



EPISODE 39: CBC's Crime Story Mandy Matney On What It Took To Cover The Infamous Murdaugh Dynasty

Mandy Matney 00:03

I don't know how long it'll take to tie up the loose ends in these cases, but I do know that coverage from organizations like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Crime Story episode you're about to hear help us in that mission. My name is Mandy Matney and this is the True Sunlight Podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark Production. But today we've got something a little different. Just like in our Cup of Justice episode 69 that published Tuesday, we're going to do something a little different with today's episode. Today, we'll publish a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation podcast called Crime Story whose host interviewed me back in November promoting my book Blood on Their Hands, Fraud, Abduction, Murder. Every week, Crime Story host and investigative journalist Kathleen Goldstar goes deep into a true crime case with a storyteller who knows it best. We've been covering the tragic death of Mallory Beach, Stephen Smith, Hakeem Pinkney, Gloria Satterfield, Maggie Murdaugh and Paul Murdaugh for over four years now. And we've been publishing episodes on this feed for almost three years now. Well, we've experienced significant success as we peel back the layers on the murder cases covered trials and buffoonery from lawyers and expanded to other cases, we are left wanting because beyond all of that, we have a primary goal in mind that continues to guide our reporting to help Sandy Smith get answers in her son's case and inspire others to seek justice in their own. That said, these types of investigations take time. Our whole team has been sprinting for years now. And as someone who can sense burnout due to her own experience, I made the call this week to take a little break and a step back to see the big picture and carve out a plan ahead. But we are still working. We are still reporting, we are still making phone calls and following up on leads and filing FOIA requests. Keep in mind, there are not a lot of weekly new shows based off original reporting that go on for years, especially when it comes to such delicate and unsolved cases. I

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know, I know, I know. You all are eager to learn everything you can specifically in the Stephen Smith and Grant Solomon cases. And I want to say that we aren't anywhere near hitting brick walls in either cases, and we keep getting more materials. But our style of reporting, which has been accurate and effective so far, takes a lot of time. We had two years of investigative material when we started the Murdaugh Murders Podcast, which is why I believe it soared so quickly to number one on the charts, we had a grasp on the entire case and establish our sources to help guide our reporting. We're trying to get that deeper sense of understanding and sourcing in the grand Solomon case to ensure we're going down the right path. Most mistakes and reporting are made when journalists are rushed. So we are doing everything we can to ensure that we are not rushing to conclusions. Y'all are here for the accurate reporting that has proven itself over and over again in the past few years. We are honored to have your trust and your continued loyalty, especially from the Premium Members week after week. And we're doing everything we can to protect that trusted relationship we have built with y'all. Moving forward, we will touch on other topics and cup of justice. And we'll start to bring on additional guests with our missions in mind to expose the truth wherever it leads, give voice to the voiceless and get the story straight, by the way. Really exciting is we have an episode of CO J coming up where Liz and I interviewed the Tamron Hall about her new book, which we love watch where they hide a story Liz and I can relate to a lot as a main character is a pesky female reporter who just doesn't quit when it comes to reporting the truth and solving crimes. We talked to Tamron about investigative reporting the problem with a lot of mainstream media and the idea of unbiased journalism plaguing the truth. I am so pumped for this episode look for it on March 5. Next month. We are starting our national tour and we want to hear from y'all on who we should invite on the programs to amplify voices. Is there a journalist who has been pursuing justice a lot like we have? Do

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you have a story you want to share? Or do you have a connection to another media outlet or nonprofit whose mission is similar to ours? Let us know by emailing info at lunasharkmedia.com or visit lunasharkmedia.com/newvoices. If you've been with us for a long time, you know much of this story, but this episode serves as a great check in on all of the ground we have covered and where we are going. Also, this is a great episode to share on social media with people who don't know the story and want to get caught up. We'll have more information at the breaks. But for now, we hope that you enjoyed this conversation with Kathleen Goldstar on this presentation of CBC's crime story.

Kathleen Goldhardt 05:48

The following episode contains difficult subject matter. Please take care while listening. I'm Kathleen Goldstar. This is Crime Story. Every week a new crime with the storyteller who knows it best? Call 911 Where's your emergency? A frantic 911 call broke the quiet of an early morning in February 2019. We're in a boat crash on Archer's Creek. Archer's Creek is in a small town in South Carolina. Six local teens were on a boat that had just crashed into a bridge. Only five of four accounted for, the body of 19-year old Mallory Beach was discovered eight days later. Initially, reporters covered the boat accident for what it was a tragedy with one key question: who was driving the boat? But a local reporter named Mandy Matney began to ask more questions. And all of them focused on one family with deep ties to the community, the Murdaughs.

