



EPISODE 20: The Monster Alex Murdaugh Became; The best, worst and pettiest moments of the murder trial

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** Hello. I have never been more happy to say this phrase but it is a good day for Justice. Alex Murdaugh has finally been held accountable for his actions. He will spend the rest of his life in prison for what he did to Maggie and what he did to Paul on June 7th, 2021. And I cannot say this enough: that is a big deal. We've said this a lot but this was never just a murder case. We wanted justice for Maggie and Paul. We also wanted justice for the South Carolina justice system to show that it had the resolve to go up against money and power. Too often, people like Alex Murdaugh have been able to use their influence to talk their way out of crimes they are suspected of committing. Over time, they have effectively created their own justice system, one largely reserved for wealthy white men. After Alex was sentenced Friday, Liz, Eric, and I went back to the Justice Mobile in Walterboro to talk about everything we were feeling and thinking about the trial. The last 48 hours before the trial ended were such an emotional rollercoaster for all of us. I really wanted to share with y'all what it was like in the final moments before we packed up and left Walterboro. So, today's episode is a little different. It's basically a raw version of the three of us just hanging out and taking it all in. At the end of the episode, you'll hear us get a visit from Scott Grooms, the city of Walterboro's director of tourism in downtown who served as a court liaison to the media, and he stopped by to say goodbye. This conversation got emotional. There were tears from all three of us but we all did our best to keep it together. I am so excited to share this episode with you so let's get into it.

[00:02:09] Liz, you wanna start?

[00:02:10] **Liz Farrell:** Do we say cups up or do we say cuffs up, guys?

[00:02:14] **Mandy Matney:** I like cuffs up. That's funny.

[00:02:15] **Liz Farrell:** Who came up with cuffs up? Was it somebody on the thread or?

[00:02:18] **Mandy Matney:** It was somebody on the YouTube.



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[00:02:19] **Liz Farrell:** That's amazing. Cuffs up.

[00:02:20] **Mandy Matney:** When Alex put his hand —

[00:02:21] **Liz Farrell:** Wait, when did he put his cuffs up? I didn't see that.

[00:02:24] **Mandy Matney:** Oh, maybe he didn't. Just.

[00:02:25] **Liz Farrell:** That was very like a newbie.

[00:02:27] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know what really happened.

[00:02:28] **Eric Bland:** He doesn't get to do the sport coat over his hands anymore.

[00:02:31] **Liz Farrell:** No. He had to wear that outfit. He had a onesie on today, which did —

[00:02:35] **Mandy Matney:** A terrible color for him, too.

[00:02:36] **Liz Farrell:** Terrible.

[00:02:37] **Eric Bland:** I've always wanted to ski in a onesie.

[00:02:40] **Liz Farrell:** Really?

[00:02:41] **Eric Bland:** Oh, yeah.

[00:02:41] **Liz Farrell:** What do you mean?

[00:02:42] **Eric Bland:** Because they have onesie — they have these real flamboyant colored onesies that are from like the seventies and eighties.

[00:02:49] **Liz Farrell:** Don't do it, Eric.



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[00:02:49] **Eric Bland:** People wear it on ski days. They're purple, yellow, whatever. And they're and when you ride up on a lift, you'll say, "Hey, he's got a onesie on her." "She's got a onesie."

[00:02:57] **Liz Farrell:** Nice. You know who's never going skiing again?

[00:02:59] **Eric Bland:** Alex.

[00:03:00] **Liz Farrell:** Alex Murdaugh. Yeah, the murderer. That's pretty crazy today.

[00:03:04] **Eric Bland:** Remember I used to call him a serial penciling or now I can call him a serial murderer.

[00:03:08] **Liz Farrell:** Oh my God. Not yet. Not yet.

[00:03:11] **Mandy Matney:** Which is two.

[00:03:12] **Eric Bland:** He killed two people.

[00:03:13] **Mandy Matney:** It has to be three, right?

[00:03:14] **Liz Farrell:** Is that a thing? Is there a rule?

[00:03:16] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know.

[00:03:17] **Eric Bland:** Look it up.

[00:03:18] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, so we're gonna have to look that one up.

[00:03:20] **Mandy Matney:** But we can say murderer so that is.

[00:03:22] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, he's a murderer.



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[00:03:23] **Liz Farrell:** Doesn't it feel so free? It feels like we've been sort of weighed down by the if he did it or the alleged. Now, he's just a plain clear murderer.

[00:03:31] **Eric Bland:** Well, because we're professionals and we've made a lot of opinions and we've brought a lot of people with us through education and we didn't want to led people down a primrose path and we were so wrong. I mean, if the jury came back in three hours and it was not guilty, I would've gulped and said, "Wow, have I did I read this so wrong?" But it turns out that, you know, there's no substitute for good education like we've done over the past two years. I felt like we knew so much more at times than even Dick or the prosecution knew in a way because we were able to filter it to really and distill it to good hard evidence. And, you know, we've made a lot of forecasting and certainly over the last month I got on TV and every day I'm like, "I think the prosecution's done amazing." "I think Creighton had a great cross" or "Savannah did a great job."

[00:04:26] **Liz Farrell:** Do you feel vindicated right now by all the TV pundits that were —

[00:04:30] **Mandy Matney:** Wrong, dead wrong.

