

[00:00:00] Mandy Matney: Hello and happy Monday. It is week four of the Alex Murdaugh trial everyone, and the State has made significant progress in building its case against Alex Murdaugh. I'm excited to see where the testimony takes us this week and whether we will be hearing from the defense's witnesses soon. As always, Liz, Eric, and I had a lot to catch up on. So, without further delay, let's get into it.

[00:00:41] Liz Farrell: Well, cups up, guys. How are you doing?

[00:00:44] Eric Bland: Cups up. Good morning.

[00:00:45] Mandy Matney: Good morning.

[00:00:46] **Liz Farrell:** It is the end of another long week in the Murdaugh Murders trial. And I wanna start with you, Eric, because yesterday in court you looked like you were about to jump over the benches right into where Dick was questioning your client, Tony Satterfield, who is Gloria Satterfield's one of her surviving sons. What was going through your head when he was testifying yesterday?

[00:01:11] **Eric Bland:** One, on the one hand, I was very proud of Tony because it took a lot of courage for someone who isn't familiar with the legal system to literally go in the court and testify. And that's the first time he is been in court. Even through our cases, we really never were in court. We were either in a mediation setting or a private meeting. And to do that in open court in front of a lot of people that were staring him, including Alex and his family, is one thing. But then when you have the whole world looking at you, it really it's a lot for an ordinary person. I thought Dick was brutally bad.

[00:01:52] **Liz Farrell:** Tell people a little bit about what happened on the stand for Tony.

[00:01:56] Mandy Matney: And before.



[00:01:57] Eric Bland: Tony had to tell the story of what happened — the theft by Alex and Cory Fleming, mostly by Alex, who got 3.45 million of the 4.3 but to talk about his mother's death, to talk about his relationship with the Murdaugh family, to talk about his trust and love that he had for Alex. And I think as he testified, you saw the betrayal because Alex contacted him in April of 2021, two months before the murder, by text. It wasn't initiated by Tony. And he said, hey, Bo, you know, just wanna let you know, give you an update on your case. Call me, you know, making progress on it, which is one of the most heinous lies that anybody has ever told because he stole the money a solid two years before — a lion share of the money. The last theft he did on the settlement was in October of 2020 and on October 6th of 2020, he and Cory Fleming dismissed the action, so there was nothing pending. It, you know, it's one of the most brutal betraval of people I've ever seen because there was nothing to tell. I mean, it was it's been completely over and it really does fit into the narrative of what the State is positing as their motive because this was an external threat. You, Mandy, created that external threat with your November 19th article that you did in The Island Packet and then your April 20th article that you did. It was the first time that Alex now can't control the situation because somebody like Mandy Matney's out there writing about the first part of the settlement of \$505,000 and now, the family is aware of that after reading your article. So, if Alex could control Jeanne Seckinger and could control the people inside his firm, Lee Cope or even Chris Wilson, what he can't control is Mandy Matney and Mandy Matney had his had her teeth in his ass. And he texted Tony and told a flat-out lie and continued doing that over the next couple months, even after the murder in a phone call that Tony had with him in the latter part of June. Dick was incredibly tone-deaf. If I was to call this week, if I was to give it a title, I'd say "Murder by Friends and the Incredible Shrinking Man." Harpootlian has just shrunk before our eyes. You know, before getting up and talking about Tony, we hadn't heard from him in about two and a half days and you saw how insistent and vociferous Dick was to try to exclude Tony's testimony because they recognized how damaging that would be before the jury. And they tried to make a motion to exclude, then they tried to make a motion to limit it to a certain extent to what he could say and Dick was misrepresenting the facts that Tony and Alex had contact with each other before the murder. He kept on saying the contact was after the murder, after the murder. And the text messages were right in front of him. He demeaned Tony by calling him a kid.

[00:05:27] Mandy Matney: Child, yeah. That was horrible.



[00:05:29] **Eric Bland:** Horrible. He's 32 years old. The jury looked over at me, three of the jurors recognized me when Dick pointed me out in as saying that I was his attorney. And I thought it was incredibly insulting when he insinuated — 'cause Tony made a mistake in saying, "Did Eric tell you about the six and a half million-dollar settlement?" Actually, it was more than seven and a half million. Dick got that wrong, too.

[00:05:52] Liz Farrell: And that probably confused Tony, right?

[00:05:54] Eric Bland: It did.

[00:05:55] Liz Farrell: Yeah.

[00:05:56] **Eric Bland:** And then Tony said no. And Dick looked back at me and said, wow, did that happen again? Like insinuating that I didn't even tell Tony about the six and a half million.

[00:06:07] Liz Farrell: Yeah, that was so gross.

[00:06:08] Mandy Matney: Oh my God.

[00:06:10] **Eric Bland:** It was. And the jury was rapt attention and when Tony added it up — the numbers — with Creighton, the 505,000 and the 3.8 million the 4.3 million, that jury was just aghast. And those three jurors who recognized me looked over to me and shook their head. Dick was attacking a victim. To attack a victim, knowing that your client stole —

[00:06:38] Liz Farrell: Confessed to stealing. Confessed. He confessed to it.

[00:06:41] **Eric Bland:** He confessed. It's a better term with the confession of judgment, which the very term of the document says confession. So, Dick lost the jury and Dick's whatever reputation he has is whittling away right in front of our eyes. It's the incredible shrinking man. I don't know what to say other than, you know, it's happening before our eyes.



[00:07:07] **Liz Farrell:** Well, one question. Mandy, did it seem to you that Dick was insinuating that Tony was sort of in on it with Alex? That's the feeling I got from watching from where we — at the trailer.

[00:07:18] Mandy Matney: And that's been a solid narrative that we've seen from trolls in the past two years — year and a half. I don't even know time at this point. But I've seen that with online people who look like they're suspiciously defending the defense and they've gone after the Satterfields and said that it looks like Tony was in on it, which is just absolutely insane. And I said this on Twitter yesterday. There is a huge difference in a guy like Tony being fooled like Alex Murdaugh and a guy like Chris Wilson who's a lawyer who is trained to look out for BS and is trained to know better. Tony Satterfield, he was told by everybody that Alex could help him and he didn't know any better. I don't blame him whatsoever for trusting Alex. And you could see on the stand, betrayal is the best word for it. Total, utter betrayal.

