



EPISODE 47: Overdrawn and Under the Radar - What Happened to the Money? Part Four

Mandy Matney 00:02

I don't know how deep the corruption in this case goes. But we now have a much clearer picture of Palmetto State bank's involvement and Alex Murdaugh's crimes. And like everything else in this case, what we found is heinous and further deepens the mystery of the money. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the Murdaugh Murderers Podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. So today is Wednesday, June 1st. Next Tuesday, will mark the one year anniversary of the double homicide of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. The wheels of justice turn slowly, but we hope to get more answers soon. We all feel like we keep finding more pieces of this crazy puzzle and we hope that an arrest in the double homicide will reveal the full picture. Maggie and Paul are victims and they deserve justice. Just like Stephen Smith, Mallory Beach, Gloria Satterfield and Hakeem Pinckney. We're frustrated by how long all of this has taken to come out, but we truly appreciate you for sticking with us through all the twists and turns in this case, and we promise we will not stop until we get answers. And speaking of twists and turns we have another big one. A motion filed last week by John T Lay and Peter M McCoy Jr, the two attorneys who are appointed as co-receivers in November 2021 to tally all of Murdaugh's assets revealed even more shocking and unheard of begging practices at Palmetto State Bank. The court filings show us five things. Number one, the bank allowed Alex Murdaugh to carry unusually large negative balances on his accounts for years, sometimes in the six figure range, yet they continued to give him large loans, which he in turn did not pay back on time. Number two, considering all of this strange banking activity Alex Murdaugh's name should have come up regularly in anti-fraud reports.

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Number three Alex's financial schemes whatever they were could not have happened without Palmetto State Bank and Russell Luffy, the former CEO who is currently on house arrest number four Palmetto State Bank clearly isn't cooperating with investigators and it is holding back critical information that could help the receivers further understand where Alex's assets are and how he might have used the bank to hide them. And finally, number five, these filings show yet another layer of how the systems in place systems that are meant to regulate the behavior of everyone else and keep people honest, treated Alex Murdaugh drastically different and basically aided him in his allegedly criminal acts.

Liz Farrell 03:13

Russell Laffitte has maintained that he is yet another victim of Alex and that he a person who has known Alex Murdaugh his entire life, who grew up next door to him, in fact was tricked into participating in what he now understands to be theft and crimes from the beginning or since he lawyered up anyway, Russell has made a lot of effort to have it known that he has been cooperating with law enforcement in the multiple ongoing investigations into Murdaugh's complex network of alleged crimes. The notion that he has been cooperating was disputed by prosecutor crane waters outlet feeds bond hearing, we're waters clarified for the record that, quote providing documents and quote cooperating with law enforcement aren't necessarily the same thing. Obviously, I think we can safely assume that Laffitte's been helping only insofar as it helps himself. One problem though, no matter which way Russell tries to run in this maze of rats, he's always going to have to contend with the fact that nothing with Alex's banking behavior or the



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bank's apparent endorsement of his behavior can be explained by the word trekked. This latest revelation is even more evidence that these men have never had to explain themselves or justify their actions in any consequential way before now, they are terrible at it with Russell the feet, Corey Fleming Chad Westendorf and now Chris Wilson, all using the same defense that they were quote tricked by Alex I'm wondering when one of them is going to switch it up and say something that all of us might actually believe, which is I was scared to say no.

Mandy Matney 04:49

The latest filings are another reminder of how important the receivers duties have become in this case. Remember, the receivership is still in place. In part because of Morgan daddy's affidavit, as we discussed in the previous episode, the receivership is helping ensure no stones are left unturned in finding Alex's assets and tracing what money came in and where it went after that the receivership is keeping people honest, especially those who have trouble with the truth right now for a recap, Cory Howerton Fleming now stands accused of 23 felony charges, including money laundering, breach of trust, criminal conspiracy, and others in the theft of settlement money from the pinkies and the Satterfield. He faces over 200 years in prison and nearly \$2 million in fines. Newly implicated Russell Lucius Laffitte faces 21 various counts of criminal conspiracy breach of trust computer crimes and aiding and Alex breach of trust charges totaling 180 years and potential prison time and over \$1 million in fines. Alex's charges continue to grow with over 80 felony charges carrying an absurd penalty potential of over 750 years in prison and millions in fines. But let's talk about these explosive filings. According to this motion. On March 2 John T Lay and Peter M McCoy Jr.,



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the co-receivers, filed a subpoena seeking any and all documents related to accounts open for Hannah and Elena Plyler. And before we get any further into those documents, we need to tell you about the Pilar case, a case that Liz has been looking into for months.