[00:04:31] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. I mean, there was I'm not gonna name them.

[00:04:33] **Liz Farrell:** Don't mince words.

[00:04:33] **Eric Bland:** I'm not gonna name them.

[00:04:34] **Mandy Matney:** Don't name them.

[00:04:35] **Eric Bland:** There were a couple that may —

[00:04:37] **Liz Farrell:** Has anyone said like —

[00:04:38] **Eric Bland:** Yes, last night Chris Cuomo said to one of those people, you know, Eric Bland was obviously right and you didn't call it right and that



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person did exactly what Dick did. Well, the jury got it wrong. It's it was so easy case to defend and the judge was on the prosecution's side. All the normal trope that you hear when people lose.

[00:05:02] **Liz Farrell:** Did you hear Dick today in the press conference? I didn't hear this but somebody told me 'cause it was really hard to hear if you were in person, which we were, that they still believe he's more innocent than ever.

[00:05:13] **Eric Bland:** Not only is he more innocent than ever, the family believes that he's more innocent. They think that today, he's more they believe in his innocence more than they did yesterday. Oh, and John Meadors' closing argument where he said that Paul testified by his recording so it was an insurance policy that his dad wouldn't lie against him about being in the kennels. It's a problem because it's not only that the jury told them that they were wrong. Not only and we'll talk about Judge Newman's sentencing the way that he almost took off his robe and talked to him man to man like a man would talk to another man. But I have not met in the last six weeks not one person who has said Alex is innocent. Met a lot of people that said, "I believe he did it but I don't believe the government is meeting their burden." And that's fine. That's an intellectually honest opinion. But how is it that Dick, Jim, and that table and then just Lynn, John Marvin, and Buster — I don't know about Randolph because he wasn't at the trial enough, which makes me believe that either he had some questions or was worried about the visual of him being there.

[00:06:22] **Liz Farrell:** Can I go back to something you just said though? You said that was an intellectually honest thing when somebody says, "I think he did it but the State hasn't met their burden." What makes them think he did it if the State didn't meet their burden?

[00:06:33] **Eric Bland:** Well, I mean, I guess they wanted more. You know, people confuse circumstantial and direct evidence and we've said it time and again, they're absolutely equal. One circumstantial piece of evidence is as just as good as if Mandy saw the murder and even the judge reiterated that in the jury charge. But I think people feel like it's Diet Coke as opposed to full Coke; that they look at direct evidence being a Coke and somehow circumstantial evidence is Diet Coke kind of in a way.



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[00:07:01] **Liz Farrell:** Because I think men throughout history have used circumstantial evidence argument as I didn't cheat on my wife so.

[00:07:07] **Mandy Matney:** The lipstick.

[00:07:08] **Eric Bland:** Because your lying eyes. You never saw me in bed with her.

[00:07:11] **Mandy Matney:** You smell like perfume though.

[00:07:13] **Liz Farrell:** Right. So, we've been gaslit into thinking that circumstantial isn't as good as direct. But that has baffled me throughout this as the people that say the, I think he did it but they — but.

[00:07:23] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, but I think you'll be found I think he'll be found not guilty or but I heard that a lot. The State hasn't convinced me yet. And it's like but why do you think he's guilty then? What led you to believe that he's guilty? Because that is the State probably convincing you through evidence.

[00:07:41] **Liz Farrell:** You're just pulling it out of thin air?

[00:07:42] **Mandy Matney:** And I, yeah, I think a lot of people don't understand that a lot of murder cases are circumstantial evidence. That's fine.

[00:07:50] **Liz Farrell:** I would venture to guess all of them because otherwise, it's them arguing self-defense because yeah, they have a plea, right? Yeah.

[00:07:58] **Mandy Matney:** Because if there's a video of you doing the murder, then —

[00:08:02] **Liz Farrell:** You gotta come up with an excuse.

[00:08:03] **Eric Bland:** When you get convicted.



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[00:08:05] **Liz Farrell:** Like I was at the kennels.

[00:08:07] **Eric Bland:** Judges are people. Yes, they wear the robe and we look at them and they're quiet and they don't have a lot of friends. They have to eat lunch by themselves or they eat lunch with a 24-year-old law clerk and he's 72 years old. Every lawyer's afraid to walk near a judge.

[00:08:21] **Liz Farrell:** I would eat lunch with Judge Newman every day for the rest of my life.

[00:08:24] **Eric Bland:** You could. You would. But appellate court judges, don't forget, appellate court judges are parents and they're people too and they wanna see some humanity. And the decisions that have been made by Dick and Jim at that sentencing were mind-numbing to me.

[00:08:42] **Liz Farrell:** At the sentencing?

[00:08:43] **Eric Bland:** Yes.

[00:08:43] **Liz Farrell:** What do you mean?

[00:08:44] **Eric Bland:** Because you have to tell your client, "Here's how you have to navigate what you say." You have a right to say you're not guilty of this crime.

[00:08:55] **Liz Farrell:** You're talking about when the judge is like, do you have anything to say?