[00:08:21] **Eric Bland:** He clearly said Alex was my lawyer. Sure, Cory was my lawyer but I constantly went to Alex. Alex drafted the probate papers naming him personal representative. He sent the medical bills and other notifications that he got in connection with his mother's death to Alex. Alex was the one that called him. Alex was the one that texted him. And to insinuate that Tony was somehow a part of this, this kid was, you know, he was deer in the headlights. He doesn't understand legal proceedings. And then the one story that did come out was about Brian Harriott. Now, he did say that Brian was a vulnerable adult and that's why he became PR. Do you know that Alex had the 3.45 million and got notice from the bank that they were foreclosing on Gloria's trailer, which Brian had to live in, and he sat by and let that trailer get foreclosed on and Brian was kicked out in the street and had to go live with one of his relatives? That's the monster in Alex. He stole their money and he couldn't even give enough and the trailer was only valued at \$16,000. He couldn't even pay off the trailer for the kid.

[00:09:42] Liz Farrell: That's disgusting.

[00:09:43] Mandy Matney: It really is. I kept thinking about this yesterday when Tony was saying that Alex told them that they were gonna get a hundred thousand each. How he could have given them such a little amount of money and that problem would've gone away for them. They would've



believed them. They would've believed Alex. And because he was so greedy, he didn't even give them — I mean and that trailer is just absolutely insane. How he could have told those boys that he was gonna help them and then stole their money and let him get kicked out on the streets — it's just horrific.

[00:10:20] **Eric Bland:** Ginger Hadwin was interviewed after Tony testified and she said the truth is, if the boys were given \$5,000 each, they would've thought he hung the moon and would've never believed if anybody said to them that Alex stole money from them. They wouldn't have believed it. Let me ask you guys a question. What do you think is happening with Dick? What do you see this week that was different than the other? You know, I've said it's like he came in like a lion and he's gone out like a lamb like the ides of March. Do you think he's being benched by Alex, or — what is happening? Is he tired or is he sick of Alex? What is going on?

[00:11:00] **Liz Farrell:** I don't know. I think it's just like Mandy has said all along when everyone says, oh, Dick is so great in the courtroom. Mandy's like I don't think so. He's not. I can tell he's not. He's just using his Good Ole Boy powers and not actually having to think about how he comes across to people or anything like that. So, I think it's just —

[00:11:21] Mandy Matney: I think Eric Alan mentioned this yesterday. I think his lawyering methods are so out of touch and just are not useful in the post-internet world. Like I think he's used to destroying people like Tony Satterfield on the stand and there's not social media to talk back to him and say you are a bully and a coward. And like I think he's just used — I think he's so out of touch in so many different ways and the way that he speaks to women, the way that he speaks to people like Tony. And it just does not hold up in society in 2023.

[00:12:03] **Eric Bland:** He's like Gregory Peck in *12 Angry Men*, you know? Old-timey lawyers used to get their rocks off on destroying witnesses and would think that that's how you win at trial and that makes you a great lawyer. People today like decency. They just want the facts and they don't want you to humiliate and destroy somebody's entire existence like Dick tried to do to Tony. There was a photo that was taken of Tony after he came off the stand. I hugged him and he looked over at Dick and it was not a flattering photo of Tony but that's not the point. The point was he looked over at him



like what is wrong with you? Are you not a human being? It had that — that's what that photo said to me.

[00:12:49] Mandy Matney: And I wanna ask you this, Eric. The one of my lawyer friends was texting me like what is Dick doing yesterday? And I know that they said — I know he said at the beginning "You don't have to like me" blah, blah, blah. But from my perspective, if I was a member of the jury, Alex looked significantly worse after Dick crossed Tony. Isn't he —

[00:13:13] **Eric Bland:** He hurt his client. You just said it.

[00:13:15] Mandy Matney: Right. He hurt his client.

[00:13:17] **Eric Bland:** The lawyer committed an unforced error. His client is bad enough. When you're when the testimony is that your client stole 3.45 million of 4.3 million, they knew it was devastating testimony. That's why they fought so hard. And they know that Mark Tinsley is a devastating witness. That's why they're fighting so hard. So, they're smart enough to see it. But there was a way to handle this and let it go and the way I would've done this is I would've stood up and said, "Tony, you don't want to be here today, do you?" And he's and Tony would've said, "No, I don't want to be here, Mr. Harpootlian." And he would've said and I would've said, "Then I don't have any further questions." And I would've sat down because it's a way that you would've shown decency as a lawyer in a court case. But the way Dick did it, it made the 4.3 million theft worse. Sometimes, the best cross is no cross.

[00:14:18] **Liz Farrell:** I have to agree with that. That's actually a good point. Really good point.

[00:14:22] Mandy Matney: Yeah. I just wanna say this before we move to the next topic but I just keep going back to — and I really wish the world could have seen the Russell Laffitte case because it's really great to compare the both. I mean, we reported on the Russell Laffitte case as best as we could but to see it was just different. But I just keep going back to how Matt Austin crossed all the victims in the Russell Laffitte case and he was always respectful. He never dug.

[00:14:51] Eric Bland: With humanity.



[00:14:52] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. He just — and, again, he didn't like you said, that was he did the best cross that he could with them because he's not you're not gonna make any — you're not gonna get anywhere. You're not gonna get anywhere trying to villainize Tony Satterfield.

[00:15:06] Liz Farrell: True. And I think one thing, going back to Dick, I think transparency plays a huge role in this too because I think now that we are able to see inside the courtroom, I do think attorneys are gonna have to shift how they behave. I mean, you know, obviously this isn't gonna be every case that's gonna be publicized to this degree and everyone watching it like it's the coliseum or something. But I do think that that plays a role that the more you can sunlight you can put into what is typically — I mean, it's a public proceeding. It's, you keep saying this, Eric, it's the people's house. This is where we are supposed to be able to see openly somebody being tried openly. Court procedures are supposed to be open. And I think that the closed-door nature of it in South Carolina in particular has sort of led to where we're at right now with Alex Murdaugh because these things could be done in the dark. But now that people are watching Dick, now that they've got people watching the comments and — I mean, they are getting market testing in real time basically by people commenting on the case, so I think it's interesting to see that it might be what's at the root of why he hasn't been active in the case in the last few days because he might be understanding that the public opinion is reflective in some way of the jury's opinion. And that said, I wanted to talk about the bomb threat. What did you guys make of that bomb threat?