Liz Farrell 06:41

For the first time since indictments began rolling out for Murdaugh and his alleged co-conspirators Thursday's filings put the names Hannah and Elena Plyler, two former clients of Alex Murdaugh on the public record on July 16 2005. The Plyler's, who were eight and 12 at the time, were injured in a car wreck that killed their mother, Angela Plyler, and their 14-year old brother Justin Angela Plyler was driving a 1999 Ford Explorer on Interstate 95 When the tread of her left rear tire separated and the SUV veered off the road and struck several trees. On November 16 2006, Russell Laffitte enlisted to serve as a conservator to the two girls and oversee the millions they received in their case. To be clear, neither Alex nor Russell have been accused of stealing from the Plyler's but Russell appears to have used the girls accounts as a personal reserve from which he and Alex gave themselves generous loans. According to sources with knowledge of their case, though Russell was careful to charge himself and Alex interest. The rates were around 2.5% and 3.25%, respectively, far lower than the bank was charging clients of Peters Murdaugh, Parker Eltz, Roth and Dietrick for the quote unquote lawyer loans that I reported on for FITS News back in April. Alex and Russell are accused of working together to steal money from Alex clients, specifically Hakeem Pinkney and Arthur Badger, whose case we'll tell you more about in a future episode and using it to pay back those

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secret loans taken from the Plyler's money. We don't know yet whether those loans were fully paid off.

Mandy Matney 08:26

This subpoena also asked the bank to produce any and all documents related to all accounts open for Arthur Badger and produce any and all documents related to any account we're wrestler feed served as the conservator and or power of attorney right now. We know that Russell served as conservator for Hakeem Pinkney, and as a conservator for the Plyler's and as personal representative for their mothers and brothers estate and personal representative for the estate of Arthur Badger's wife who was killed in a catastrophic car crash. That arrangement resembles the one in the Satterfield case in which the plaintiff's family is convinced to sign over the PR duties to a bank employee not realizing that this removes them from the case altogether. Lastly, the subpoena asked for the bank to produce all meeting minutes from board meetings held from 2005 to present. It is not clear to us what the significance of 2005 is, but that is the year that Randolph Murdaugh announced his retirement as Solicitor ending an unprecedented nearly 19 decade reign of Murdaugh's over prosecution in the 14th circuit, direct reign anyway, we all know they have significant influence in that office up until at least September 2021. Also, in 2005, South Carolina passed a tort reform act which completely changed the face of how partners at PMPED had operated for generations. It meant that they had to pivot which likely given what we know now about the firm's relationship with Palmetto State Bank meant the bank was likely affected by this reform too, as as a filing of that motion last week, Palmetto State Bank had not complied with the co-receivers subpoena.

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And we'll be right back. As the receivers have been poring through Alex Murdaugh's bank records, the motion states that, quote questions arose regarding the bank's involvement and knowledge of Murdaugh's banking activities, especially in light of the loans the bank claims it is owed, and specifically, the legitimacy of mortgages. The bank claims it holds a security for those loans. The motion says it appears the quote at least in some instances, monies that may have been misappropriated from the bank from the other bank customer funds were used to pay down loans made to Murdaugh by the bank, the receivers listed several instances. That should have been red flags for the bank. The first example was in February 2015.