[00:08:58] **Eric Bland:** You have to humanize yourself because there's an appellate court that's gonna look at your case and they're gonna want to know that you have some contrition for making this State try this case; that you have some contrition for lying that you've already admitted to to law enforcement; that you have some contrition for lying to your family.



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[00:09:17] **Liz Farrell:** We've talked about this about Russell Laffitte, right? That he's gonna have to show some contrition when his sentencing time comes, assuming he doesn't get a new trial.

[00:09:25] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. Like I feel, you know, I let Paul down. He could have looked back and he said, he could have said, "I let Paul down. I let Maggie down. But Buster, I let you down. I lied to you and I'm gonna have to live with that." Something to humanize. But he was strident. "I am innocent." And judge gave him a number of chances to say, well, do you wanna say anything else? And then you saw the judge take off his robe and become a lawyer and say, "You disgrace my profession. You lied. You stole. You took an oath. You were in a position of power and prominence and you abused it and you were a law enforcement officer. And oh, by the way, I don't like how you tore into law enforcement for the last six weeks." And that is a direct reflection on counsel not properly educating their client and the appellate courts are gonna take notice of that. We'll talk about what his chances are gonna be on appeal. But they will not — they read that transcript.

[00:10:27] **Liz Farrell:** They don't need to read the transcript. I'm sure they've all been watching.

[00:10:29] **Eric Bland:** Oh, there you go.

[00:10:30] **Liz Farrell:** This is gonna be the shortest appeal in history.

[00:10:32] **Eric Bland:** No, it's actually — we were talking about it. So, do you think he's gonna get that benefit of the doubt to get it heard quickly like this trial was? Mandy and I think that the system is done giving him special and Dick special treatment. If they're gonna let it sit and simmer on a back burner for a long time.

[00:10:49] **Liz Farrell:** I hope they do. That would be great. You know, Alex couldn't articulate past "I'm innocent. I would never hurt." You know, he was reciting. It was a recitation because that's all he would've had to say back in the day.



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[00:11:01] **Eric Bland:** No, today was the first day he said the word "innocent." He never said it at trial. He said "I didn't do it."

[00:11:05] **Liz Farrell:** I know you like that. To me, either, yeah. I didn't do it.

[00:11:09] **Eric Bland:** Well, I don't like the word I never would intentionally shoot or hurt my kids.

[00:11:13] **Mandy Matney:** Hurt. He says "hurt" a lot and people on Twitter were pointing this out and I don't know if it's his internal — we talk about family annihilator and that's like kind of what we have come to the conclusion that Alex was Chris Watts when he confessed to killing his children in Colorado. He used the word "hurt." I didn't wanna hurt them. I think to Alex, in his weird bizarre mind, I think that he believed saving them from the disgrace of the downfall, of reveal. I don't know.

[00:11:52] **Eric Bland:** Paul, saving Paul from going to jail for 20 years was.

[00:11:55] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Maybe that or.

[00:11:56] **Liz Farrell:** Well, he was never gonna go to prison for 20, I mean, like, maybe five but one day would've been too much.

[00:12:01] **Eric Bland:** Oh, I don't know about that. I think the mothers against

[00:12:04] **Liz Farrell:** I think you can talk a big game about what they would've done but they didn't do it. They didn't do it.

[00:12:09] **Eric Bland:** But you gotta believe what they've done. Creighton Waters — and I was a massive critic of him and a massive critic of Alan Wilson — Creighton told me in October, Eric, October of 2021, please have patience. We are going to see this through to the end. And he told me on that lawn right before he sat down in the chair that I got out of interviewing with Nancy Grace, he said to me, "We're full speed ahead. Satterfield case is first up."



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[00:12:39] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, that just got me —

[00:12:41] **Eric Bland:** And Judge Newman, I thought, you know, Judge Newman let him know I have 99 of your cases and I am going to schedule them immediately and that's the foot that Judge Newman wants to keep on his throat. And if Dick was reading the tea leaves, he should have read it since October '21 when I argued bond and he turned him down on a bond on a financial crime. Judge Newman has never wavered in how he's sending messages to the defense.

[00:13:11] **Liz Farrell:** No, it was wonderful. But I wanna say again. His lack of articulating today of, you know, the no sorry, no anything, just the two sentences he said, I, you know, I didn't do it. Whatever he said. He's never had to say more. So, in his entire existence, in his family's entire existence, all they have to say is "I didn't do it" and then the world around them says he didn't do it. So, he doesn't know how to do any of that other stuff, which is appeal to the judge in terms of showing that he's sorry or confess — he just doesn't know how to do any of that.

[00:13:45] **Mandy Matney:** He said Paul Paul again.

[00:13:46] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, that was a real kick in the butt. I was like.

[00:13:49] **Eric Bland:** Twice he said it.

[00:13:50] **Liz Farrell:** You know we're done with that, right? You were found guilty.

[00:13:52] **Mandy Matney:** He didn't call Maggie Mags. He called her Maggie and Paul Paul.

[00:13:57] **Liz Farrell:** The thing that I liked the most about what Judge Neman did is I felt like there was a vibration coming from him and I think that he scooped out Alex's insides slowly and in front of everyone and then he showed them to him. And I think that there was something that was coming from history through the floorboards in that courtroom because when



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Newman started talking about the a hundred-year history of Murdaughs in that courtroom, and he started talking about the death penalty and all of us, well, we were in silence in here because we're like can he change this and do a death penalty right now?