[00:16:33] **Mandy Matney:** I really hope that we hear more. I hope that they can identify who did it and just give everybody a better peace of mind at this as soon as possible.

[00:16:44] **Liz Farrell:** Well, what were your first thoughts? I mean, who — let's just say what we thought, I mean.

[00:16:48] **Eric Bland:** We're both cynics, Mandy, so I know what your first thought is gonna be. So, go ahead.

[00:16:52] Mandy Matney: Well, my first thought was like "Of course."



[00:16:54] Liz Farrell: Yeah, of course.

[00:16:55] Mandy Matney: Just on brand for everything.

[00:16:57] Liz Farrell: And you saw his smile. I mean, you saw Alex. Alex gets told why and he gets this weird little I'll-be-damned smile on his face.

[00:17:06] **Eric Bland:** For me, I don't I'm not gonna deal with the Murdaugh angle of it. I'm gonna deal with it from the jury's angle. I just was deathly afraid for the jury. This is a jury that does not I don't think wanna serve. We're seeing a lot of pushback on — we lost an alternate juror on Tuesday. We had another juror who said, look, I can't give more than three weeks and then went back to his boss. When you start having a bomb threat, we can leave. Liz, Mandy, and I can leave the courtroom but jurors and court personnel and the judge cannot if there's gonna be a trial. And our main concern was is this jury intimidated by the Murdaugh legacy? Will that influence their deliberations and ultimate verdict? And the jury's still out on that on whether the Murdaugh influence will influence the deliberations. But now, these people —

[00:18:09] Liz Farrell: Talk about the mistrial aspect of it with the mistrial. Like I guess this is the thing. Some people were saying to me that they were impressed that Newman had the presence of mind to keep the jury sequestered and away from Alex because that is the fear, right? That you have a situation like this and the jury ends up seeing the suspect or the defendant with handcuffs and then that he uses that as grounds for mistrial. Correct?

[00:18:34] **Eric Bland:** Right. It's the constant overriding fog, the angel of death — mistrial. Mistrial. That's what everybody's guarding against from the prosecution. But Dick and Jim, if a defense attorney senses that they're losing a trial — and in the court of public opinion, I believe they may be losing this trial — whether they are with the jury or in their own heads, that's a different story. They look for every opportunity to scream mistrial and the longer this goes on, the more possibility for mistrials, whether it's an Alex situation or it's an unruly witness or, you know, the Mark Tinsley donating, which was so overblown.



[00:19:19] Liz Farrell: Let's talk about that actually. So, this kind of goes hand in hand with the fear aspect of this and the influence or how the jury views the Murdaughs. Shelley Smith, who is Miss Libby's caregiver, Alex's mother's caregiver, gave some powerful testimony and I think in some ways she might have been the biggest blow. I saw some debate online that says that she did more good for the defense and I don't know how anyone could arrive at that opinion honestly. But she talked about Alex basically asking her — not asking her — telling her what the truth is of his alibi — "I was there for 30 or 40 minutes." And we know now from his car data obviously he was there just 20 minutes. And she knew that and she got scared and called her brother who is either the assistant chief or the chief of the Varnville Police department because she was frightened. And Alex was also telling her that he could help her pay for her wedding — something they had never talked about before. And he had insinuated that he could get her a better job at the school district.

[00:20:28] Eric Bland: Sounded like John Gotti, didn't it?

[00:20:29] Liz Farrell: Right. And this is a woman who works 24 hours a day basically. She said she gets up at seven and she goes to her school district job. She goes home, cleans up, takes a couple hour nap, and then goes and cares for Miss Libby. And we all know that dementia patients do something called sundowning. They're often up at night and they can wander away and Miss Shelley, that's her job to keep Miss Libby safe and all of that. So, you have Alex introducing himself into her life and doing the thing that we've tried to convey to people that we know exists, which is, let's call it the Murdaugh special if we're not having a better name right now. But what he did by offering to help pay for that wedding and get her a better job while also telling her what the truth was gonna be from his perspective was chilling.

[00:21:22] **Eric Bland:** It's obstruction of justice, Liz. Let's just call it what it is. It's witness intimidation. It's not "I'm gonna do you a nice favor." It's witness intimidation and it is absolutely should be investigated the same way he should be investigated for what he did in the emergency room after the boating accident. And don't kid yourself. Mark Tinsley was talking the truth when he looked at Alex at the eye at the Trial Lawyer's Convention and said, "Don't you tamper with my jury." To me, that's the strongest Statement I've heard in this trial.



[00:21:58] Liz Farrell: Huge. Yeah.

[00:21:59] **Eric Bland:** About the Murdaugh power. That's another attorney spilling a secret in public of what everybody knows. That's Mark Tinsley not saying it in the back of a judge's chamber. He's saying it in the open world to hear. Don't you tamper with my jury, meaning I know you've done it before.

[00:22:20] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, and I mean that's those two things are very, very damning. But the fear with Miss Shelley, I mean, she looked terrified. She was crying and I think a lot of people were affected personally by her testimony because you could just you just wanted to hug her or you just wanted to tell her it was gonna be okay.

[00:22:37] Mandy Matney: It is obstruction of justice. And Alex didn't have to threaten her. He didn't have to. Her livelihood depended on Alex's family and her ability to get along with Alex's family. So, by her doing this, I just can't explain enough how brave it is. We've talked a lot about how it's different for the three of us to talk on this podcast about how horrible things are in Hampton and how feared the Murdaugh family is, etc., etc. These people at Hampton, like Shelley Smith, their lives literally depend on it. That is a bravery that — I mean, she should be applauded. She I have thought about her every day of this week.

[00:23:24] **Eric Bland:** Because of the power. It's the power of — you know, I heard that Buster's creating situations in the courtroom. They're mad where they can't sit. It's like they think they own the world. Buster must be tone-deaf at this point.

[00:23:39] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. That's a whole other — like the family getting relocated is one of the I wanna say one of the top 10 moments for me so far in this because the indignity of that, like the fact that they had to be talked to if that is true. I mean, obviously, something happened that they had to be moved, so that's not a good visual for the jury to see. They have to wonder if —

[00:24:04] **Eric Bland:** Well, why did they move them? Why did they move them, Liz? Do you think it was because they didn't want them behind the cameras? Or they just felt they were creating a disruption with Alex? There



was too much communication, eyes and hand communication. I think they were moved because somebody like us kept saying we're disgusted.