Liz Farrell 11:16

So 2015 is a significant year for both Alex and Russell. In February 2015, Palmetto State bank gave Alex a revolving line of credit for \$500,000, which he secured with all seven tracks of Moselle. By May that line of credit was already depleted, and he had a negative balance of almost \$52,000. Yet the bank gave him another \$500,000 Later that same year, here's some important history on this as you know, Alex had acquired Moselle in two transactions one in April 2013 When he got six of the tracks and the other in September 2014 When he got the last track. What's weird here is that two days after the 2013 transaction, so two days after Alex took the land from suspected drug trafficker Barrett Boulware. As collateral for a supposedly unpaid mortgage owed to Alex, Palmetto State bank gave Alex, a \$1.3 million mortgage secured by the six tracks he had just acquired. So in 2015, when the bank gave him the \$500,000, and then another \$500,000. Later that year, while he was already in a five digit negative balance on his Palmetto State bank



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account, they were basically agreeing to give him a second mortgage for property that they already had a claim to because the collateral was already fully leveraged. You might wonder how Alex was about making his monthly payments on these mortgages. Well, he was terrible. It appears that he was allowed to make limited payments whenever he felt like it, which as all of you know, is simply not the way it works for 99.99% of us. The 2013 mortgage was due in full by 2018 and the 2015 mortgage was due in full by 2020. But according to Maggie's the state Alex not only didn't abide by the terms of his mortgages with Palmetto State Bank, he had only paid down those loans by about \$330,000. Those loans have been a source of contention among those representing the long line of creditors forming at Alex door last fall. Mark Tinsley, the attorney representing the Beach family and two of the boat crash victims and Eric Bland. The attorney representing the Satterfield family put liens on Moselle as well as the Murdaugh's Edisto Beach home, though Eric Bland canceled his liens earlier this year. Mark Tinsley waited until April to release the properties because he continued to question the legitimacy of the Palmetto State bank loans. And can you blame him when you look at this now? After seeing in black and white, how permissive and easygoing Palmetto State Bank seemed to be with Alex that entire time it actually does call into question the legitimacy of John Marvin Murdaugh's claim in February that if Tinsley didn't remove the liens the Moselle and Edisto properties would be foreclosed on and taken over by Palmetto State Bank. Really wasn't the bank supposed to have done that in 2018 and again in 2020, when neither loan was paid back, and their star customer not only had no money in the bank? He was routinely in the hole for 10s of 1000s of dollars. How could they possibly say times up give us the keys with a

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straight face? This bank has taken homes from working class people for not paying their mortgages on time. I honestly don't know how the bank's board the bank's officers or the Laffitte family can look at themselves in the mirror knowing that this happened on their watch. To the older couple who falls behind on their mortgage: Yes, let's go after them. But to the supposed millionaire who doesn't pay on time or at all and seems to always have a negative balance, sometimes in the six figure range: he's such a good customer, give him time, he'll make good on it. 2015 is also significant for a few other reasons. The first is that the checks to cousin Eddie appear to have started a few weeks after Alex got the first \$500,000 loan. We'll talk more about those checks in a bit. The second is that Stephen Smith was murdered in July. We don't yet know how this is connected to the Murdaugh family beyond the rumors mentioned in the original case file or what implications this might have had for Alex financially in the months and years after. The third is in September 2015. Alex Murdaugh opened his very first forge account at Bank of America. I hope they gave him a lollipop that day. The fourth is that Hannah Plyler was turning 18 and therefore was going to be entitled to the money that Alex and Russell had been helping themselves to. Finally in 2015, Palmetto State Bank was still working with the FDIC on its takeover of Allendale County Bank, which it acquired in 2014. And I want to say a fire sale but that's actually not funny because of what happened with this bank. Allendale County Bank was among the state's weakest banks, which makes sense given that it was a banking institution in one of the poorest counties in the state. Hampton county is poor, Allendale is more poor. There's not a whole lot of money circulating there. In 2012. A bank teller named April Adams pleaded guilty in federal court to allegedly embezzling more



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than \$300,000 from the bank between May and June 2011. And for trying to burn down the bank in an effort to hide her alleged thefts. I say allegedly and alleged here even though she pleaded guilty and was sentenced because as you guys are learning nothing is ever as it seems at first glance down here.