[00:14:33] **Mandy Matney:** I know 'cause he looked like I want to.

[00:14:35] **Liz Farrell:** Well, he did. So, I think what he was saying is because the State didn't but I would have.

[00:14:40] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, that's what I was thinking.

[00:14:41] **Liz Farrell:** And I love that. But we know that this is a historical courtroom. People of color entered through the bottom. White people entered through the top. There's Jim Crow. There's segregation. This happened at that courthouse. Additionally, Buster Murdaugh put away people that no doubt were not guilty. So, Judge Newman, it just felt like this moment where he was like all this history of this area and just sort of this dark evil spirit that I think is sort of underneath all of this and then you have this — and rule of the Murdaughs. All of that was coming through the floorboards and it was — this Black man here now gets to tell the grandson of Buster Murdaugh how it's gonna be. The power dynamic shifted in that moment.

[00:15:24] **Eric Bland:** We couldn't have asked for a better result for the change that all three of us won in this podcast and that result was a resounding zero question incredibly guilty. He's incredibly guilty. Like the jury said, we find you incredibly guilty. They just didn't find him guilty. They found him incredibly guilty. And what it did is it took the mystique away from the Murdaughs forever. Look, the judge was mad. He, you know what made him mad? That he had to take down photograph — paint portraits of solicitors. You're, you know, you disgraced your family so much that I was forced to dishonor them and take their portraits off the wall. I now feel that I can stand up. I always would stand up to a Murdaugh. Obviously, I sued them. But there still was a fear in me of is there gonna be retribution from different people. Today, I don't feel that retribution. I feel there's whoever may be mad at us or voice their opposition to us on social media, they are a small, small minority.



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And that Murdaugh Mystique is not there anymore. I'll walk down Hampton and I won't be scared anymore.

[00:16:41] **Liz Farrell:** So, guys, in the courtroom today, the Beach family was there and.

[00:16:45] **Eric Bland:** Why? Why do you think they were there?

[00:16:47] **Liz Farrell:** I actually don't know. What do you think?

[00:16:49] **Eric Bland:** Mandy?

[00:16:51] **Mandy Matney:** I mean, they never got their time. Alex took away their ability to get justice in the criminal court so.

[00:17:01] **Liz Farrell:** I also think that their civil case, like a lot of it was driven by their — yeah.

[00:17:04] **Mandy Matney:** Their civil case was the reason why it was.

[00:17:06] **Liz Farrell:** But it was personal for them in the sense that Alex never gave them the respect of they lost a daughter. He tried to make everything okay, pave over it, and let's do this quickly.

[00:17:16] **Mandy Matney:** And no accountability.

[00:17:17] **Liz Farrell:** No accountability.

[00:17:17] **Eric Bland:** I think they were saying you're a bad parent. You parented Paul so bad that that kid killed my daughter and if you would've parented him properly, properly given him boundaries, properly address some of the personal problems that you said he suffered from, then maybe my daughter would be alive. Maybe he would've exercised better judgment than he did. So, maybe they were there to say "You were responsible in a big kind of way for what happened to my daughter."



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[00:17:46] **Liz Farrell:** The Beaches were in a grocery store and Murdaugh and Alex came up to them and because of his attitude a long time ago, yeah, before the suit the lawsuit really amped up, I think that that casual attitude and that sort of this is all going to be done soon and over with and what have you, that's what led them to say, "This guy's not gonna change. They're gonna keep doing this with Paul. Everything's gonna stay the same and we're gonna — so we want accountability. We want punitive damages," right? Today, John Marvin made it a point to go up to Phillip Beach in a courtroom where his brother just was found guilty of killing his sister-in-law and his favorite nephew, I'd venture to guess. Like they're not over, Eric. That's what I'm saying. The Murdaughs are not smaller. They're not over. This is just, to me, this is just they're regenerative. They don't go away.

[00:18:42] **Mandy Matney:** They've lost some.

[00:18:43] **Liz Farrell:** They're gonna work harder at getting —

[00:18:45] **Eric Bland:** Are they a cockroach? Is that what you just said? They're a cockroach that survives a nuclear war?

[00:18:50] **Liz Farrell:** Maybe it's worse than a cockroach. I think they're like a terminator type situation or —

[00:18:56] **Eric Bland:** Oh, really? They got an arm that still goes that we have one arm and then and it can regenerate into a big T24? I think what we saw is pervading in the court was stench of privilege and power. It was just the stench. This six weeks of stench the way Alex conducted himself in court offended me as a lawyer, the way that Dick Harpootlian denigrated women and denigrated sometimes with his sarcasm the solemnness of a court proceeding was stench and power. The way the Murdaugh walked into court was stench and power for me was the power and privilege. And then, then they get moved back and they're mad that they get moved back because they broke the rules and.

[00:19:37] **Liz Farrell:** They don't apply.



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[00:19:38] **Eric Bland:** I just feel like that I don't see that power and privilege anymore. But you're down here so maybe you're right and I'm wrong.

[00:19:45] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, I think that John Marvin going up to Phillip Beach shows you exactly what they think they are still.

