderlands, where a lot of that is going on, but they are very specifically in other countries.

Sally: Yeah, they've been everywhere.

Emily: We've encountered them in Andor, in Arad Doman. Roundabouts here, in Altara and Amadicia and Ghealdan, and it's just like, you – where does it come from?

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And I know where it comes from from the guys; like, it's just unmitigated gall –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's fine. But, like, Robert Jordan, where does it come from?

Sally: Yeah, and, like, where – like, the Whitecloaks really do not face any consequences, so we come up with the same problem we come up with the Seanchan, where it feels like the narrative is upholding what they are doing as somehow more correct.

Emily: Yeah, the narrative's just like, "Yeah, sure, this is fine."

Sally: Yeah, where it's like, it's not?

Emily: "And it's important to, like, integrate them into the Last Battle." Like, this effort of getting the Whitecloaks into the Last Battle alongside the Seanchan is what we're talking about when we talk about, like, narrative justification.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because this is a series about good versus evil –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Very specifically, so when you're like, "Here are the people who are on the side – who have to be on the side of good or good will fail," like, that's a statement that you're making from a narrative standpoint.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It doesn't matter whether Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson specifically are like, "Yeah, the Whitecloaks are good people," or, "The Seanchan are good people"; they've structured a narrative in which good cannot conquer evil unless enslavers and the KKK are backing it up with their military numbers.

Sally: Yeah.

(distinct background noise of construction)

Emily: Hammer hammer hammer.

Sally: Yeah, these guys agree with us.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: My besties across the street.

Emily: That's the applause.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So anyway, Galad, you're not doing well.

Sally: You're the – you're the worst.

Emily: Anyway, Galad encounters – comes to interview – (laugh) quote, interview; I'm already slipping into their –

Sally: Yeah, into – to interrogate, yeah.

Emily: Parlance. He goes to interrogate them. Who should it be but, um, Basel Gill and his whole people. And it's just, like, a caravan of camp followers with a bunch of, like, supplies that the army needs but, like, didn't need immediately outside of Malden, so Perrin sent them away. And Galad's like, "This is very suspicious because they're not merchants, or they'd have, like, shit to sell. This is, like, camp stuff." And then Basel Gill is like, "Yeah, we're selling camp

stuff."

Sally: "To armies." Which is, like –

Emily: To armies.

Sally: That's a good – if you're operating in a business world –

Emily: Good business model, yeah.

Sally: That's a good business model.

Emily: And Galad's like, "Mm, I can just tell you're lying because I'm a lie detector, and also why don't you sell us food, then?" and Basel Gill's like, "Food's pretty fucking scarce; we need our food," and they're like, "Mm, well, let's just separate all of you and interview you separately and see if you come up with the same story." Of course they don't, and we learn the truth, because, like, why would – you know. Bornhald comes up to Galad and is like, "Apparently they're reporting to a guy called Perrin Goldeneyes." And Galad's like, "Who?" (laugh) Bornhald's like, "He killed my dad – my daddy, and you know all about avenging parents, don't you?"

Sally: Yeah. And Galad's like, "You're right; I do."

Emily: "You're right, so I have to be loyal to you –"

Sally: "It's time to put him on trial."

Emily: "The way I am to Byar, for some reason, so let's go fucking murder this guy." Ridiculous. Speaking of ridiculous: Gawyn. CSI.

Sally: CSI: Tar Valon.

Emily: Tar Valon.

Sally: Gawyn would be a cop. Would be a bumbling cop who cannot solve any of the serial killers that were happening in the 1980s.

Emily: Yeah, Gawyn – (laugh) "Zodiac" would be about Gawyn.

Sally: Yeah, would just be about this absolute dipshit of a cop who was like, "What do you mean \_"

Emily: "What?"

Sally: "You saw the serial killer at the bus station?" or whatever. "That's – that's –"

Emily: "What? Like I believe you. You're Black, or a woman. Or both."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: "You don't know anything."

Sally: "You're not a credible witness."

Emily: "You're not a credible witness; you wouldn't have been able to serve on a jury in 1895."