Mandy Matney 16:45

The motion also cited November 2017, when Murdaugh, quote had a negative checking account balance every day for the entire month, except for seven days. During that month. His account plummeted to negative \$34,000. Just the next month in December 2017. Murdaugh received \$60,000 from two of his family members, but his bank account wasn't in the black for long in February and March 2018, Murdaugh had a negative balance for weeks at a time hitting a low of negative \$33,000 According to the motion.

Liz Farrell 17:25

Remember how each of the indictments against lie seemed to end with a line Murdaugh then use the money to make credit card payments, pay back loans pay family members as well as friends and associates. At least one of those credit card payments was six figures. So it seems like every financial avenue and Alex live was leveraged to within an inch of its life. Meanwhile, his friends and family say he seemed to be doing really well financially. This latest motion is one more piece of the puzzle, but it only creates more questions for us. What was it like doing with the money he earned the money he allegedly stole the money the bank kept giving him and the huge amounts of imaginary money he spent in overdrafts.



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Mandy Matney 18:07

And the other shocking thing that the receivers have found while investigating Alex's finances what they call significant cash payments to third parties with the intent to discover additional assets. Specifically, they're talking about the so-called cousin Eddie checks which is yet another puzzling layer in the Murdaugh money mystery. In total, the receivers say that Curtis Eddie Smith received more than \$2.5 million from 2019 through 2021, in addition to other payments he received in previous years. Now remember how we first found out about Curtis Eddie Smith, Edie is accused of conspiring with Murdaugh in the very strange roadside shooting over Labor Day weekend, the incident that changed everything for Alex Murdaugh, we can't forget the week that the wall seemed to fall down for Alex when he confessed that he wasn't actually an innocent victim who was randomly shot on the side of the road, which was the narrative pushed out by his camp in nearly every South Carolina media outlet except for FITS News, with the strong implication that Alex was like Maggie and Paul being targeted by murderers. No, he was not an innocent victim, but instead claimed to be a drug addict and distress. I think back to those nine days after the roadside shooting, often in the avalanche of shocking information that was coming out at the time. Within a few days. Alex Murdaugh went from being a lawyer who happened to be the only person of interest in the double homicide of his wife and son to a suspended attorney who was stealing millions of dollars from clients. And he was now saying that he staged his own failed apparent suicide so that his son Buster could collect a \$10 million insurance policy. Anyways, the Murdaugh camp was really quick to label Curtis Smith as Alex drug dealer that week, perhaps because maybe Alex fessed up to the millions of dollars in checks given

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to Eddie and they needed to find a quick excuse that could also generate public sympathy. So they dubbed him as an opioid addict and Cousin Eddie as a drug dealer.

Liz Farrell 20:24

There's a moment in the jailhouse calls when Alex tells his older brother Randy about the ringing he has been experiencing in his ears insinuating that, you know, maybe this is a result of him doing drugs. The first time I heard the recording, I knew the second he brought it up where he was going with it. I pictured that he had read an old magazine article that was lying around in the jail common area about Rush Limbaugh's famous hearing problems caused by his opioid addiction. And I pictured Alex talking to other inmates like so you're an opioid addict? Me too. Me too. Definitely. So what kind of effects are you feeling? Like what are your symptoms? Interesting? Me, too. Totally. And sure enough, in that phone call, Alex was like, yeah, maybe I have that drug addict era thing. But Randy was quick to be like nap Bo. It's probably from all the shooting you do, which is literally the last thing Alex would want anyone to be sitting about him right now. I'm surprised he wasn't like shooting me. No, I haven't shot guns in a long time. Anyway, if like we're an actual opioid addict of 20 years, and this is what he did to keep his habit going, then his addiction is the most successful thing he's ever done in his life.

Mandy Matney 21:37

During the summer of 2020, Alex wrote more than \$150,000 in checks to Eddie Smith, from both his Bank of America and his Palmetto State bank accounts from 2015 to February 2021. Only one check that Alex



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wrote to Eddie Smith was for more than \$10,000. But from the end of February 2021 Through June 2021, more than half of the checks he was writing to Eddie appear to have been for \$30, \$40 and \$50,000.