Mandy Matney 07:10

I had talked to several the family members and the victims and I knew the fear that people felt when they talked about the Murdaughs and it just kind of clicked in my mind that something is really wrong here and this book crash is way different than any other crime I've ever looked at in my entire life.

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Kathleen Goldhardt 07:27

What began as a suspicious accident quickly spiraled into a national sensation, involving multiple murders, cover ups and ultimately the fall of a local dynasty developments

Various News Anchors 07:37

In the murder mystery surrounding a prominent South Carolina family this morning the husband in a South Carolina double murder mystery breaking his silence for the first time. Alex Murdaugh whose wife and son were brutally murdered in June putting out a statement after he says someone shot him this weekend.

Kathleen Goldhardt 07:56

Today we unpack the Murdaugh case which Mandy details in her new book blood on their hands. Mandy, welcome to Crime Story.

Mandy Matney 08:05

Thank you for having me.

Kathleen Goldhardt 08:06

And congratulations on your new book.

Mandy Matney 08:09

Thank you.

Kathleen Goldhardt 08:09

So tell us about the Murdaughs: what kind of influence did they have? Who were they in that community?



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Mandy Matney 08:15

So the Murdaughs were the solicitors in the 14th Circuit which is where I live in this area of South Carolina called the Low Country and a solicitor is like a district attorney. Do y'all have those in Canada? It's a prosecutor, but it's over a five county district. So the Murdaugh family held that position of Head Prosecutor of this five county district for almost 100 years. And up until 2006 is when Randolph Murdaugh Alex Murdaugh's father stepped down. But they still have this giant law firm and I say giant, it wasn't necessarily giant, it was just, they were so powerful and everyone in the area really feared them. They had a lot of political power. They donated to a lot of campaigns behind the scenes. Everybody in law enforcement knew them because of their deep ties to the solicitor's office. It was that kind of power. So they really weren't like the family making headlines across South Carolina like the Kennedys before all of this happened. They were more behind the scenes power. And Hampton is a very small town. So it was kind of in a news desert. And the boat crash happened in Beaufort, where I was covering the area and basically, nobody had ever really from the outside covered this family before the boat crash happened.

Kathleen Goldhardt 09:45

And so yeah, let's talk about that boat crash because you quickly learned that the son of Alex Murdaugh, Paul Murdaugh was actually involved in that crash. Right. So tell me what happened.

Mandy Matney 09:57

So it was just a bunch of kids that were college age, that's very normal to do around here to go out, have a night of drinking on your parents boat. And they took Paul Murdaugh's father's boat, Paul drove, and they went to an oyster roast, which is another like low country tradition that we do. A lot of times in the winter, you drink beer and eat oysters, and



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it's a lot of fun. They went to an oyster roast, stops at a bar. And then the night really took a turn, Paul, streaking started getting out of control, he started to get really mean other kids on the boat, started to say, hey, I don't think he should be driving. And he ended up slapping his girlfriend and everybody on the boat was terrified at this point and just wanted to get home. So they just kind of let him drive to put their heads down and hoped that they would make it home and his anger just kept increasing. And he ended up accelerating the boat and driving it into a bridge on archers Creek, which is a very narrow twisting creek that I am shocked that they made it that far because of how dark it was at night. And it was a very, like scary boat ride to begin with. But then Paul accelerated. They hit the bridge, and they all looked around. And all of a sudden they realized that Mallory was missing.

Kathleen Goldhardt 11:30

And so what are you finding out? You mentioned Paul was quite drunk that his anger was sort of getting out of control. What do you know? And what are you starting to hear about who Paul is?

Mandy Matney 11:40

Yeah. And Paul is a person that I will say that in my initial reporting, I didn't understand him. And because I didn't understand him as somebody is the son of a narcissist and a manipulator. And I, I viewed him as the spoiled as everybody said, he was spoiled and titled, nobody ever told him no, teachers wouldn't even tell him no, because his parents were so powerful. He never got in trouble at school, but he got away with everything. These are things I was hearing over and over and over again. But now I look back on Paul, and I know who his dad is. And I see how he was raised. And I see that he was raised in a family that would never tell him no, and how horrible that is to do to a kid because it was very clear. pretty early on that he had some serious problems



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with drinking and that his parents never corrected. And we started hearing rumors that he was in previous car crashes that his father had covered up. And we started hearing rumors that this wasn't the first time he had been in trouble with law enforcement for drinking. And we started digging into all those things.

Kathleen Goldhardt 13:07

You also learned that when the kids from the crash end up at the hospital, because some of them are hurt. That right away, Alex Murdaugh is trying to manipulate the situation and make sure that his son doesn't get in trouble for this.