[00:19:51] **Mandy Matney:** The gall.

[00:19:52] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, the gall. And the fact that they think he's still innocent.

[00:19:54] **Eric Bland:** But he's not a lawyer. He can't control the legal system.

[00:19:57] **Mandy Matney:** But he acts like a —

[00:19:58] **Liz Farrell:** He's not a lawyer? He can't control the legal system? The guy who called —

[00:20:01] **Mandy Matney:** SLED and —

[00:20:02] **Liz Farrell:** Greg Alexander. He's on the phone with DNR all the time.

[00:20:05] **Eric Bland:** Do you think that SLED is gonna answer the phone call for Dick Harpootlian or the Murdaughs anymore?

[00:20:12] **Liz Farrell:** I wish. Let's try it. Let's call their operator right now and say that we're Dick's office and see if they take the car.

[00:20:18] **Eric Bland:** By the way, you heard the judge say "I don't like the way you treated SLED," not law enforcement. He used the word "SLED" for the last six weeks.



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[00:20:27] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. Well, and it would, I mean, it up until the dismissal of the last juror, Dick was saying like they SLED took part in this investigation and we all know how — he was blaming that on SLED.

[00:20:41] **Eric Bland:** Did you see the way history repeated itself? The Laffitte ending was the same way as the Murdaugh ending.

[00:20:48] **Liz Farrell:** Not quite.

[00:20:49] **Eric Bland:** It was a — hold on. We had the narcissism of — let me say it — the narcissism of Russell doing Russell TV and testifying and not being contrite in his testimony, Alex being narcissistic, thinking that he can win over the jury, not being apologetic and being asking answering every question with the question to confuse the cross-examiner. Then, we have the jury go out. We have some jury problems. We lose a juror right before that — Russell lost two juries. And then, once you finally had a seated jury, Russell's verdict was in 40 minutes. This was in three hours. So, I consider a six —

[00:21:30] **Liz Farrell:** But deliberations hadn't started before they were —

[00:21:32] **Eric Bland:** I got it but they were so quick in terms of the rightful juries, reading reaching a decision.

[00:21:41] **Mandy Matney:** We'll be right back.

[00:21:46] **Eric Bland:** And Judge Newman today called him a monster.

[00:21:49] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, he did.

[00:21:49] **Mandy Matney:** What was the quote?

[00:21:51] **Liz Farrell:** I don't think you did it.

[00:21:53] **Mandy Matney:** You might have not done it.



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[00:21:54] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, you might not have done it.

[00:21:55] **Mandy Matney:** But the monster that you became did.

[00:21:58] **Eric Bland:** Did Judge Newman take this so personal about the killing of Paul because he just lost his son? What are your thoughts on that?

[00:22:07] **Mandy Matney:** You know, and I wanna be completely clear about this. I think that Judge Neman would've given him that sentence no matter what. Like it's not like it's a personal vendetta.

[00:22:20] **Eric Bland:** What if he said, "I'll give you 50 years instead of life?" Could there been a speech that Alex could have given that Judge Newman would've said, "I'll give you 50 years" 'cause it's 30 to life? What if he said, "I won't give you life without parole. I'll give you 50 years?" Is there something that could have been said today by Alex that could have resonated? Or you're saying he was getting that sentence no matter what.

[00:22:44] **Mandy Matney:** Well, because he's Alex is a narcissist so he's used to talking his way out of situations. So, it was kind of bizarre to me that he said what he said 'cause you would think that he would try like one last time.

[00:22:56] **Eric Bland:** Judge gave it to him twice to say it, by the way.

[00:22:58] **Mandy Matney:** Right.

[00:22:58] **Eric Bland:** You sure?

[00:22:58] **Mandy Matney:** And, yeah. And I think it's like.

[00:23:02] **Liz Farrell:** Look, man. I think he would've given him the death penalty, like we said so.

[00:23:05] **Mandy Matney:** I do, too. I think he would've no matter what no matter if son died or not. I don't think he sees him as a monster and he sees



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him as a horrific human being. I think he was so disgusted with the two days of testimonies and the lies and the lies and the lies and.

[00:23:21] **Eric Bland:** What we've gotta be careful of is not let this be the end of the story. I don't want the public to say, "Well, we cleaned up the system. We just tried somebody of privilege and power and we've shown that the system is correct and that it's right and it's proper and there's no more corruption." I think we have to be vigilant and say, no. This just was the start. This is the start. We have to continue to see this through because yes, I think as far as Alex, you know, it's Andy Dufresne a little bit. You know, we went through 500 yards of sewage and we're coming out clean today. I mean, I feel like amazing. I mean, I feel amazing. I feel like I gave of myself at high risk to my professional life. I sacrificed a lot in my personal life. You girls have sacrificed so much personally with your journalism, giving up a lot of your written journalism to do this and a lot of people that look at you, wow, you're really taking a strident stance against this. Why are you so strident? But I feel like we were right. What do you feel? What do you feel inside? What do you feel, Mandy? Honestly, tell me. You feel happy, sad, bittersweet, vindicated, all the above?

[00:24:37] **Mandy Matney:** I think vindicated is probably the best word. Relieved, especially because I was just mentally preparing myself for weeks for a hung jury. I just.