Sally: That's Gawyn.

Emily: That's Gawyn.

Sally: That's what he talks like, and he's got a really gnarly 1980s mustache.

Emily: Yeah. So he's like, "Here I am with my BrOTP, Sleete. We're going to this room where someone was murdered." Apparently there have been a string of murders in the White Tower, and the popular story is that the Black Ajah are just teleporting in, murdering people, and then leaving again. Which, honestly? That would be way more competent than anything the Black Ajah –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Has ever done in the past, so.

Sally: Yeah, you'd think the Aes Sedai would be like –

Emily: Obviously it can't be them.

Sally: That doesn't seem right.

Emily: Gawyn's like, "That doesn't seem right," because – for a lot of reasons that we don't need to go into here. But he comes to investigate the room; he has, like, some beef with Captain Twinkify Chubain. What's his name?

Sally: Charlz. No.

Emily: Charlz – no! No, that's Guybon.

Sally: That's Charlz Guybon. What is his name, Captain Chubain? Jimar.

Emily: Jimar?

Sally: Which I feel like I've never heard in my entire life. Jimar Chubain.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: High captain of the guards in Tar Valon.

Emily: Jim? His name's Jim?

Sally: Yeah. Yeah, Jim Chubain.

Emily: Jimmy.

Sally: Jim Chubain and Charlz Guybon –

Emily: Okay –

Sally: They're also on the police force.

Emily: 'Kay, Jimmy and Charlz.

Sally: They're detectives.

Emily: Yeah. Pretty – pretty big cop names.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway. Jimmy and Gawyn have beef because Jimmy feels like Gawyn might be angling for his job. And, um, Gawyn hasn't realized this despite what seems like weeks of them roughing up against each other. Um, but finally Gawyn, like, dedicates more than a millisecond of thought to it and is like, "Oh, maybe he thinks that I'm going to take his job because I'm better than him," and I'm like, I'll kill you myself.

Sally: Yeah, and Gawyn is really such a brat about it. He's like, "Why would I want to be the high captain of the guard of Tar Valon when I could have been the first sword prince special-est boy of Andor?"

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) He's such a condescending dick about it.

Sally: He's like, "But I sacrificed all of that for Egg, so, like, why would I want this?"

Emily: "Whom I love."

Sally: And Chubain is like, "I'll kill you."

Emily: He's like, "It wasn't easy to give up Andor and the Younglings for Egg, but she still won't bond me." And I'm like, she has no obligation to bond you —

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You stupid idiot.

Sally: She is under no contract, you fucking incel.

Emily: Yeah. For the love of God. Anyway, they investigate. Sleete's like, "Clearly the door was forced, and it's weird that these murderers are using knives," and everyone's like, "Yeah, that is weird." Gawyn goes – goes – and makes nice with Chubain by being like, "Yeah, I want to be Egg's Warder, not the captain of the guard," and Chubain's like, "Oh, okay, you're fine, then," even though if I were him, I'd be like, "Oh, no, that's not why I don't like you."

Sally: I know, "You're a fucking -"

Emily: "You're a bitch."

Sally: "Prick. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. (laugh) "It's your personality."

Sally: It's actually – it's not because you're a nerd or whatever they say in the Social Network; it's because of your bad personality.