Liz Farrell 22:09

This could be important because \$10,000 is the threshold amount in which banks must report the transactions to the federal government. So this could mean that Alex was getting sloppier as time went on, and even more sloppy in the Final Four months of Maggie's and Paul's lives or he was getting more desperate. Was it because the secret world was about to be exposed because of the boat crash? Was he offloading money to hide from the beach family and the other boat victims? Is it that simple? Or did he know that investigators with the state Grand Jury are beginning to look into the obstruction of justice accusations in the boat crash investigation and we're looking into his finances or is it something else altogether? And if it is, what in the heck could it be?

Mandy Matney 22:53

The motion said that Murdaugh's account routinely held a negative balance dipping to negative \$53,000. Despite depositing significant draws from the \$1 million line of credit the motion said quote, as could be imagined, Murdaugh's loans routinely were past due with late charges assessed.

Liz Farrell 23:14

As could be imagined, we are highly surprised that late charges were assessed. People read our story and FITS News about the loans and the huge overdrafts Alex was allowed to keep and quickly pointed out that



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obviously, their banks, including Palmetto State Bank, held them to different standards. One reader told us about how they got charged \$35 for being 60 cents withdrawn on their account. Another told us about how Palmetto State Bank didn't hesitate to take a house away from a relative who had fallen behind on payments. Other readers picked up on how this apparent scheme between Alex and the bank is actually a viable money laundering technique in which the money gets paid back with illegitimate money at the bank and then cashed out legitimately with another refinancing. But this is what bank officers and regulators are for to catch this stuff. Obviously this didn't happen here.

Mandy Matney 24:09

So finally, the motion filed by the receivers last week reveals some perplexing details about Alex Murdaugh's finances around the time of the murders. It says quote inexplicably in July 2021, which is just a month after the murders, the bank provided Murdaugh with a \$750,000 line of credit at a time when Murdaugh had a checking account balance of negative \$162,000. During that same time in the summer of 2021, Eddie Smith received more than \$305,000 and multiple checks from Alex Murdaugh's Palmetto State Bank checking account in amounts of over \$10,000.

Liz Farrell 24:53

Now, the big question after reading that motion, as well as pieces of Russell Laffitte's deposition with the receiver yours is how did the bank let this happen? Or maybe the question should be why? What else was going on with some of the bank's board members? How much did Russell's father Charlie know about this? How much did Alex bother



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Randolph know about this were these two sons carrying on an inherited arrangement?

Mandy Matney 25:18

Anyone with just a touch of banking knowledge could see these numbers on Alex's account and know that something was up. I asked a source who has more than 40 years of banking experience to look at the numbers on Alex's account, I asked if it was unusual for the bank to allow a customer to routinely carry significant overdrafts. She said that she has never seen an overdraft approved for anywhere near those sums. She said those types of overdress specifically indicate a problem with a customer's finances and warrant significant scrutiny on behalf of the bank. The question is how many people knew and didn't stop it? And at what point did the Feds decide that it is time to take over Palmetto State Bank? Why is there no receivership in place for the bank or PMPED for that matter? There is so much unorthodox stuff happening here? Why are they trusted to sort it out on their own without any oversight? So we spoke with Eric Bland about these recent revelations. Remember, Eric Bland filed a lawsuit against Eddie Smith late last year on his quest to find answers to where the Satterfield money went, Eric has found out a lot about the money and where it was going and what was going on with Eddie Smith. And we're going to get into all of that in a later episode. But for starters, I asked Eric, what he thought of Palmetto State banks involvement in the scheme, he said that there absolutely were warning signs.



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Eric Bland 27:00

You know, Alex telling Palmetto State bank to deposit a trust account, check for a particular client in his personal account, or giving him access to those funds and then letting them repay him at a later date. I just can't imagine that the federal regulators are not going to come in and do some kind of significant oversight on this bank either put them on some kind of temporary watch list to see if there are going to be additional bank officers hired and new controls put in place. But you know, you just can't say it's just only Russell Laffitte. You know, there are tellers, there are assistants, you know, unless Russ is typing up these notes himself and, and doing all the transferring of funds and reconciliation. Somebody should have picked this up. There should be some oversight that took place, you know, the same questions that you'd ask of PMPED to say, Where was the oversight? Hey, Alex certainly didn't type up letters. Alex certainly didn't type up checks. You know, other people had to help out. You know, certain people should have asked questions. It's just a tremendous failure from a corporate standpoint to protect clients and protect people's money.