[00:24:49] **Eric Bland:** But I was telling you that I thought a hung jury is a win because we took the system was taken on, the State took their best swing. I would've viewed a not guilty verdict as a real loss. But a hung jury, I'd look at it like it's a win. You don't agree with that. You wanna hear the ultimate irony? Do you know what Lynn does for a living? She's a victims —

[00:25:15] **Liz Farrell:** Let's be let's talk more about that actually because these people took —

[00:25:18] **Eric Bland:** 'Cause she did not have any compassion at that trial at all, the way she wore her face.



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[00:25:23] **Mandy Matney:** And the way that she acted. I mean, she acted like a mean girl. But, I mean, I think that what's so horrifying is that like how did she get six weeks off of work? Like and she works for the government. She works for us. Like is she getting special privileges? And Buster's girlfriend is a lawyer. Why is how did she get six weeks off of work? That's crazy.

[00:25:46] **Eric Bland:** How do we how do people get back to their lives from this? That's a question I have. I see the people in the courthouse and I see people that have been here for six weeks — a lovely lady from up north that we just spoke with and other people that have come a couple times from Atlanta as far away as Florida and Maryland. And, you know, on our stream, people are so invested in this and I always said our stream is so educated that I'm learning so much and it's true. From that trial stream, I send so many things to Creighton Waters and he welcomed every one of them and respond to everyone and would say, "Yeah, I like that" or "I'm not sure about that." He read every one of them. How do people how do we clear ourselves of this?

[00:26:29] **Liz Farrell:** They know that there's more to do.

[00:26:32] **Eric Bland:** Do we want people to relax a little bit to enjoy this? Is it the Nick Saban rule? You know what the Nick Saban rule is? You get 24 hours to enjoy your championship and then it's back to work. So, are we gonna take 24 hours?

[00:26:46] **Liz Farrell:** I think 48 would be preferable. Yeah, maybe a 72.

[00:26:50] **Mandy Matney:** 72 would be nice.

[00:26:53] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, like a 72. I would.

[00:26:55] **Eric Bland:** Yeah but you gotta do an episode on Tuesday so is that the 72?

[00:26:59] **Mandy Matney:** That's gonna be easier.

[00:27:00] **Liz Farrell:** That's gonna write itself I think. Yeah.



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[00:27:02] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. But as far as like the real work of like having a tip, calling people, investigating it, figuring out what's going on, that is gonna happen. That's all gotta start happening again.

[00:27:16] **Liz Farrell:** I'm excited to get back to it, to be honest with you because I just I was saying to Mark Tinsley earlier, I think it was him anyway — no, it wasn't him, it was other people — I was saying that at this the number one thing for me right now is that I might not ever have to hear his voice again, Alex's voice, which is just I welcome that because I think that was the worst part for me. Let's do worst and best, actually. Worst part for me was having to hear Alex's voice and then getting the sort of encore of John Marvin's voice. Best for me was Creighton Waters' face at the press conference when he just stood there beaming and I've never seen a look like that manifest on someone's face so perfectly. Like it was like it was as if somebody drew his face. Like if you were had to draw if you had to draw the combination of pride and like happy, joy, and relief and just it looked like he had just climbed a mountain and he was just it was like a personal goal that he had or something like he's the only —

[00:28:17] **Eric Bland:** Remember he's not a murder lawyer who beat two lawyers that specialize in murder cases. This is a guy that does statewide grand jury. That's these unwieldy financial cases. He just beat he just the pitcher that throws 110-mile fastballs. He's he just hit a grand slam. He beat Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin. These are murder lawyers.

[00:28:40] **Liz Farrell:** He didn't just beat them. He made the he exhausted them. He completely exhausted them. And they it got to the point where Jim, I couldn't — I mean, the lies that Alex told were such a was that string art like the murder board with all the strings that Jim couldn't make anything out of it. What do you do? Like I can't keep track of what you did said was true and not true and what now? He was gonna mess up. He had to be so careful 'cause he was gonna mess up.

[00:29:06] **Eric Bland:** So, your best was...?

[00:29:08] **Liz Farrell:** My best was Creighton's face because I just I love it when people can do their job well and beyond like, you know, Red Sox 2004.



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Like I love that moment where it's just like these people have worked so hard. But on top of that, it was just like you had he was surrounded by a dozen people but it wasn't a dozen people for him. He was alone in that accomplishment for that moment and it just reminded me of like if you went on a walk about by yourself or if you did the Appalachia Trail by yourself or you. There's like a personal moment of glory where you didn't know — you thought you might be able to do it. You didn't know. People don't actually know the struggles that he went through to get to where he was and that — no, I'm just saying that he has an internal there's the things that you cannot possibly know that Creighton went through. You just don't. You can't possibly know what he went through. Those kinds of things, like hanging off a mountain cliff and having to save himself, seeing like a mountain lion come out of nowhere and having to defend himself. Like that was a one-man — I know he had a team and I think they did great, great work but it was that look on his face. I thought that was the most amazing thing.

[00:30:07] **Mandy Matney:** It was personal to him.

[00:30:08] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, it was personal.