[00:24:25] Liz Farrell: Oh, sure.

[00:24:26] Eric Bland: By how close in proximity they were to Alex.

[00:24:29] **Liz Farrell:** Well, you just saw, I mean, you could see it yourself on TV even that — I mean, this is the thing. When you're in the courtroom, you do not have as good of a view of things as you do when you're watching it on — so people who are watching this from home, you're really not losing anything other than maybe seeing these people in person but.

[00:24:46] Mandy Matney: The jury.

[00:24:47] Liz Farrell: Yeah, and then seeing the jury. But you get a much better view of the witness. You can hear better and it's more comfortable but additionally, you can see the family in a way 'cause you can only see the backs of their head if you're in the courtroom, right? So, you got to see that they were passing things they appeared to be passing things to Dick Harpootlian. Hey, maybe that's why he shrunk. Maybe that's part of it. Maybe he got talked to too for facilitating that. But it sounded like it was Alex's sister and Buster who were doing the primary communicating. And we've complained about that on this show too that it just seems like the family gets to have a social hour with him for a spell of time after proceedings are done for the day.

[00:25:32] **Mandy Matney:** And touching. And there was a point where Buster passed a phone to Dick Harpootlian and Dick saw something — like I'm glad that the court addressed it.

[00:25:46] Liz Farrell: Me too, if they did. Yeah.

[00:25:48] **Mandy Matney:** They — and I but I also wonder like if that was anybody else, would they have just been kicked out?

[00:26:01] We've bounced around a lot in the last two weeks especially and it's been very, very hard to get a narrative out of the prosecution. And it's like at



the beginning, Creighton laid out what he was gonna say and like the strings were being pulled at and making sense and people were really excited, like more and more is unraveling. This is and — but I feel like there's been a kind of change in momentum a little bit.

[00:26:35] Liz Farrell: Yeah. I have a different opinion about that because especially as a writer, where I believe in a beginning, middle, and end.

[00:26:40] Mandy Matney: Yeah, what do you think?

[00:26:42] Liz Farrell: I think that we have to be more forgiving and I am not — I, you know, if I'm gonna criticize anyone, it's probably always gonna lean toward the government, to be honest with you. But in this case, I can understand the bigger picture and I hope that people can have something of that in their I hope that people can look at that too and have sort of a forgiving nature about this because I think the criticism is should more be that this is an unwieldy case. And I was talking to a friend about this last night and it's too big. It's just too big. And that is not the State's fault per se. That is Alex's fault. That is Dick and Jim's fault. He hired attorneys that were going to question every little pebble in the gravel driveway, you know? So, that's part of the problem. And that's his right as an American, too. You get the best attorney you can afford, right? But 255-plus witnesses? When a prosecutor sets out to make his case, he is looking at the story and he's going to make a list of the order of witnesses he wants to put them in to unveil that story, right, to have it make sense and be cohesive. But when you have 255 witnesses, that's 255 schedules you have to manage. That is — and to top with, Judge Newman did not wanna rule on the motions in limine prior to the trial starting. Had he ruled on those issues, those core critical issues, I think we would've seen more cohesion. But because it has to come up naturally and then they have to have the in-camera hearings, you end up with schizophrenia because now you're allowed to have the financial people in. Well, okay, now, these people are available these days. This person's out of the country for this week. So, you — I think that in part is it. And I think, too, we're so used to a week-long trial where by day two, you've got the timeline expert, you've got the key the lead investigator who's able to give you the bigger picture of it. We're far from that because we because of Dick and Jim and because of the price of this defense. They are creating — they're making the State have to work harder.



[00:29:01] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. You're seeing Creighton try to run to the finish line like he did yesterday after Mark finished testifying and Dick tried to make him commit when he's gonna finish, you know? He said, "I'm gonna try to finish by next Wednesday." And obviously, a lot depends on cross-examination and what issues come up but that tells me that he's get he's not gonna do Bevel, the blood, and he's gonna try to —

[00:29:26] **Liz Farrell:** Well, did you believe him? I didn't believe that. I thought he was just doing the thing where when you're a newspaper, when you're writing on deadline, you're like, I'll have it in 10 minutes, and everyone knows you're lying.

[00:29:41] Somebody posted on Twitter this academic study or paper rather about something called red-collar crime. And a red-collar criminal is somebody who's committed white-collar crimes and, in connection with those white-collar crimes, has committed some a violent crime as well and including murdering your family or murdering a member of your family. It is the financial pressure. It is the personality type that Alex — we could, I mean, we're not psychologists but obviously he seems to have a certain personality. Take this, too. I sort of evolved my feelings my feelings on what the motive are and, and what was going on in Alex's mind have sort of evolved too as the evidence has been laid out. And I'm starting to see more of that. There could be an element of him, and I've said this before online and in our chats but, where he felt like a failure as a provider because Maggie and Paul are his two dependents. They're also at the root. Paul is at the root of one of his biggest challenges yet. He has failed them and he — this is all gonna come out at some point. He even tells Ronnie Crosby that I knew I was gonna get caught. He, so this is on his mind. If he's talking to Tony Satterfield in April 2021 after the money — not to skip around guys but I have to say this. Have you ever seen money spent as quickly as this man spends money?

[00:31:08] Mandy Matney: No.

[00:31:09] Liz Farrell: Because you look — I don't think I had an idea of how fast he was spending this. I knew he was spending it fast but just seeing —

[00:31:16] **Eric Bland:** On what, Liz?



[00:31:17] Liz Farrell: I don't know.

[00:31:18] **Eric Bland:** There's no Ferrari. There's no airplane.

[00:31:20] Mandy Matney: We don't know.

[00:31:21] **Eric Bland:** There's no Paris apartment. Tell me what he's spending it on.

[00:31:26] **Liz Farrell:** I mean, he had he got his bonus from PMPED in January 2021. He gets a \$150,000 loan from Johnny Parker in March or something of 2021. Then, he gets the Hershberger fee, the Faris, the almost \$800,000 from the Faris fee. It's all gone by June 7th. And not only that but to see then that 300 and some odd thousand-dollar overdraft, what the heck was he spending on after that? Like and the urgency that he had in those text messages to Chris Wilson

[00:31:58] Eric Bland: Doesn't it smell like he's being blackmailed?