Mandy Matney 28:19

So Laffitte was deposed by the receivers in this case in February 2020. In the motion, the receivers attach several pages of live feeds deposition. What's interesting is that two names were brought up specifically in that deposition, John Ahsoka and John Peters, two bank officers who were responsible for monitoring and reporting suspicious behavior like Alex's.



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Liz Farrell 28:45

The important takeaway here is this. There is no way Alex banking behavior didn't constantly send up alerts within the bank. So this raises the question of how was all of this handled? How did Palmetto State Bank report the weird transactions and liberal lending to regulators and what was the work culture like at the bank where employees were probably best served by a see nothing say nothing mentality?

Mandy Matney 29:14

And we'll be right back. A few episodes ago when Russell Laffitte was indicted, we mentioned something that we told you we would circle back on so in the indictment that said Russell a feat Alex Murdaugh and another attorney who at the time we were working to find out who it was went on a luxurious trip to Omaha, Nebraska on a private plane to attend the 2012 College World Series. The problem was according to that indictment, the trip was funded by the Pinckney families stolen money.

Liz Farrell 29:52

Well, turns out the attorney was Chris Wilson. So Chris Wilson's name comes up a lot in this investigation and as the state newspaper reported this week he could be a key witness in this case, who is Chris Wilson, officially Chris Wilson's name first came up in November 2021, when Murdaugh was indicted for convincing a quote attorney from another firm to usurp the normal process and pay him directly for his share of the legal fees and a case they had worked on together. In March 2021. Murdaugh allegedly told Wilson who wasn't named in the indictment that he was going to structure his fees quote, in part



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because of the boat crash case in which Murdaugh is a defendant. According to the indictment, Murdaugh told the attorney Wilson that his firm PMPED already knew he was doing this and that he would put the fees quote on the books. Instead, Murdaugh put the hundreds of 1000's of dollars in fees into his bank account and spent it allegedly Murdaugh's apparent scheme was found out by PMPED in July 2021, according to the indictment, after it was discovered, Murdaugh allegedly called the attorney Wilson and told him that he had not set up the structured fee correctly and needed to send it back Murdaugh wired \$600,000 to Wilson and falsely claimed according to the indictment, that he couldn't send the remaining \$192,000 Because of how the structured account had been set up.

Eric Bland 31:18

Chris Wilson's got his own problems that he's going to have to deal with every lawyer knows that if I'm co counsel with somebody else, that's a member of a law firm. And we have a joint representation agreement on behalf of a client. If I'm the one who's distributing those settlement funds from an escrow account, I am writing those checks to that law firm that that other lawyer is a member of I'm not writing them to him individually, because a law firm is going to come back to me and say, hey, that's great. You sent those checks to Jerry. Now write me my checks that I'm entitled to because I'm the one on the fee agreement, the law firm.

Mandy Matney 31:52

Remember that guy, Wilson's name came up again, at an Alex December bond hearing when he made a point to attend to absolve



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both Wilson and Fleming, his two close buddies from his shenanigans. In court, Murdaugh said that Wilson and Fleming are two of his oldest and dearest friends who quote didn't know anything and didn't do anything wrong. However, outside of the official public record, Wilson's name has been whispered as one of Murdaugh's closest confidants. For years. As Liz and I have been peeling back all of the Murdaugh family layers since the boat crash. It could be said that Chris Alex and Cory have been thickest thieves since their last school days.

Liz Farrell 32:38

There are not many stories we've heard about Alex law school days that don't involve the names Chris and Cory. Neither of us know Chris, but right now I picture him to be like chunk in Goonies. The kid who did the Truffle Shuffle who got caught by the fatalities, and when they told him to talk, he immediately confessed every little thing he had done in his life, including stealing his uncle, Max's toupee getting kicked out of fat camp and cheating on his history exam. That's who I picture Chris to be, but maybe he's a Fatale, hard to tell at this point.