[00:30:09] **Eric Bland:** His father was an extremely accomplished corporate lawyer at a very impressive white-shoe law firm.

[00:30:17] **Liz Farrell:** His father's adorable.

[00:30:18] **Eric Bland:** Creighton didn't follow in his father's footsteps. He went the criminal route to the government. So, watching his father there. And I represented his father when he separated from his law firm and helped him with his retirement from the practice at the time. I never saw a father as proud. He was beaming at that closing argument.

[00:30:40] **Liz Farrell:** What a dichotomy. You have one father who killed his son and you have the other one who came to watch his son.

[00:30:45] **Eric Bland:** What's your worst and best?



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[00:30:46] **Mandy Matney:** Best was and this is so weird because I'm not an Alan Wilson fan by any means.

[00:30:53] **Liz Farrell:** What are you about to say?

[00:30:54] **Mandy Matney:** No, I know. But watching all of them, I didn't listen to the press conference. I was on the phone so I and I still haven't been able to unpack all of it but watching all of them symbolically stand up with so much pride was a huge moment for me because it's like this is our system actually standing up for itself and this is our system and this is showing other politicians, Hey, if I get on those people's sides, everybody's gonna be — because they all look like rock stars.

[00:31:24] **Eric Bland:** Didn't Alan Wilson look like a gubernatorial candidate in 2026?

[00:31:28] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And like and, you know, political views aside, he did a great job in this trial and that is what he's supposed to.

[00:31:38] **Liz Farrell:** He did. He questioned Dr. Kinsey, who, by the way, did you guys see him today?

[00:31:43] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, he's giving —

[00:31:44] **Liz Farrell:** Was that not — he was one of my favorite people to see.

[00:31:47] **Mandy Matney:** Apparently, a couple —

[00:31:49] **Eric Bland:** Thanked us for what we did, by the way, all three of us. He said we wouldn't be here but for you three.

[00:31:54] **Mandy Matney:** I would love to have him on the show.

[00:31:57] **Eric Bland:** He told me to call him so I can get him.



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[00:31:58] **Mandy Matney:** That would be great.

[00:31:59] **Eric Bland:** He'll come on the show.

[00:32:00] **Mandy Matney:** Let's get him. I have like a list of a few really —

[00:32:02] **Eric Bland:** Like Sheryl Crow? Like let's make sure we're working Sheryl Crow.

[00:32:05] **Mandy Matney:** Shout-out to Sheryl Crow. Thank you.

[00:32:08] **Liz Farrell:** You guys don't know 'cause you're younger. You're a boy. Sheryl Crow was my college, like that was auto-repeat CD. That was, I ordered that.

[00:32:17] **Mandy Matney:** That's a great album.

[00:32:18] **Liz Farrell:** BMG Records and went into debt for it like that is.

[00:32:23] **Eric Bland:** You know what? Renee said what a — she said something to the this morning in the kitchen, like what a winding road you've taken. And I said that's Sheryl Crow, hon. And isn't that funny with Sheryl Crow last night sending us the shout-out? I said, Honey, you just said Sheryl Crow. How can this not be perfect? So, what's your worst memory?

[00:32:42] **Mandy Matney:** Great. Oh, man. Yeah, no. Sheryl Crow's definitely on the top of good ones. I think the worst has been being more aware of all these awful people out there. Like they were — I got into my own head a few times during the case of and getting, you know, crap from people online and just seeing people I think it was just really, really disappointing to me and hurtful to see how much people were bending themselves into pretzels to come up with a scenario that Alex didn't do this like. And that, again, was a sign that like we have a long way to go as a society if like we can't just accept that this man is a monster because he doesn't look like a monster, quote unquote. And that was just making me really upset and I just I had a few just



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really dark and scared. I was terrified that like I mean there was a few times when it felt like most of us were alone in like rooting for the prosecution like.

[00:33:47] **Eric Bland:** Mandy, you and I actually had a conversation where I said what will happen if there's a not guilty verdict? What do we do?

[00:33:53] **Mandy Matney:** Right. I had one with Justin Bamberg. I had one with Liz. Like it's.

[00:33:58] **Liz Farrell:** It was pack up the car in the middle of the night.

[00:33:59] **Mandy Matney:** Right. I know. It's like —

[00:34:00] **Liz Farrell:** I was gonna leave the state immediately. I'm not even kidding. Like it sounds dramatic but I was gonna get out of here because it just then that means there's no hope.

[00:34:09] **Mandy Matney:** And it, yeah, it would've been depressing. Like living here would've been extremely depressing and just like I can do so much and then do nothing at the same time because nobody cares.

[00:34:21] **Liz Farrell:** I'm really tired so I'm gonna get emotional. But like what you just said with like the state standing up there and then even SLED seeing — did you see SLED seeing SLED go out there and like it just sometimes people need to understand that they can be heroes in order to be heroes. And so, I want, like we said, more of that. I want, you know, I'm not pro it's not that I'm not pro-government but like I am very suspicious of government on a generally on a daily basis. But this just instilled so much faith. The fact that they wanted to have those press conferences and just celebrate themselves, celebrate each other and I just think that that gave me the most hope. So, not only was he incredibly guilty, not just guilty. Like we hoped for hung, we got incredibly guilty. We got the most guilty that you could possibly be. You are the most guilty. So, there's that. And then, we got the State just —

[00:35:17] **Eric Bland:** Shining.