Mandy Matney 13:24

Yeah. And his father, the former solicitor, and you can see on camera that he was actually flat. He actually had his solicitor badge, Alex stick because he was a volunteer assistant solicitor, which means he had the power of a prosecutor. And so he was using his position as an officer of the court to intimidate kids into not talking to law enforcement. And it just kind of clicked in my mind that something is really wrong here. And this boat crash is way different than any other crime I've ever looked at in my entire life.

Kathleen Goldhardt 13:59

And despite his efforts, and maybe because of your reporting, Paul was actually arrested. So what happened there? What was he arrested for?

Mandy Matney 14:08

Paul was arrested for three felonies. We call them DUIs, boating under the influence two of those for injuring two, the people on the boat and then one of those for DUI resulting in death. So he was facing over 25 years in prison. They were very serious charges. However, it took a very



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long time, or it felt like it took forever for those charges to come. And as we were investigating and finding out more and more and hearing the drivers, Paul the drivers, Paul, and he's never going to get caught. This is just going to be another cover up. A few of us at the island packet realized that we have to keep this going in the news. We have to keep digging into this and keep the story alive and keep the pressure up. And on Mallory Beach's birthday in April of that year, he was charged with three felonies.

Kathleen Goldhardt 15:01

And you paint quite the scene at the courtroom. When he comes in with his dad, tell us about what happened. And especially the way Alex behaved. I mean, it really was shocking to think about the way he walked into that courtroom.

Mandy Matney 15:16

Yeah, well, there was so much anticipation. And I thought that this was like the biggest story in the universe at the time, but it just shows how small my world was. back then. But I thought that the courtroom was going to be super packed with media everywhere, because we were getting huge numbers for our newspaper on every book crush story that we were covering. But uh, we showed up and no one else was there. I think there was one or two other media outlets. And we were just so highly anticipating, like, what are these people going to be like, like, we've heard so much, what are they going to look like in live action? And I remember just being appalled at Alex Murdaugh's behavior because he was larger than life came in like the mayor of the courtroom, shaking hands, like waking up people. No shame whatsoever. And this is a serious, serious case. Mallory Beech is dead because of his son. And he's just kind of walking around greeting people patting people on the back. And I was just taken aback by that.



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And then Paul walked in, and I was just blown away by how physically small he was. And it made me realize that like, this is a 19 year old kid that we're talking about here. And he just looked like a child. And that started to make me feel bad about how hard I was going in my reporting. But ultimately, this all was his father's fault. And then the courtroom got even more weird when the bailiff, like every other bailiff, and every other volunteer went to handcuff Paul, in which the prosecutor actually stepped in and said no, no, that won't be necessary.

Kathleen Goldhardt 17:17

The prosecutor, not his defense team.

Mandy Matney 17:20

Yes, he was supposed to be working for the people and not the Murdaughs. And that was something again, the two other reporters, I was with Liz, my current reporting partner, and Teresa, we were just in shock of the behavior and how normalized all of this was. And then there were other things like him, he didn't have to wear a jumpsuit for his mugshot, which pretty much everybody else does. He got the gentleman's treatment. It's like they put kid gloves on. And it was like, play court instead of how they treat a lot of people who have committed a lot less serious crimes.

Kathleen Goldhardt 18:03

Which then I guess, I mean, you had lots of reasons to keep investigating. But I think it's interesting to me that you start to look into other things. And I guess like this also kind of void your idea that there probably was more stuff that had been dismissed or not looked at and you start to look into the death of another young man named Stephen Smith, and how that connected to them Murdaugh. So tell me about



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that. How did Stephen Smith officially die or what were police saying about what happened to him?

Mandy Matney 18:33

Well, I started to hear about Stephen Smith's death, which right after Mallory died, I was looking for sources and trying to figure out who the Murdaugh's were. I was just poking around and I kept seeing a lot of memes that had photos of Mallory and Stephen next to each other that said justice for Stephen and Mallory. So I started asking around and again and again people just started saying if you're investigating the Murdaughs, you should investigate Stephen's death, and I ended up meeting Sandy, like a few weeks after the boat crash and Sandy is Stephen Smith's mother. And who was he? Stephen Smith was a 19 year old who in 2015 was found dead in the middle of a Hampton County Road and most of his wounds were on his head. There was no evidence that he was hit by a car whatsoever, but they ruled his death as a vehicle versus pedestrian incident, and that it was a hit and run. And Sandy. His sweet mother never believed that it was a hit and run. She said Stephen would not be walking in the middle of the road like that. It doesn't make any sense that they told her that a truck mayor had hit him in the face. And that's what killed him. And she just rejected that in her gut and said, I cannot my son was smart. He was sober when this happened, I just can't understand how that could possibly something happened. And when I started looking into it, I got the case file of Stephen Smith's investigation, which was investigated by the Highway Patrol and the Highway Patrol here does not investigate murders, they investigate vehicle crimes. So the guys investigating this were not equipped at all to investigate the kind of crime that they were dealing with, which, you know, looking back on it could have been by design, because it immediately sent the investigation backwards. And I started looking into the case file and all the interviews that they did, and I keep