Emily: It's – (laugh) Um, Gawyn then goes to talk to Egg. Silviana makes him wait. Egg comes out and Gawyn corners her and is like, "There's another murder." Um, she's like, "Yeah, what about it?" He's like, "Do you have to be the Amyrlin every time we talk?" And she's like, "Well, since you seemingly cannot interact with me, my Amyrlin persona, in public in any reasonable way, then yeah, I sort of have to train you into –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Doing it." And he just keeps being like, "Yeah, of course I accept you," and not showing any evidence of that. Um, he's like, "None of the women have Warders who have been murdered." Egg's like, "Yeah, I already knew that." (laugh) He's like, "Well, it made me think about how all Aes Sedai should have Warders," and she's like, "You can't force people to bond Warders," and he's like, "Well, it's selfish not to because we need to – resources, military junk, stuff like that." She's like, "Fine, that's actually a good idea; I'll bring it up." Um. He's like, "It's clearly not the Black Ajah doing this." She eventually is like, "Yeah, we're pretty sure that it's Mesaana because we know she's in the White Tower, and we're trying to, like, set up a confrontation with her, which is why I would like you to please stop guarding my rooms at night." And I'm like, A, when does Gawyn sleep?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: B, that's a reasonable request. Like, fine, Gawyn. He's like, "You can't use yourself as bite – bait. That's stupid." And she's like, "I don't require your approval."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but we also, the readers, may or may not remember that it's not Mesaana doing the murders; it's the Seanchan assassins who were sent in with their special knives and costumes and whatnot. So we know that Gawyn, looking into this in a way that Egwene clearly is not, is going to turn out in Gawyn's favor somehow. So that's just annoying.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, Gawyn's like, "Fine, I trust you," and Egg's like, "Okay, prove it," and Gawyn turns around and leaves. There's a lot in this little snippet about Gawyn just being like, "Control your temper. Don't – don't yell at Egg. Don't hit Egg." Like, it's like – he really is like a cop who reaches to turn off his body cam every time he gets in an argument with a woman. Like –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Gawyn. For the love.

Sally: He's behaving so badly. Um.

Emily: And then with the next segment we get is Egg being like, "God, I'm so horny for him; I can't give in to him," and it's like, girl. This series was written by men.

Sally: Yeah. For, like, anybody to have encountered, um –

Emily: This number of red flags.

Sally: Yeah. This number of red flags and just, like, the way he explicitly treats you after you've been asked to be treated differently, like, there is almost no woman I know who would be like, "I will continue to pursue this relationship." Um.

Emily: Yeah, like, women end up in abusive relationships –

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Smart women do. But, like, there are lots and lots of factors that are not being accounted for in this particular thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Often women don't have support networks; Egwene has a very –

Sally: Strong, incredibly strong support network, all of whom hate Gawyn.

Emily: Because – yeah, everyone's like, "He's a scrub," and she's just like, "Mm, but I like him." She doesn't have much of a history of him being nice to her; like, a couple weeks of makeout sessions?

Sally: Sure.

Emily: As opposed to all of this extremely incriminating stuff?

Sally: Sure, and you're absolutely right, and I do not mean to victim-blame in any way, shape, or form. Like, women end up in abusive relationships all the time. Just from where I'm standing, it doesn't seem like they are in a relationship currently. It is just him pursuing her in many different avenues of which she is not comfortable, and of course it's also not Egg's fault that he continues to pursue her, despite her being like, "Don't do these things." Um, what is ridiculous is that Egg seems to be responding to these, um, affections in this way. It does not feel realistic.

Emily: Yeah, it's just incel fantasy again.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If you try hard enough, if you do whatever you want despite her – whatever she says – if you, quote, read between the lines, unquote, then eventually this woman will sleep with you.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That ain't how it works.

Sally: It's – and it's just, like, such an insensitive nerfing of Egg's character.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: For her to be like, "I can't have Gawyn guard my door at night 'cause what if I give in and invite him into my room?" and it's like, okay, what if you do that? Also, why would you? You hate him.

Emily: Yeah, not – yeah.

Sally: Despite everything you're telling yourself and the readers, we all know you find him annoying.

Emily: She's like, "I love his passion," and I'm like – (laugh)

Sally: You mean his tomfoolery? His buffoonery? His clownery?

Emily: "I love his passion for being a dipshit."

Sally: Yeah, his passion for slapstick comedy? Like –

Emily: What a joke.

Sally: I don't understand what you're talking about.

Emily: Speaking of incels, we then get Graendal, who's, like, called to a meeting with Moridin, where she tries to weasel out of getting Aran'gar fucking murdered. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. It's kind of iconic, actually.

Emily: Yeah, she's like, "It was all part of the plan," and Moridin's like, "Fine. I can't dispute this."