[00:32:01] Liz Farrell: That's a heck of a blackmail.

[00:32:02] **Eric Bland:** Don't you see that there's going to be a component of that, the way that he was so frenetic? I smell blackmail that in any second, he lived in fear that he was going to be outed for something.

[00:32:14] Mandy Matney: Yeah, it's gotta be something.

[00:32:15] **Liz Farrell:** The Chris Wilson texts I think were just bizarre because the way they were worded and he then at the end, he calls him you're my hero. And that might just be narcissistic manipulation but at the same time, there was just such — it seemed like Alex was in a desperate situation for that money and I don't understand why. Just don't.

[00:32:33] **Eric Bland:** Did you see the hero-worshipping of Chris to Alex? Like it just felt like Chris, his whole life, worshipped Alex.

[00:32:40] Liz Farrell: A lot of people did.



[00:32:42] **Mandy Matney:** It was very similar to what Russell Laffitte said on the stand. Like Russell Laffitte was also — I don't wanna say like, they both described a man crush. I'm sorry but that's what it was like.

[00:32:55] Liz Farrell: That's right.

[00:32:56] Eric Bland: Starstruck. You're right.

[00:32:58] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. They both did. They both — both Chris and Russell. It's like, oh, Alex just had this way with people and he was just so — I'm just so in awe of all the things. Like it's just weird. But I think that that Alex used that ability that people were in awe of him to manipulate them.

[00:33:19] Liz Farrell: And that's interesting about that is his personality is what got him in trouble with the Beach family because had he not been so Alecky in the aftermath of Mallory's death, I think that this would look a lot different. But he forced himself upon the Beach family because he wanted to keep, again, keep these people in his circle tight and make them think that he's this all-powerful fixer and he's gonna get we're gonna take care of you kind of thing. But for him, he came at them full force with his personality. And to them, that was insulting because here their daughter's dead because of something his kid did. And he's just totally making it seem like everything's fine. And so, it was a moment for them I think when they realized that like we need this guy to feel punished. We need him to understand that things need to change in the future. So, Alex's personality also I think flipped on him and.

[00:34:12] **Eric Bland:** Folks, Liz just coined a new adjective that Merriam-Webster will put in their 16th unabridged new version: Alecky.

[00:34:20] Liz Farrell: Alecky, yeah.

[00:34:21] Eric Bland: A new word. He acted all Alecky.

[00:34:32] **Liz Farrell:** What we were talking about earlier, Dick has been sort of AWOL during testimony, not doing cross. And that can simply be because he didn't have his witnesses come up but we saw him again on Friday. And Mandy, you and I have had a lot of conversations about Dick and John



Meadors, who is the gentleman that they brought in on the prosecution side because he has tried a murder case against Dick before and was successful. And we've sort of had a conversation about how both Dick and this guy, John Meadors, have this old-school style and we saw a lot of that on Friday. Do you have any thoughts on that?

[00:35:15] Mandy Matney: Yeah, I called it alpha male energy. It was too —

[00:35:20] **Liz Farrell:** Right.

[00:35:21] **Mandy Matney:** They were just like — they both have this style of lawyering where they speak over people. They get too close to people's spaces. They — I mean, I did not like the way Meadors was so close to Blanca and like he always kind of touches the female witnesses. I don't know if you've noticed that. Like he gets really close in their space.

[00:35:46] Liz Farrell: I have, yeah.

[00:35:46] Mandy Matney: And that with me, some —

[00:35:48] **Liz Farrell:** It's almost like he's standing behind them, too. Did you notice that? Like he keeps going behind them on the stand, which is odd.

[00:35:54] **Mandy Matney:** Like hovering over them.

[00:35:56] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah.

[00:35:56] Mandy Matney: It just makes, as a woman, it makes me feel very uncomfortable for the female witnesses because we've all been in those situations when men just hover and they get oddly close and they don't even know that they're doing it but it just makes you feel like the weaker person like the smaller person and like you just don't have control. And I just don't like that style. And I think you pointed out how Meadors a couple times when he was objecting, it just looked bad. It was like senseless. Wasn't that you?

[00:36:35] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. I just actually was on the phone with one of our friends in this and I was telling him about how it seems like Meadors is like an



ADHD sixth grader who the teacher's like "Does anyone know the answer?" Does anyone know the answer?" and he jumps up and is like "I do" like —

[00:36:52] Mandy Matney: And then doesn't have it. Yeah.

[00:36:55] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. It's like this sort of like desperate or like he's playing a game show or something and trying to hit the button faster, like the way he objects 'cause he just jumps straight up and he is like, "Objection." And it's like that not having control of his sort of emotional projection there I feel like with the jury makes it look like he's trying to stop the defense from saying something that will ruin the whole State's whole theory of Alex killing his wife and son. But really, what he's doing is objecting for technical reasons.

[00:37:27] Mandy Matney: But I think a lot of it just goes back to they're both used to lawyering — seem to be used to lawyering in a different world where it's just like who can out-alpha male the other lawyer and scream louder at the witness and be more — and it just doesn't come off as great. And speaking of that, Blanca.

[00:37:50] Liz Farrell: Yeah, let's talk about Blanca. That was so crazy. So, for people maybe we've I don't know if we've ever said this on the record or what but for so long, when we first started hearing the name "Blanca," it was so confusing because there's more than one Blanca, not just in Hampton County. That sounds stupid to say. But there's more than one Blanca tied to this story. So, there's the Blanca that works at Palmetto State Bank and she is I believe an assistant to Russell Laffitte or was. And then there's this Blanca and her name has come up in so many different places and we kept calling her the mysterious Blanca but we finally got to meet her. You know, it's just interesting that, Mandy, like I get a little nervous when these people get up on the stand because I know the power and we've seen it. People who are watching this who have no idea anything about the Murdaughs or understand the cultural significance of them here in The Lowcountry, you can see the fear. You could see it in Shelley Smith. You could see it eat Blanca. You could see it in the other caretaker. I forget her name that that testified on Friday for who's, yeah —

[00:38:57] Mandy Matney: And Annette.