Mandy Matney 33:09

Wilson, like Fleming was quick to throw Alex Murdaugh under the bus the second one finger pointed at him. Soon after the indictments which vaguely identified him as a Bamberg county attorney dropped. Wilson basically outed himself and he sent a statement to the media saying that he was deeply troubled, disappointed and angry. He said that he knew Alex Murdaugh for 30 years but quote friendship doesn't replace facts. He said Alex has to be held accountable for this situation, and seemingly others and quote, ah, he too was duped.



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Liz Farrell 33:47

Since I wrote this line for FITS News I've gotten a lot of feedback from people who like to say it to me when I see them in public did duped Fleming doop Wilson was Murdaugh's such as Super Duper that he could do the duped into duping. I guess we'll find out someday.

Mandy Matney 34:03

So Wilson claims he was duped by Alex Murdaugh. Remember that something else to know about Wilson. He is being represented by one of the most well known attorneys in South Carolina former state representative and CNN commoner Bakari Sellers sellers grew up close to Hampton County and he's in the same good ol boy club with Dick Harpootlian, Alex Murdaugh, Jim Griffin eccentric cetera Sellers was quick to confirm that his client Chris Wilson was in fact on that plane but also said that he had no knowledge of how that plane was paid for he and Alex were best friends seller said quote, he was duped like everyone else. All of these super smart attorneys were duped by a guy who doesn't know what habeas corpus means. That makes sense.

Liz Farrell 34:55

One of my best friends thought Egypt was in South America. I love her But she is the last person I'd like to take me on a trip to see the Sphinx. Unless I'm trying to go to Argentina. The reason we use the word best in front of the word friend is to alert the rest of our circle that this person knows me really well. And I know this person really well. And we rely on each other and we trust each other based on the things we've learned about each other. Now, we also trust our best friends to the point that we don't always feel the need to vet them when they ask for a favor. But



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Alex Murdaugh is not like my best friend who has a wonderful, kind and honest person who wouldn't steal a penny from the ground. Why are there so many people from Alex's law school days, who saw the things he did, heard the things he bragged about and determined he was a jerk who will do you dirty, but the guys he was closest to are like, I need to hire a high profile lawyer immediately. And that lawyer needs to tell all the media that I'm innocent.

Mandy Matney 35:53

Okay, so now you know the background on Wilson. Let's talk about this interesting state about this interesting story that was published in the state newspaper on Sunday. The state is one of several media outlets whose reporting has repeatedly favored the Murdaughs and the good ol boys especially in the past year, the story was written by likely their oldest reporter John Munk. Remember the South Carolina reporter of the year who wrote a puff piece on Harpootlian and Griffin and labeled them as bulldog attorneys. I say this because it's important to know where the story came from when we're trying to figure out the why behind it. So this article told us a few key details. First of all, the quarry Sellers was quick to say that his client, Chris Wilson is quote, helping the police and was, quote, completely blindsided, he had no knowledge or participation in these crimes. Second, the story emphasized that Wilson may play a role as a potential alibi if murder charges arise against Alex.

Liz Farrell 37:03

Look behind the scenes there has been a lot of talk that the Murdaughs are preparing themselves for something that Alex's attorneys are preparing themselves for that same something that everyone is waiting



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MURDAUGH
MURDERS
PODCAST

for something in a way they weren't waiting before. So first, I want to be clear that this isn't about the reporter as a person. This is about the institution and some people out there look at our criticism of the institution and the people who are key parts of that institution as being unprofessional or petty on our part, if you think that you're missing the point, you are missing the point, which is this we want journalists to do their jobs they're sorely needed and they are important. A single inquiry from a journalist can change the course of would be corruption. Remember, vampires don't like sunlight. It is a journalist's job to shine sunlight wherever they think the vampires are. That's one part of our job. The other part is to not provide them darkness in which to thrive. Good old boys need chumminess and darkness. Now, I'm not calling Jim Griffin a vampire. But everything Mandy's about to tell you should have warranted a follow up question from the reporter or an explanation that accounts for Jim's contradictions of earlier statements. Also, Mandy and I both believe that when it comes to Murdaugh stories, every quote Jim is allowed to have in a publication or on TV should be accompanied by a sentence that reminds readers and viewers that his statements about Murdaugh in the past were found to be inaccurate. It's called context. And it's important.