Sally: "Whatever. I can't – I don't – that doesn't sound right, but I don't know enough about –"

Emily: "Aran'gar."

Sally: "The situation to dispute it."

Emily: "And I hated Aran'gar, so."

Sally: Yeah, Moridin's like, "Ultimately not that big of a loss, but you are in trouble."

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, "Stay away from Rand," and Graendal's like, "That's fine, I wanted to focus on Perrin anyway, 'cause he's obviously important," and Moridin's like, "Okay, whatever. I don't give a shit. Here, I'll give you some – um, I'll give you some stuff to do." He shows her a room full of fucking magic items, and she's like, "Can I just have –?" and he's like, "No," slaps her wrist. "No, these are all for me for some reason."

Sally: "These are all my magic weapon item stuff."

Emily: We will not be seeing these used, so this is literally just a dragon hoard.

Sally: That's so dumb. Moridin, you suck.

Emily: I know, he's just not a very good –

Sally: He's not a very good bad guy, surprise.

Emily: He's just really incompetent.

Sally: Not in any iteration of his life has he been a good bad guy.

Emily: Um, he's like, "Here, though, have this," and it's called a dreamspike, and we don't know what it is yet, but there are some implications in this chapter, and we will find out soon enough that it's, like, a thing that you plant in the World of Dreams that then prevents Traveling.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Which is, you know, a very niche thing.

Sally: Yeah, so it's like, "Perrin can't run away," yeah.

Emily: Very specifically tailored, yeah, to – Perrin won't be able to Travel when all of his problems are centered on Traveling, and also, it's something that can only be solved in the World of Dreams, and wouldn't you know it? Perrin's a World of Dreams guy.

Sally: Oh. So, like, he can't travel in the real world if this is planted in his dream? Not just he can't travel in Tel'aran'rhiod?

Emily: No, he can – he can't travel in the – like, Neald and Grady won't be able to open gateways.

Sally: That's – oh, like, like magical Traveling. He could travel on foot?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's not like an invisible wall?

Emily: It is – it looks like an invisible wall in Tel'aran'rhiod, but I think you can, like, walk through it. You just – it's like, you plant it and then there's, like – we'll get into it when it happens –

Sally: Okay.

Emily: But it's like there's a big dome of area that you can't – prevents traveling. Capital T traveling.

Sally: That is an incredibly niche weapon.

Emily: Yeah. Isn't it?

Sally: That is so unbelievably specific, especially as we get into the conversation in the next chapter.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: This is silly.

Emily: Isn't it so funny?

Sally: What on Earth –

Emily: I get such a kick out of it.

Sally: What on Earth are you doing, Brandon?

Emily: Just, like, tailoring –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A very specific - I mean, if Robert Jordan hasn't bothered to create too many magical

items -

Sally: You're right.

Emily: And he's basically been like, "Yeah, there are ter'angreal which do whatever I need them

to –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then sure, I guess. Like, what application would this possibly have anyway?

Sally: Just to be like, "Ha ha."

Emily: "No more Traveling."

Sally: I guess in warfare –

Emily: Yeah, I guess that would be –

Sally: If you, like, could find the enemy general in the –

Emily: Pretty good.

Sally: In the world of Dreams and ...

Emily: I actually – I guess it would actually be pretty strategically sound just to be like, "We're

not allowing Traveling, like, within this city," you know –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So that bad guys can't pop into the White Tower and assassinate people.

Sally: And commit murder, yeah.

Emily: Um, so, yeah, I see how it would have its uses. But, like, the fact that it is anchored in

Tel'aran'rhiod is a little weird to me.

Sally: Yeah, kind of specific.

Emily: Anyway. Moridin also is like, "And check out this sweet book of prophecies that are specifically written by bad guys." Um, and Graendal reads it and is like, "This says Perrin will die," and it's like – Moridin is like, "Yes. Mwa ha ha ha ha," and sends Graendal off to do his bidding. And it's like, the prophecy that is being referenced is the, uh, ending epigraph in this book. You don't have to read it. It's, like, some – it – it doesn't say, "Perrin Aybara will die." It

says some shit about the "Broken Wolf" and, like, blah blah blah blah blah. And it's like, nothing – none of this is –

Sally: I think all of the Forsaken should be forced to take an English class and learn how to do critical reading.