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seeing that a Murdaugh come up over and over again, I but it was all hearsay. And what was weird about the investigation is they kept hearing that it was the Murdaugh boys or Buster Murdaugh. And they seem to be kind of getting closer to the source of where all this was coming from. And then the investigation just ended in 2016.

Kathleen Goldhardt 21:15

Buster is Paul's older brother.

Mandy Matney 21:19

Yes, Buster is Paul's older brother.

Kathleen Goldhardt 21:21

Just to add another person to the list of people in this story. You need a family tree. Exactly. And so why would Buster have done this? What was happening there that you were hearing about?

Mandy Matney 21:33

So Stephen was gay. And there were rumors in the investigation file that in Buster has denied these at this point. But back then there was several rumors that he was in some sort of a relationship with Stephen. And they ended up killing Stephen because he was gay. That was the story I heard over and over again. And the real tragedy is that we still don't know what happened to Stephen. But fast forward to 2021 South Carolina Law Enforcement Division reopened, Stephen Smith case in said that it was due to something that they found during the Murdaugh investigation, and I really hope that SLED makes an arrest in his case ultimately, and I just want his mother is sweet mother to know what happened to them. Looking back on this segment, it's hard not to take a step back and all of all that has changed over the past five years, and yet how much has remained the same. This Saturday marks the five



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year anniversary of the boat crash that killed Mallory beach and the boat crash that took down the Murdaugh dynasty. Mark Hensley and other attorneys representing surviving boat crash victims have settled with Maggie and Alex Murdaugh's estates. However, Alex's law partners will also get restitution from Alex meaning justice there is debatable even during his most recent court appearance to have his motion for a new murder trial denied Alex still shuffled his chains through the courtroom like you own the place. He was shaking hands and sporting a smug smile just like he was the first time I saw him in court for Paul Murdaugh's hearing five years ago. While settlements have been reached in the boat crash case and justice has been served to an extent we are wildly disappointed that the obstruction of justice investigation case the one that could have really held powerful people to account has gone nowhere. Most disturbing is that Stephen's case remains entirely unsolved, and seems like it's not a priority for SLED to date. 16 episodes are assembled in a playlist devoted to Stephen Smith case at true sunlight.com We highly recommend you re-listen to those episodes to get a fuller understanding of where we started. And what's developed since then, this story grew beyond a tragic death from an intoxicated boat crash and became a mission for us, a mission that is far from over. We'll get into that right after this.

Kathleen Goldhardt 24:33

I mean, this story really like one of the things I took away was You did such a nice job in the book, showing how the story got bigger for you and understanding how complicated it was and how many places you could go. It really is something like just and I think that's what draws people to the story, too, is that there's all these places where this family had influence. And then, of course, the thing that kind of blows it out of the stratosphere with she makes it to the point where nobody could ignore the story outside of becomes international news is that Paul and



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his mother Maggie, are found dead. And we know that Alex calls 911. He's the one that tells the police that he's found the emergency motel road. What does he say happened? What's his story? What does he say on the 911 call?

Mandy Matney 25:38

When the police show up on a 911 call, and it's always I'm sure you know this, it's always really hard to tell, to assume guilt from a 911 call just because it is such a horrifying situation. And you never know how anybody would react to it. But he is almost hyperventilating and saying I just found my son Paul and my wife, Maggie. I think he said that they were shot and sent help immediately. And He's panting. But I've listened to this phone call a million times. And one of the first things that I noticed is that when you call 911, they record like the first few seconds before you actually answer. And there are a few seconds where he is not panting at all. He's not doing the hyperventilating thing, and he's just on the line. And then it's like a flip switches and he starts to go. My wife and child had been shot. And so that was one of the first things that I started to be like, Huh. He started saying through his lawyers early on, he had a rock solid alibi, but never would actually say what the alibi was when Maggie and Paul were shot, but he claimed that he just came home, found them shot and call 911. And the other big thing that ultimately was his undoing was that they were found on Moselle, their 1700 acre property in very rural South Carolina. And they were found by the dog kennels, which is pretty far away from the house and a lot of land have a lot of trees. But the key here is that he claimed to police immediately that he was never at the kennels that night. And then later, he was caught in a video moments before they were murdered with his wife and son. And that was his undoing.