[00:38:57] **Liz Farrell:** And Annette, yeah. Yeah. And so, you can see that fear and you — but you still don't know if who's still a loyalist or who is going to be honest. And I think a lot of them are locked in by their original statements to law enforcement and maybe there's other reasons why they're testifying for the State. I'm not sure. But it seems like they've been fairly honest. And Blanca is I would count her among those.

[00:39:27] **Mandy Matney:** Both of our opinions of Blanca kind of changed a little bit after seeing her yesterday.

[00:39:33] Liz Farrell: I would say so, yeah.

[00:39:34] Mandy Matney: I always thought that she was Team Murdaugh. I always thought that she was working behind the scenes for Alex in some ways because of what we heard on the jailhouse phone calls. What I saw yesterday on the stand was a woman who was terrified of Alex Murdaugh and a woman that probably knew that she knew too much and didn't know how to get out of it.

[00:39:54] **Liz Farrell:** So, with Blanca, Mandy, do you wanna just give us a little bit of like the highlights of what you were either shocked by or what you think is damning to Alex, etc.?

[00:40:04] Mandy Matney: Sure. A couple things. Blanca, I think the most shocking part of her testimony was her describing going to Moselle the day after the murder, the morning after the murders. And first of all, I think I am just shocked that SLED did not shut that house down. I mean, and I'm also confused at the amount of lawyers that were around there that weren't concerned by that. I mean that was a crime scene. The fact that this that we have to have this woman tell us about where the towels were and tell us about what the T-shirts look like, I mean, it should have been in evidence documented. But from her perspective, she painted a scene like something was really weird in the house and maybe it sounded like Alex took a shower that night. Did you get that, and rush to pull a T-shirt?

[00:41:11] **Liz Farrell:** I wish they had done was better establish the timeline of when Blanca was there. I understand it was early in the morning.



[00:41:16] Mandy Matney: Yeah, but what time?

[00:41:18] **Liz Farrell:** What time? And then, I don't know. When she says SLED, I mean, he asked her if SLED was there when she saw — so she sees a pool of water that indicates that somebody took a shower in the master bathroom. She sees the khakis on the ground and she sees like disruption and like the T-shirt pile in the short pile. And she knows — that lady knew clothes, by the way. Like that was the funny thing.

[00:41:43] **Mandy Matney:** Oh my gosh. She had like a photographic memory of where everything was. Everything — she knew Maggie's clothes.

[00:41:53] Liz Farrell: She was stylishly dressed.

[00:41:56] Mandy Matney: Yes and she, I mean, she knew every — and then that's another thing that we have to mention about Blanca. I mean, and we told people on the podcast but we're not ignoring this. Blanca did make a Poshmark site and selling Maggie's clothes. And we don't know if she if somebody told her to do that. We don't — Maggie's family could have told her to do that for all we know. She seemed like she was a good friend of Maggie though. She did. I mean, she seemed to actually she seemed to really — it was the first person who actually seemed to really care about Maggie on the stand.

[00:42:28] Liz Farrell: Yeah, that was really actually long time coming. Now, Blanca is the second person saying that Alex was trying to, through the power of suggestion or whatever we wanna call it, get her to corroborate his story on the alibi as it is through the clothing. So, he in August apparently realizes that SLED has a video showing him in the Snapchat, Paul's Snapchat, wearing a different outfit than he was the night of the murders and he gets very disturbed by this, which you and I were saying like why would that disturb you if you didn't kill them? Like if you didn't do it, you didn't do it. He's like worried about it. That's the thing that makes me suspicious.

[00:43:12] **Mandy Matney:** And wasn't he trying to buy another one of the shirt that he was wearing in the video?



[00:43:19] **Liz Farrell:** That seemed to be what she was saying, yeah. So, Eric, what are your thoughts on Blanca's testimony and what are some of the things that you picked up on there?

[00:43:27] Eric Bland: Why was he paying Blanca almost \$72,000 a year? Somebody better start asking that question because that is a lot of money. One I'd like to know was W-2 wages taken out of that money? Was she paid in cash? But she was a very impressive witness. She has a very impressive law enforcement background and a correctional background. She's extremely well spoken and it's clear that she had a very good affinity for Maggie and even Alex to some extent. And she put Alex in context to the hurricane lifestyle that he lived, the Tasmanian Devil-type of lifestyle where everything is haphazard. What she did testify to was what happened after the murder. She came back in and she said everything was put in the refrigerator from the night before from the dinner, which according to her, that was never done. Now, Hapoortlian explained that by, well, there was a lot of men and lawyers at the house after the murder the night before. And so, it was polite for them to put food away. But what she said, which was deadly, was that Maggie's underwear and her pajamas were neatly folded and laid out in the doorway, which is the most strangest thing in the world. The other thing she said is she never saw the Columbia-style shirt that he was wearing in the Snapchat video ever again or the shoes that he was wearing. But what we do know is later on, he came to her and put the grips on her the same way he did to Shelley Smith when he said to her, you know, I was wearing a Vineyard Vines shirt. I wasn't wearing a Columbia shirt. And Harpootlian tried to say, well, it doesn't say "Columbia" on it. I don't think she was saying it was a Columbia shirt. She was just saying it was a Columbia-style shirt — that buttoned down, kind of blousey fishing short-sleeved shirt. And she said she never saw it again.

[00:45:53] Mandy Matney: And we will be right back.

[00:45:59] **Liz Farrell:** So, we got to see the second part of Mark Tinsley — Zero Dark Tinsley's testimony on Friday morning. And it sort of set it set me off. I don't know about you, guys. Mandy, what are your thoughts on Mark's testimony?

[00:46:14] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I'm with you. I really thought, I mean, it was very smart of the defense too as soon as they were getting as soon as they got



shut down by one question to just back out of it. But you made this point. It would've been really great to see for the jury to see what a freight train Mark Tinsley is and I don't think that they saw that this round because the defense chose to back out. I think he made great sense for the jury of the financial pressure I think. I think that they'll respond to that. I think the jury will respond to Mark and I think that they'll get it. It was just better the first time and it's very hard to duplicate that.