Emily: Yeah. Also, like –

Sally: Because –

Emily: They're like, "Yeah, our specific bad guy prophet had this Foretelling," and I'm like, you don't think maybe he was motivated to be like, "And sure, the bad guys will win"?

Sally: Did you guys know that media has bias?

Emily: Yeah, I know. Go figure.

Sally: So they should also take a media literacy class.

Emily: Like, I think we're supposed to be intimidated by this, but it honestly just makes me laugh. I'm like –

Sally: I know, I – yeah.

Emily: What in the fuck? (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, like, immediately –

Emily: That, like, the Forsaken are just sitting around, like, "Here's our special book that says we'll win," and it's like, what – the bad –

Sally: What else would your bad guy prophet have said?

Emily: Yeah. Oh, Trump lied to you? What a – what a surprise.

Sally: What a surprise, yeah.

Emily: Yeah. Oh, Ron DeSantis has his own motives? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Shocking. Yeah.

Emily: Shocking, I know. Maybe we shouldn't read their books as part of a –

Sally: As part of a political education?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, Moridin also tells Graendal that he will lend her the guy with two souls, meaning Slayer, who we have not seen in many moons.

Sally: Since book four? Is that right?

Emilly: No, he's popped up – he, like, murdered a couple of, um, bad guy Asha'man in Far Madding, back in book ...

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: Eight? Nine?

Sally: Nine, I think. 'Cause –

Emily: Seven or nine.. Yeah, nine. Whichever one the cleansing of saidin was in.

Sally: No.

Emily: That, I think, is the last time we've seen him.

Sally: What – okay. So four books ago?

Emily: Yeah. Whatever. Then we get to a rare chapter that has a single point of view. The point of view is Morgase as she is serving tea, um, to Perrin in, like, this sort of war council setting, except they're not at war anymore; they're just talking about what to do next, so all of the major players are here. Morgase's point of view is basically just, like, her being like, "Wow, it's harder to serve tea and be an – be a laborer than I thought. Go figure." And it's like, yeah, I don't have a ton of sympathy for you, honey.

Sally: No. Not – she's like, "I never paid any attention to my servants at all," and it's like, well.

Emily: She's like, "Wow, it's a lot of work to not be paid attention to, and to do so good at your job that you never fuck up and so no one ever notices you."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, yeah.

Sally: Yeah. Congrats on learning –

Emily: It's actually probably harder to do that than to be a monarch. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Um, like, various forms of, like, domestic labor are way harder than, I think, anything on the planet.

Emily: Yeah. Anyway, the group is just deciding, like, who should go where and what should happen. Everyone except for Perrin is like, "Let's just stay as a big group and go basically to the Last Battle." Like, "We will send out some guys to go to Rand, try and get more Travelers here so that we can all just go to the Last Battle," and Perrin's like, "No, I want Alliandre and the Ghealdanins to, like, go off to do their business. Like, split up. And I want the Two Rivers guys to go back to the Two Rivers, and I just want our big conglomerate to separate into a bunch of tiny little armies," and everyone's like, "That's stupid." And Perrin's like, "Well, it's because I have personal problems with being the boss," while he is acting like the boss.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Like, credit where credit is due, this chapter, like, does very specifically have characters point out that while Perrin is paying a lot of lip service to not wanting to be a leader, he is very specifically, like, ordering people around.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And doing – like, exerting leadership and power in a way that makes it, like, yeah, he is the leader of this – he's not insisting that, like, this is a round table –

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: You know, where everyone has the same amount of power.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That's not what he's doing. He is literally burning symbols of power, which is nothing.

Sally: Yeah. Like, it's symbol – it's symbolic. Like, burning things can have symbolic power, but that's it.

Emily: But not if you don't enforce them in reality.

Sally: Oh, yeah, do the banners not get burned?