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Kathleen Goldhardt 27:43

I mean, it's interesting that you say that to about, you know, for those of us outside of the story, and when we finally did hear about it and hear the 911 call. And this was before he had been arrested. It didn't occur to me that he was would have killed his family. Like that's how and but it's interesting that you had been through and it living in this story, heard something so different, and I saw that in your book is like, right away, you're like, I don't know if I believe Alex and I was like, oh, only somebody living in the story would have not believed him. Because on the surface, the rest of us are like, he sounded distraught. Who, who would have imagined that he would kill his wife and, and it just felt like, Oh, my God, one more crazy thing happening to this family? Who did Alex say, might have wanted them dead? Like it's one thing for him to say he didn't do it. But why did he think or tell the police that they had been killed?

Mandy Matney 28:40

He immediately started in a saying that my son has been in a boat crash. And I think that this has something to do with it. It's been being threatened by my book. So insinuating that it had to do with revenge for Mallory beaches, death in some way, whether it'd be a one of the other kids on the boat, or one of their family members. And he started hammering in on that theory immediately. And we were hearing that theory being floated around Hampton a lot. And from my investigation up until that point, I just knew that that was completely bogus. I had talked to several of the family members and the victims and I knew the fear that people felt when they talked about the Murdaugh's and I could not imagine a any scenario of anyone actually sneaking onto their property. And we knew pretty early on to that at least one of their their own guns was used in the crime. So that was another thing that I was like, who in there, right? How could anybody sneak onto their property

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and kill these very powerful people with their weapons that does didn't make any sense. And, and the narrative was starting to really spin because it doesn't make sense to people that don't understand the story. And a lot of media were framing the story as like prosecutor son murdered, like it was a revenge for something he did with prosecution. And that's really why I started my podcast was because I a felt horrible for the victims that were being kind of blamed in some way shape or form for this horrible crime. And I just knew that nobody was really understanding this. And I had to tell the story in a way that people understood it.

Kathleen Goldhardt 30:46

Think the first time that I started to think maybe something was off was the story of all of a sudden Alex is out changing a flat tire on the side of the road. And the news is he got shot. And then the news got very complicated around it, because well tell us what happened there.

EXPOSING CRIME & CORRUPTION

Mandy Matney 31:06

Yeah, it was a big national story at the time. But as soon as he got shot on the side of the road, it was making so many international headlines around the world. And it just sent the story into another universe of craziness. But September 3, I started hearing that Alex Murdaugh was shot and immediately text started coming in, Something's fishy, something's off with this. And again, I went back to thinking who in their right mind would shoot Alex Murdaugh on the side of the road while he was changing their tire that does not make any sense whatsoever. And my sources, who are very close in the investigation, were saying like, you're right with your questioning, just hang tight. And fast forward. His story again, started to fall apart very quickly, we realized early on, he was driving a car that had run flat tires, and so he wouldn't have been changing his tire. He said he was on the way to



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Charleston, but he was on a road that is not on the route to Charleston. Thing, Thing after he said he was at one hospital, but he was actually at another. And then all of a sudden, it comes out in the New York Times that he was embezzling money from his law firm, and he had stolen over a million dollars from them. And then he puts out a press release that he was going into rehab. And I had I heard that Alex Murdaugh did like some recreational drugs, cocaine, etc, etc. But I never heard that he had an opioid addiction per se. But he puts out this press release a couple days after he was shot that he was going into rehab, and he quit his law firm. And I was just like, what person after you get shot? Why are you putting out a press release about quitting your law firm and going into rehab? That doesn't make any sense. And it just kept getting crazier and crazier. And very soon, his financial crimes started to unravel. And we realized just what he the disaster that he had created that a lead up to the murders. And that was all his financial crimes.

Kathleen Goldhardt 33:41

And you spent a lot of time explaining the financial crimes, and I appreciated the plain language, but I still found it confusing. But can you try to explain what he was doing with these financial crimes because it was the thing that I took away was the premeditation and the amount of work and the conspiracy that he had to have in place to make these things work was really stunning and quite diabolical, really horrible.