[00:47:02] Liz Farrell: It was better the first time. I think that — so, on Thursday night, we ended with Creighton with the defense objecting to Creighton's line of guestioning, which included getting into the fact that Mark had gotten with Alex basically told Alex, if you fix the juries, I will add Maggie and Paul. I will put — I will sue Maggie and Paul in Beaufort County where he has less control over the outcomes, where Alex has less control over the outcomes. That is important and I know why the defense doesn't want the jury to hear that but I think — I think he — I don't know if he got a little shaken by that because they started to talk about him getting in the weeds. You and I both know that Mark is just a very thorough, precise person and he always wants to tell you the root of — he wants to explain so that you can like understand what the meaning of what he's saying is. He wants to make sure that you're getting that, so he's going to give you a lot of detail. And I think Creighton probably is similar personality. I don't know him personally, so I don't know. But it seems from this case that he is. So, I will say like, yes, the testimony did get a little in the weeds on Thursday but I wish that Creighton had come back on Friday morning and with not having been shaken by that at all because I feel like he glossed over a lot and I think the jury needed to hear however you wanna phrase it about fixing the jury. But I will say it occurred to me that the State is going to have a rebuttal case. So, at the after the defense has their witnesses go, the State can come back around with their witnesses again and I hope they do consider bringing Mark back because he — it is such the cornerstone of why we think Alex might have been so tightly wound and pressured.

[00:48:57] Mandy Matney: I posted on Twitter about this the other day. They keep trying to hint at the Murdaughs being victims after in the wake of the boat crash and that is not the look that they think it — that is so far from the truth. They ask people like the community turned their backs on the Murdaugh family. And that's not what happened in the wake of the boat crash. Like the community was so tired of the Murdaugh family and they were



they all heard what Alex did at the hospital that night. They all heard of the scene manipulation. They all heard and they all believed that Paul was gonna get away with it because they get away with everything.

[00:49:40] **Liz Farrell:** I totally agree. And obviously, we haven't seen any evidence that there were any serious threats against him in the way of police reports or even his friends being able to articulate specific threats. So, but Eric, just talk a little bit to us about the defense's decision obviously not to — I think the defense went up there thinking that they weren't going to question Mark for longer than they did and I think it was very clear that Mark, I mean, do we think he was pretending not to hear Phil Barber when he was reading from that email? So, just talk a little bit about your thoughts on Mark Tinsley's testimony, what you think it did for the case.

[00:50:19] Eric Bland: Mark Tinsley is just captivating for all of us. His demeanor, his steadfast loyalty to the Beach family is admirable. And his willingness to go toe to toe with anybody that will get in his grill is just amazing to me. And, you know, yesterday's testimony reminded me of a famous saying: there's nothing to be learned from the second kick of a mule. And Phil Barber didn't want a haircut yesterday as opposed to earlier in the week when he guestioned Mark and really had his hat handed to him. He asked one guestion and got out of dodge. So, for me, they knew that Mark under cross-examination was more deadly even to them than answering questions under direct examination from the State. But I thought what Mark said on a number of levels was really powerful. One: he casually slipped in that there was no life insurance — none for Maggie, none for Paul, and none for Alex. And that's a major problem for the pending criminal charges that had stemmed from the Labor Day shooting because the entire purpose of that Labor Day shooting, according to Hapoortlian, who has said it not only in the media but in open court — and let me explain to you. When somebody who's your lawyer makes a statement in open court, it's called an attorney admission, a judicial admission, and you are estopped, which is a Latin term, E-S-T-O-P-P-E-D, or in English prevented from denying the truth of that statement in any future proceeding. So, he's got pending criminal charges in connection with insurance fraud when now we know there wasn't even an insurance policy in place. So, everything that we suspected that that Labor Day shooting, quote, shooting, was a fixed shooting; that all it was meant to do was so Alex can traffick the narrative somebody is out there who's trying to kill me and my family. Well, we always all of us knew that was false because if



Alex really believed that his family was in danger, he would never have let Buster walk the streets of Columbia, South Carolina in Rock Hill where he lived after June 7th, 2021. He wouldn't have let John Marvin walk the street. He wouldn't have let Randolph walk the street or his sister Lynn. He would've gathered everybody up and gone to law enforcement and said here's what is happening. Somebody is trying to kill my family and me. So, everything that Alex does is a complete fabrication.

[00:53:23] The second really powerful testimony from Mark was about Danny Henderson. Danny Henderson is a partner in the old PMPED and the new Parker Law Group. And he acted as Alex's attorney, zealously representing him, according to Mark Tinsley, intimately aware of everything that was happening in the Mallory Beach proceedings, intimately aware of Mark's desire and insistence on getting those financial documents and financial information. What was interesting is Mark said Alex was deathly afraid of having to produce that financial information, not so much for Mark's purposes, but Danny Henderson on behalf of the firm would've found out that Alex was in the red. What do I mean by in the red? He was upside down financially. This wasn't a guy that that legitimately had a lot of disclosed wealth that you could put on a financial statement. Yes, he owned Moselle. Yes, he had a car. He had some money. The problem was it was all collateralized, which means secured in favor of the banks. He actually was underwater. If those finances would've been produced, they would've seen Alex was overdrafted at Palmetto State Bank almost between, at that time. \$150-350,000. Armed with that information, Danny Henderson would've been duty-bound to go back to the partnership and would've disclosed that and then the partners would've realized, oh my goodness. That fee? Now we really know that he was taking that fee because he's broke. So, that the fear in Alex in disclosing the financial information was more palpable and real for him as to his relationship with the law firm as much as it was to have the human terrorist Mark Tinsley breathing down his throat. That's what was so powerful to me.

[00:55:50] **Liz Farrell:** Mandy, do you have any concerns going into week four like or thoughts? It doesn't necessarily have to be concerns,. But going, we're going into week four and what's on your mind?

[00:56:01] Mandy Matney: I would like more — again, it's kind of the same thing with loose ends. There's a lot of loose ends from the prosecution. There's



a lot of really long, detailed, boring — for lack of a better word — testimony that it's hard to pay attention to. It's hard to understand. I would like to see more visuals. I wish that they would emphasize more points. I wish that and I think that they're doing a better job of building a narrative. And maybe on Monday, I'll be wrong and they'll tie up all these loose ends in a nice little bow. Who knows? But I just I'm concerned that a lot of people are like, they got him good on the finances, but let's get to the facts of the case. And the other reality of this is this case is just so incredibly complicated and it's very hard to compare it with anything else. They have a lot of ground to cover and the motive is complicated. It's believable but it's complicated.