Emily: No, I mean, the banners don't get – the banners – I actually don't remember whether – it's – it's irrelevant whether the banners get burned.

Sally: It is irrelevant.

Emily: Perrin is still acting like the leader is what I'm saying, so.

Sally: Yeah, no, absolutely. Like –

Emily: Why does it matter if his symbols of leadership are gone?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but yeah, Perrin's just like, "I'm not gonna be the leader, and you guys have to listen to me because I'm the leader."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And they're like, "This is the stupidest fucking —" Faile's like, "Hey, Perrin? Maybe we should talk about this in private," and Morgase is like, "Wow. Eugh. Yikes."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, all they decide is that they are going to send a small group to Cairhien because that's where the last sighting of Rand was. Um, it's just going to include, like, Balwer. Um, some people, you know – that's it. Um, and they also decide that because Grady and Neald are still struggling to channel, they'll, like, start trying to do linking with some of the Wise Ones and Aes Sedai who are there in order to, like, give them the power boost they need to Travel. Which is a

great idea. Um, and then everyone gets sent away, and then Perrin's like, "Maighdin?" Which is Morgase's code name. He's like, "Hey, go get Tallanvor, let's get ya married."

Sally: Well, Tallanvor is outside, like a creep.

Emily: Oh, yeah, like a creep.

Sally: So Perrin just, like, signals them both in and he's like, "You know, someone told me this a long time ago," meaning Lini. He's like, "I – you guys – we all see how you just moon over each other, so, like, take an hour to go get dressed, and you're getting married."

Emily: And Morgase is like, "No."

Sally: Yeah, Morgase is like, "Absolutely fuck you. Fuck your whole schtick." Morgase, to her credit, is like – says exactly what Emily was saying, like, "You're really making a lot of demands for someone who claims they don't want to be in charge." Uh, and then she ends on the sickest burn of all time, where she's like, "If you're gonna make decisions like this, maybe consult your lady wife first," which I was like, yeah, get him. Fuckin' roast his ass.

Emily: She's like, "You – even if you are in charge, you can't order people to make personal decisions –"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Like getting married."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "That's insane and unhinged."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And he's like, "Um, what? I didn't mean -" and she's just like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "For all you know, I don't even like Tallanvor. For all – like, you don't know – you don't have our consent to do this."

Sally: Yeah. "You don't know anything about us."

Emily: Of course this pisses off Tallanvor, who you know is just salivating to get married.

Sally: Who is just like, "Yeah, let's absolutely get married," and he runs away and pouts and Morgase is like, "Yeah, whatever, I'll fix that later, but I'm so fucking mad at you for making the dumbest decision of all time." I also hope Faile reams his ass for this for being like, "You cannot do this."

Emily: I don't remember – probably. We don't see it. But it's like –

Sally: But it's so ridiculous –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That Perrin would do this. So I'm really happy that Morgase yells at him. I was really worried for a while that she was just going to be like, "Yeah, whatever, we might as well."

Emily: No, yep, she's like –

Sally: Just reams him.

Emily: Absolutely the fuck not. And I'm like, wow, Morgase could be a really fun character if she wasn't such a dipshit.

Sally: Monarch?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Condescending monarch, like her son, Gawyn?

Emily: If she wasn't just constantly like, "Oh my God, it's so different being in the working class. My hands are dirty."

Sally: Yeah. My point of being like, uh, it was a pretty sick read when she was like, "You should talk to your wife first," is the public acknowledgment that Perrin is an idiot and Faile makes all the decisions.

Emily: Oh, no, yeah, I love that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "Um, consult the only person in this room who actually I have any respect for."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Perrin's like, "Oh."

Sally: Perrin's like, "Oh, I - I -" (wordless babbling) "I'm not at fault, I've never made a mistake in my life."

Emily: (laugh) Stupid.

Sally: And Morgase should've punched him.

Emily: Yeah. Just –

Sally: She should have. Pulled out a pocket knife and gutted him like a fish. What a bitch.