Mandy Matney 34:15

Um, so, um, I'll rewind in. In 2019, when I was investigating this family, something that I heard over and over again, was the look into after they told me to look into Stephen people started saying, look into Gloria Satterfield look into the death of their maid. And Gloria was their maid and Gloria was their maid. And I was searching around the Public Index,



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which is like our online court document website. And I see a wrongful death settlement from Alex Murdaugh about Gloria Satterfield. And I was just taken aback like, oh my god, this is really crazy because I had heard that the Murdaughs had something to do with her death? And how did they settle this, but I look at the settlement and I see all these things that are very weird with it. I see the glorious family was being represented by Corey Fleming who was Alex Murdaugh's well known best friend. And I started to write about that in 2019 and 2020. And it was always just a part of the story that just itched at me like what was going on with that settlement, after Alex was shot, and when things really started to fall apart from him, and everything just exploded immediately. I started to hear that glorious family was looking for a lawyer because they hadn't received any of the settlement money. And this was a \$500,000 settlement that I knew of, and the Satterfield family ends up hiring a lawyer named Eric Bland. In my book, I talk about my struggle to get Eric LAN to talk to me, and now he's a co-host on my show cup of justice. But Eric busted the thing wide open and figured out not only that he stole the \$500,000 settlement from the family and did not tell them but he's still over \$4 million from the settlement. And he's still all there was a multimillion dollar settlement and he stole every penny did not tell the family and through that, Eric figured out that he had actually set up a fake account called forge where he was telling people to direct the money to and stole millions of dollars from this family after glorious death, which glorious death this was still ruled as suspicious, she died on the Murdaughs property and 20 2018. The lawsuit claimed that she fell due to the Murdaughs dogs tripping her but she was a 56 year old woman seemed pretty healthy. There her death still does not make sense to me to this day, she again had a wound on her head and I believe rib fractures to from falling on these steps. And it just doesn't make any sense to me at all.



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Kathleen Goldhardt 37:20

So just like all too coincidental is what you're saying.

Mandy Matney 37:24

With everything that we found out through the Satterfield settlement and how he set up this fake account Forge. Eric and I looked at each other and we're like no way that this guy did this. This is not his first rodeo. He probably was doing this to other clients. And time went on and we figured out he was doing this to a lot of clients. But he did it in the worst way with a Satterfield. Because with everybody else, he at least given them some of the money and pretended like that was all the money and then he took it with a Satterfield, he took every single penny, which is absolutely disgusting. And Gloria Satterfield's sons were struggling during that time. One of her sons was actually couldn't make rent for his trailer. So he was kicked out of living in his trailer. And Alex Murdaugh knew this and didn't give them a penny and still pretend it to these boys that they had no money in the bank, when really they were millionaires is horrific.

Kathleen Goldhardt 38:21

So you say that there were other victims? Who were they? And what did Alex do?

Mandy Matney 38:27

We figured out that, basically, he profited off of people's tragedies. He was a personal injury attorney, and would go to people who had loved ones who are lost and car accidents and things that involve lawsuits, and he would sue usually an insurance company and take a majority of the money. And these were grieving families who not only needed that money, but it was theirs and they deserved it. And I don't know how he slept at night, knowing that he was so greedy, and these people were in



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so much pain at the time. But now they have to really look back and realize that the guy who they thought was helping them through this process and through this time was really stealing from them. So it was really an evil crime. Wow, I still get furious when I am reminded of how dastardly this man is. We are still piecing together where all the money went, and Gloria Satterfield's death is still a bit of a mystery, but we've seen some positive outcomes from this part of the story. Attorney Eric Bland. Now our co host on cup of justice was able to secure over \$7 million for Tony and Brian by suing PNP de Palmetto State Bank, Bank of America and others who contributed to Alex's egregious crimes. He was even able to get a confession of judgment from Alex that he in fact stole from the boys which would later be used to leverage Alex's plea to a variety of financial crimes of all of our work on this case. Something that really makes me proud when I think of big changes is the changes in Tony and Brian's personalities to see them supported by their family and their community and grow into stronger young men. Tony Satterfield had a competence during his victim impact statement, as he looked at Alex Murdaugh in the eyes and said:

Tony Satterfield 40:36

I really don't have words. He lied. He cheated. He stole. He betrayed me and my family and everybody else. And you did that across my mom's death. First of all, come on members ago, you wrote a half hearted, I'm sorry letter, which was half hearted because you're actually just not policy that you're really sorry. So I'm going to read you, I have an apology. I'm sorry that you felt like you had to betray us, steal from us cheat us and lie to us. I'm sorry that your family has to now, don't do what they're going to have to go through the rest of your life because of your actions or what you did. Fine. I want you to know that I'll forgive you. I will pray for you every day.



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Mandy Matney 41:17

Now, some have been held accountable civilly because of the work of Eric Bland, his partner Ronnie Richter, and others. And because of the work from state and federal prosecutors, others like Cory Fleming and Russell upbeat had been held accountable criminally and state and federal court. But it wasn't just Tony, who spoke that day. So many had been affected by Alex Murdaugh's confessed actions and the actions of those that enabled him, we will get into that right after this.

Kathleen Goldhardt 42:04

Do prosecutors look at the financial crimes, the crumbling of his personal life, everything that was going on the boat crash? How do they wrap all that up into some kind of explanation as to why Alex killed his family?