Mandy Matney 38:39

Attorney Jim Griffin claims that basically Wilson is going to be a key part of Alex alibi. And that article really puts Wilson on the hook to be Alex alibi. What is Alex alibi? Exactly? You might ask as a reminder Alex has maintained his innocence from the beginning. His attorneys claimed that Alex has accounted for every move that night and at the time that the coroner say Maggie and Paul were killed Alex was at his mother's



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house 20 minutes away watching a game show on television. But the problem is this directly contradicts what sources are saying the evidence in the case points to in terms of what Alex had told investigators about his whereabouts that night. But now Griffin is taking it a step further and saying that even more time was accounted for that evening and supposedly Chris Wilson can account for Griffin claims the Chris and Alex were talking on the phone at the time the murders allegedly happen which really are the time the murders were guessed by a coroner and I certainly do not trust that estimate. What's especially interesting is this for the first time, Griffin seems to be putting it on the record that Alex was at Moselle at 9pm which means that LA would have seen Maggie and Paul shortly before they were killed. Griffin also says that Alex drove to his mother's house at nine o'clock to get to our house and 920 stay for 20 minutes and drove back to arrive at Moselle around 10pm. In addition to this quick turnaround of a late night drive, Jim told the state newspaper that Alex spoke with Chris Wilson twice during his 20 minutes there and then twice on his 20 minute ride back to mozo. So this obviously raises questions: Who drives 40 minutes to see the elderly mother with dementia for 20 minutes at 9pm. At night, how many 57 year old male attorneys call up other 57 year old male attorneys to chit chat multiple times past 9pm on a Monday, and why are we suddenly hearing this narrative now. And then the totality of it all the body count the unsolved murders, the missing millions of dollars that were stolen from clients, the prominent attorneys who have been named in this case, and those unnamed the institutions involved in the justice system to banks, all of it is overwhelming when you take a step back and see what has been exposed since June 7 2021.

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Eric Bland 41:23

Not mind blowing. To me, I've been doing this for 34 years, I've been suing lawyers for 28 of those 34 years, you can add up every single one of my legal malpractice cases, which almost total 200 and all the conduct doesn't even come close to this. It's its conduct that you can't even write about in a law school ethics class because it's so preposterous, it's just so over the top, nobody would do it. And when I said you will, I'm numb to it. That was the wrong thing to say I'm numb from it. It's made me absolutely numb. I hate what it's done our profession. I hate what it's done to our state.

Mandy Matney 42:06

And to think there are still so many questions we don't have answers to. As always in this story, there is still so much waiting for us in the shadows as we pour sunlight on it all. As the light shines, the complicit will try to stay hidden but rest assured our movement grows stronger every day in its determination to correct these and justices change the system and hold every single bad actor accountable. Stay tuned.

DAVID MOSES 42:59

Hey, everybody, I want to interrupt the podcast just for a brief moment to share some appreciation for that special dogged reporter that started us all on this journey. Mandy's immense drive and determination led to a groundswell of support for change and is making a huge impact in our region and beyond. I don't know if you knew this, but it's her birthday this week. And if you're a fan like I am, and I'm a little biased, I'd like to suggest some ways you can help make it extra special for her. Consider subscribing to our newly relaunched



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YouTube channel where we'll be posting all our episodes, share the podcast on social media, do something for your community, expose a bad actor right to your lawmakers file a FOIA request and tell us about it on the Murdaugh Murders Podcast, Facebook and Instagram. Write a review on Amazon or Spotify, donate to Mal's Pals or send us a positive, uplifting email. You all mean the world to Mandy and each little act of kindness and encouragement goes such a long way. We appreciate you so much, and we'll see you next week.

Mandy Matney 44:08

The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created by me Mandy Matney and my fiancée David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell.

DAVID MOSES 44:16

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