Emily: And as she's leaving, some people show up and are like, "Perrin, we've run into some Whitecloaks," so the inevitable confrontation is inching closer.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, Perrin also had some dreams earlier, but I don't care to go into them because they weren't very –

Sally: Oh, yeah, about Mat fighting himself and –

Emily: Yeah, and it's like, okay.

Sally: Mat's always fighting himself.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Mat's fighting his own character assassination on the daily.

Emily: Um. Speaking of Mat, we'll get him in the next few chapters, along with more of our classic men: Lan, Galad, Perrin. I know. It's a real bummer.

Sally: Classic men.

Emily: Let's check our moods.

Sally: Let's check our moods, ladies and gentlemen. It's time to check our mood, ladies and gentlemen and other folk.

Emily: And critters.

Sally: And critters, that's right. Ask your cats how they are doing. As a reminder, the moods that we can put on the board are: happy, sad, dead inside/resigned, mad, confused, or feeling like quitting the podcast.

Emily: Mad. I'm mad.

Sally: Same. Mad. Fully mad.

Emily: Just so mad at so many of the men. They're all so stupid.

Sally: They're all dumb. It really is a - a bunch of chapters full of, like, stupid masculine nonsense. I'm doing a really bad job filling in these circles, guys.

Emily: No, it's beautiful.

Sally: They're – you're gonna be like, "Did your five-year-old nephew do this?" and I'll be like, no, I'm 28. Thank you.

Emily: Hey, you're inside the lines. That's impressive. Alright, everyone. Thank you for listening to this anger fest.

Sally: Yeah.

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

Sally: Yeah, we love you guys.

Emily: So sorry about the constant hammering in the background, if that comes through in audio. I suspect it will, at least vaguely. Um, but if it makes you feel better, we're living with it.

Sally: Yeah, also if it makes you feel better –

Emily: Seven days a week.

Sally: We're fully recording this podcast at six p.m.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's not like we sat down in the middle of the general working hours –

Emily: Yeah, it's not - it's not one p.m.

Sally: Um, and they just, like, will not stop. I think they went to, like, eight p.m. last night.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, it's just ungodly.

Emily: They must be on some sort of weird deadline.

Sally: Yeah. Um, the deadline probably being winter. (laugh) So.

Emily: Good luck.

Sally: Um, also as a quick reminder, uh, we have a bookshop.org affiliate page where you can purchase books, and ten percent of that cost – that purchase will come back to EHR, and then we, um, send those funds out to, uh, mutual and direct aid requests, um, prioritizing queer and trans Black and Indigenous people. Um, and that's just a great way to make your book-buying habits go a little bit further, so check that out at bookshop.org/shop/everybodyhatesrand.

Emily: Mm-hmm. Do you have a sign-off?

Sally: (laugh) Yeah. Uh, my poor mom has Covid, um, and is, like, not – she's okay, but she's, like, not doing great, and she's lost her taste and smell. And I'm constantly – like, I'm checking in on her, you know, and today I was talking to her – this was while you were at Target – and I was like, "Are you doing okay?" and she's like, "Yeah, I'm okay, but, like, Sally, I can't taste Diet Coke." (laugh)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: She's like, "It's the worst." She's like, "I don't care about any other food; I just want to taste my Diet Coke," and I was like, yeah.

Emily: That's fair, yeah.

Sally: That's relatable, yeah.

Emily: If I lost my taste for Diet Coke, it would be –

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: A real, real tragedy.

Sally: I know, I told her to stop drinking it or she's gonna associate Diet –

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Her brain's gonna be like, "This tastes bad."

Emily: Tastes like medicine.

Sally: Yeah, I told her to drink some Diet Pepsi or something.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: If it doesn't taste good anyway, now's the time.

Sally: Now's the time, you know?

Emily: Just, like, get some weird-ass shit.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Okay, everyone. Thanks for listening.

Sally: Good-bye.

Emily: Stay safe, get your vaccines.

Sally: Get your vaccines, that's right. They are protecting us, so.

Emily: Wear masks in public.

Sally: Please.

Emily: Good-bye.