Mandy Matney 42:21

Well, this is why the trial took six weeks. And it was a very long process. But prosecutors wrapped it all up into it basically saying that Alex had never been held accountable for anything his entire life. And for the first time in his life, he was starting to get confronted about this money that he was stealing from his clients. And we found out sometime after the murders, that he was actually confronted by the CFO of his law firm on the day of the murders, that, Where's all this money. So pressure from all different angles, also, his father was dying. And at that time, which is a huge thing that a lot of people, including myself, overlook some time. But his father was the real fixer of that dynasty. And his father was really the one who could call all of the cops and say, Do this, don't do that, hold off on this, you owe me one. And Alex knew his father was not going to be able to get him out of this mess for the first time in his life. And we see this, a lot of times with murder. The incentive is just men trying to clean up their messes and trying to get out of their messes.



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And it doesn't make any sense. Murder never makes any sense as to why a person would result to that as the solution to their problems. But the way prosecutors framed it, and the way that I believed to happen is he believed that he would get sympathy. And he believed that everyone would get off of his back and stop asking him questions if his wife and son were murdered, and he believed that the lawsuit was going to go away. And in and also, you see later on, that was the whole point of the suicide for higher thing. He wanted sympathy. He wanted people to get off this back.

Kathleen Goldhardt 44:17

So that really was what it came down to you think is a distraction from his other problems.

Mandy Matney 44:23

Right, which is crazy. I mean, it's a crazy, horrendous.

Kathleen Goldhardt 44:28

I mean, wow.

Mandy Matney 44:29

But like we are people that are used to being held accountable for actions and we would not expect to ever get away with something based off of that. But this is a man who is used to being feared as an as used to having a dad that makes everything go away. And it's absolutely horrendous. And I think the other thing about this crime that although a lot I understand everybody kind of wants to reject the theory that Alex did it because it's just too hard. Human, you don't want to see this. This guy has and glowing pictures with his family wrapped around them at football games and the life of the party and this man who is a powerful lawyer, you don't want to see that person as a monster who is capable



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of killing their own family. And it is hard to wrap your head around. But when you see the the ginormous mess that Alex Murdaugh was facing at the time, and you look at his life and see how he has always gotten out of everything, then it makes a lot more sense.

Kathleen Goldhardt 45:38

Yeah. And I really felt like his arrogance came through. And his sense of entitlement came through by the fact that he actually took the stand in his own defense.

Mandy Matney 45:47

Absolutely it did. And it was funny because a lot of the people watching were just absolutely shocked that he would take the stand. Traditionally, that's a bad move for the defense. But I always knew he was going to take the stand. He's a classic narcissist, and it ended up just absolutely crushing him because the jury rejected it. The jury could see through his fake tears, the jury could see that he was being very manipulative with his answers. And just that he didn't come across as a genuine human being. The way that he talked about Maggie, his wife was so robotic and so detached, it was bizarre. He's looked at a lot of juries throughout his entire career and been able to convince them to do to give him his the verdict that he wanted. But it did not happen this time.

Kathleen Goldhardt 46:48

And the other thing that did for you gave you some insight into who Paul was and why Paul was like he was.

Mandy Matney 46:55

Absolutely a big thing that I found during the crimes. That gave me the most insight. My coworker, Liz Farrell thought of the idea to file a Freedom of Information Act requests for Alex Murdaugh's jailhouse



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phone calls when he was in jail for the financial crimes. And that was my first real insight of how Alex worked and how he convinced his family to do things for him to still support him to. It was just appalling to sit there and listen to hundreds of phone calls of him and he had a routine, he would kind of suck up at the beginning and then make small talk. And then at the very end of almost every single phone call he had with different family members, he would ask for something. And listening to that and listening to Alex on the stand. I really felt sympathy for Paul, I don't think Paul got a chance to live a normal life ever because he was raised by people who would not correct his behavior. And as I watched Alex be so manipulative and so conniving to his family members, it just all kind of hit me that it would have been impossible for Paul to be normal. And he, even if Paul wanted to be held accountable for the boat crash, I don't think his parents would have let him.

Kathleen Goldhardt 48:23 & CORRUPTION

You know, I always find this so interesting. Like, I've talked to so many people who have covered crimes, and definitely, and I've done a few myself. And what it always does is it just shows you that nobody lives in a vacuum. Nobody ends up to be who they are bad or good. All on their own. I mean, of course, there's the 1% of people that are just bad and whatever. But you know, it does, it's so important to do these kinds of investigations, because, like you said, you started out seeing Paul as the spoiled Dick which he was, but they're, you know, it's important to know that he got that way and it's generations of stuff and how dangerous it can be to just ignore the nuance and the grace and and really try to get behind why things are the way they are.