[00:57:07] Liz Farrell: Yeah. I was talking to a friend of mine who's an investigator and he was just, he sort of got brought me down a little bit because he was just talking about how the State needs to keep things simple and that they have done the exact opposite of that and, which is true, but I don't know how you keep it simple when you're dealing with so many factors. So, my worry is that the State is going to pay attention to all the people out there saying that they have a messy case or they're it's too loose. Like they don't they haven't put it all together yet. I don't want them to rush any aspect of this sort of like what seemed like it happened on Friday morning, so I just don't want them to react to that. I want them to stay on course as much as possible and do what they think they have to do.

[00:57:52] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And this is convicting somebody of murder and taking their life away. I mean, it's gonna take a while.

[00:58:00] Liz Farrell: It should take a while.

[00:58:01] **Mandy Matney:** It should take a while. And that's something that I'm realizing too. Like a lot of a lot of these other huge trials of the century took months and months and months and especially when you have a very expensive defense team that picks apart every little piece of evidence.

[00:58:20] **Liz Farrell:** 100%. And we're talking about two systems of justice. You kind of if you were accused of a murder that you didn't do, you of course would wanna go over every little piece of evidence. So, most murder trials in the state either or murder charges don't go to trial because they plead guilty to something maybe less than that like manslaughter or they go to trial and



they last a week because most of the defendants have public defenders and they just simply don't have the budget for this kind of case. So, you're not gonna see this ever. And for a very long time, again, this type of trial. But it is — you would want your lawyer to be this thorough, right? You would want them to question all of that stuff. So, that's what makes it hard when we're having these conversations because obviously, we're advocates for there to be one system of justice but is it practical for every defendant out there to have this kind of legal response in their defense?

[00:59:18] Mandy Matney: I'm interested in Eric's views on these on this too because and this kind of ties into the GoFundMe because something that I just kept thinking about with all these people so upset like why would anybody donate to this GoFundMe? That's influencing the case, blah, blah, blah. Money is already such a huge factor of this case and we cannot pretend like it's not. And it's and so far, money has 100% favored the defense. There's no amount — and if somebody's telling the truth and they get money for it afterwards, as long as they're telling the truth, that's what matters. And I just think that people were misunderstanding that.

[00:59:59] **Liz Farrell:** I think so, too. I think it is weird. It looks weird. I shared, obviously, Miss Shelley's —

[01:00:03] Mandy Matney: It looks weird. It's a bad optic but I get it.

[01:00:07] **Liz Farrell:** Totally get that. But I do think that one, that GoFundMe came about organically in response to the fear and terror. Miss Shelley's testimony took a lot of bravery and I just think that there was an emotional response that people had because they then that was the first view that everyone in the world was getting of what it is like down here when we talk about the Murdaugh family. We as reporters have seen that that reaction that Miss Shelley has or had, so that wasn't new to us but it was nice to see it so everyone else could see it. But that came about organically. It's not something like prearranged like, oh, you're gonna get — if you do this, you're gonna get the world to respond to you and get a GoFundMe so.

[01:00:52] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And she wouldn't — none of these people would think about that like.



[01:00:58] **Liz Farrell:** No.

[01:00:59] **Mandy Matney:** No. It's a natural response for people to see somebody like Shelley and want to and say, how can I help her? She did the right thing. I wanna reward that.

[01:01:08] Liz Farrell: Absolutely.

[01:01:09] **Mandy Matney:** I want to — I want her to be in a position where she's not working 24 hours a day.

[01:01:14] **Liz Farrell:** Eric, what are some of your thoughts and concerns going into week four?

[01:01:18] Eric Bland: Now, we've talked about that they're jumping around between murder witnesses and then character witnesses — the witnesses on stealing money. And going back to Blanca, I thought the FBI telephone witness on Friday was very interesting. That guy really understood how your phone interacts with towers. Now, I will tell you this. You really don't end on a Friday afternoon with a highly technical scientific expert like that. The jury's tired. They just ate lunch. We always know what it's like after you eat lunch at about two, three o'clock. We start to yawn. We get a little bit tired. They're obviously thinking about how much they have to get done when they get home. They got to shop for the weekend for their family. They gotta, you know, return emails from work. So, I'm not sure the value of his testimony, it has to work in conjunction with the phone mapping. And we've talked about, you're asking the jury to connect his testimony with testimony that was given the week before, which can be a little bit difficult for a jury to do that hasn't taken notes. Remember what we're always saying. The State puts on a witness, they take us to the edge of our seats, and then we have we expel our air because they don't make the loop. They don't finish the loop on what they're trying to say. And then they bring a witness maybe six or seven witnesses later to close that loop. We would kind of like to see them raise an issue and close the loop with the next witness.

[01:02:54] So, the other interesting thing is that the State seemed to say that they're gonna finish their case by Wednesday. They don't want to be held, you know, that that's in stone, but clearly, they are shortening their witness list.



They've done about 45, 44 witnesses. They've put 240 on their witness list. And the only I see really home run witness or a witness that's going to captivate the world is Cousin Eddie. And I will tell you this. This is an interesting tidbit. When I left the courtroom on Friday and I went and I interviewed on TV, out to the left of me came Cousin Eddie's attorney. And she came up and she hugged me and I said, hey, how you doing? And she said, I'm doing fine. I said, what are you doing here? And she said, oh, I'm doing some interviews. And I said, do you think they're gonna put Cousin Eddie up? And she said, I do believe so. It may be Monday.

[01:04:07] Liz Farrell: Well, guys, I think that is it. I think we talked about a lot.

[01:04:11] Mandy Matney: It's a lot to cover.

[01:04:12] **Liz Farrell:** So, going into week four, we hope to see more of you guys on our livestream chat. We've been having a good time talking with everyone there. Don't forget to rate and review us. Again, rate us how you want to but we like five stars. Those are our favorite. And thank you so much for listening. And for me, it's cups down.

[0]:04:34] Mandy Matney: Cups down.

[01:04:36] **Eric Bland:** Cups down.

[01:04:47] **Outro:** This Cup of Justice bonus episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, with co-host Liz Farrell, our executive editor, and Eric Bland, attorney-at-law, AKA The Jackhammer of Justice. From Luna Shark Productions.