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Mandy Matney 49:09

Yeah, absolutely. And I, the my book is called blood on their hands, because it's, it's not just about Alex having blood on their hands. It's about everybody that didn't correct the Murdaughs and their behavior, and it's about everybody that didn't step up and say that something's wrong here. And it's about people that enabled Alex Murdaugh and let him get away with thing after thing after thing and just helps create this monster. And that's a big important lesson for all of us. If you know that somebody is headed down a destructive path, you have got to do something and if you don't, then you're enabling them.

Kathleen Goldhardt 49:53

And sadly, the accountability only came after his wife and son are dead and valid. He was dead. So what happens to Alex? What does the jury decide?

Mandy Matney 50:04

The jury within three hours came back with a verdict, which is very, very quick, traditionally. And the jury unanimously and very quickly decided that he was guilty. And the next day he was sentenced to two life sentences by Judge Clifton Newman. And that was just a very, a huge moment. For those of us in the low country. There was a lot a lot of people who believed there was no way a Murdaugh would ever be held accountable for a crime in the 14th circuit. And for him to be convicted in the same courtroom where his grandfather's portrait hung before the act, the trials was going on. And they they had to take it down. But his grandfather was this legend and his whole family were these legends in this area. And for him to be convicted of murder in that courtroom was a huge, huge deal and a big sign that the system is turning and people can't get away with these things just because they have a powerful family.



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Kathleen Goldhardt 51:29

So Alex is in jail, we figured out what happened to Paul and Maggie, but the story is not over for you. So where's your focus now?

Mandy Matney 51:36

The story is nowhere near over our justice system in South Carolina, we have realized so many things that are wrong with it. And that could be fixed, but people aren't fixing them, because they are profiting off of this very bad system. And so my focus is really just to keep the spotlight on that and to advocate for change. There have been judges who have been accused of horrible things throughout this saga, that they have not been held accountable. And I'm still asking the questions of why and I do not want to or plan on stopping until so many others are actually held to account for this because I believe there are a lot more people with blood on their hands, so to speak.

Kathleen Goldhardt 52:26

And what are your hopes for Stephen and Gloria's cases?

Mandy Matney 52:29

I hope that their families get answers, I hope that Sandy gets the day that she is always imagined. Since I first started talking to her in 2019, she says she closes her eyes and pictures, cops knocking on our door and saying and telling them like we've made the arrest. And I want that more than anything. And I hope with glorious case that they find answers for the family. And with all the financial crimes and all of the victims associated with that. I hope that authorities keep digging further into how many people allow this to happen for so long. And how many people allowed this disaster to build up to what it was. I hope all of those people are held to account. And I hope that the system realizes that we can make big changes from this horrific crime and we can



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actually come out a lot stronger from this. But we have to keep pushing and we have to keep focus on the story where it matters and not keep getting distracted.

Kathleen Goldhardt 53:45

Well keep up the good fight because you've done some great work. So thank you.

Mandy Matney 53:49

Thank you so much.

Kathleen Goldhardt 54:04

You've been listening to Crime Story from CBC podcasts, we drop a new episode every Monday. You can get our next episode a week early on CBC podcasts YouTube channel or by subscribing to the CBC podcast True Crime channel on Apple podcasts. In addition to early access subscribers to our true crime channel also listened. adfree crime story is written and hosted by me. Our producers are Alexis green and Sarah Clayton sound designed by Graham MacDonald. Our senior producer is Jeff Turner. Our video producer is Evan Adguard. Our YouTube producer is John Lee. Executive Producers are Cecil Fernandez and Chris oak. Tanya Springer is CBC podcast senior manager and RF Noorani is the director of CVC podcasts.

Mandy Matney 54:59

There is still so much work to be done in Stephen's case and we encourage you to go back through the episodes in the who killed Stephen Smith playlist to learn more about what we know already and what we have learned since the investigations have stalled. Next week, we will resume our investigation with our cup of justice episode Tuesday, featuring Kenny Kinsey, the Orangeburg detective that helped prosecutors explain the murder scene to jurors in the most eloquent of

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ways, co-hosts Eric Bland and Liz Farrell will ask Kenny the tough questions about his thoughts on the Stephen Smith case and go deeper into what we already know and what we need to know in order to solve Stephens case. Then on next week's True Sunlight, we will be looking into some new material and Stephen's case. We are going to dig deeper and keep a fire lit under the feet of SLED who has promised Sandy updates without following through and tell them stay tuned, stay pesky and stay in the sunlight. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell. Learn more about our mission and membership at lunasharkmedia.com. Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.

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