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[00:35:18] **Liz Farrell:** Shining, yeah, just like sort of just like they're on this different level for me.

[00:35:21] **Mandy Matney:** In front of the world. In front of the world, yeah. And I —

[00:35:23] **Liz Farrell:** I was super proud to be — like not from South Carolina. I'm from Boston. But I'm super proud to live in South Carolina.

[00:35:29] **Eric Bland:** I talked last night about the importance of soil. We're on this soil here. We're in the South Carolina soil and we understand the South Carolina soil and all these national people that are talking about our state and think that they know what the court should do and what juries should do here. And I kept telling them, guys, have you ever been to South Carolina? Do you know the soil? Do you know that there's jurors that shoot guns that know that a shotgun blast travels two miles or a .300 Blackout sound will travel three miles? I said, you know, you have to feel the soil, kind of like, you know, the gladiator does before he, you know, fights the lions. So, for me, you know, part of the problem I always have on this podcast and I have when I'm on the stream, the trial stream, is I'm a lawyer. So, I look at the performance. And the sad part for me was what the defense did to tear down our system just totally annihilated SLED in an unkind way. Like I said, there's never a crime scene that's gonna be perfect. It could always be better. But this crime scene, even if it was pristine and done by Henry Lee and Cyril Wecht, would've still been criticized.

[00:36:46] **Liz Farrell:** So, do you think that when — so Dick and Jim had a press conference. It was supposed to be at 11:45 this morning and they kept pushing it back, pushing it back. It was supposed to be at 12:20?

[00:36:54] **Eric Bland:** No, they showed up at 12:20.

[00:36:55] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, okay. Yeah, so they were late, wicked late. And now on top of that, I felt like everyone should turn their backs on them. And I'm not saying that like I have respect for what they do. I just don't respect how they did it.



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[00:37:09] **Eric Bland:** So, that would've been our way of kneeling for the national anthem.

[00:37:13] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, kind of.

[00:37:13] **Mandy Matney:** I went food to the trucks so.

[00:37:14] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I went and talked to Mark and —

[00:37:17] **Mandy Matney:** I turned my back.

[00:37:18] **Eric Bland:** The worst for me was the incredibly shrinking Dick Harpootlian through this trial. He came in like a lion. He went out like he — not seeing him do the closing argument, seeing his sarcasm go flat.

[00:37:30] **Liz Farrell:** He was flaccid.

[00:37:31] **Eric Bland:** And seeing those antiquated trial skills that worked for a long time with a lot of juries and a lot of judges really not resonate with modern technology, modern juries, modern reporting, and just watching him shrink.

[00:37:49] **Liz Farrell:** What do you think about Jim?

[00:37:51] **Eric Bland:** Well, you know how I feel about Jim. I've —

[00:37:53] **Liz Farrell:** Can we save Jim's soul?

[00:37:54] **Eric Bland:** I've given — no, I've given him a lot of compliments and I got a lot of grief for that, not only on our stream.

[00:37:59] **Liz Farrell:** Well, now — how do you feel about him now?

[00:38:00] **Eric Bland:** But I look at him from a lawyer's standpoint. He was an incredible lawyer. I'm just telling you, what that kid had to do in this trial



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because he had a partner that wasn't rowing the boat. Dick was not rowing the boat. Jim had to prepare cross-examinations, listen to testimony, think about the witnesses, make legal arguments, do all the legal research right every night. Dick wasn't doing that. He was a lawyer and I look at him from a legal lawyer's standpoint and he fought and I respect that. Now, I don't — I think he blurred the lines of professionalism with personal relationship with these people. And you saw the conflict at times where he felt like, oh my God. Am I representing a guilty man? So, for me, those were the worst times for me. The best time was Judge Newman. The best time was our state, Walterboro, what we look like to the trial of the century. Judge Newman wasn't Lance Ito.

[00:39:02] **Liz Farrell:** He's the like American judge right now.

[00:39:05] **Mandy Matney:** He's like a hero.

[00:39:06] **Liz Farrell:** He's America's judge.

[00:39:06] **Eric Bland:** He didn't become the story. He stayed back like a judge does and let the case go. The law enforcement protection. We had no incidents here, no riots like there was in LA. People got along. Yes, there's differences of opinion.

[00:39:23] **Liz Farrell:** Can you imagine a riot over at Alex Murdaugh?

[00:39:25] **Eric Bland:** Well, just differences.

[00:39:27] **Liz Farrell:** No, he's innocent.

[00:39:28] **Eric Bland:** But what I'm saying is —

[00:39:29] **Mandy Matney:** If it was not guilty, they might have been —

[00:39:31] **Eric Bland:** To watch the government fight for Maggie and Paul when nobody else was fighting for them, for me, that was the best of it. So, the worst of it was watching a lawyer that had a tremendous reputation,



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watch it kind of whittle away to nothing. And then, You know, see Jim Griffin give everything. I mean, you're talking about — I'm like a basketball coach. I gotta appreciate Allen Iverson's skills, even though I don't think he's a good team player. I'm not gonna put him on my team but he is. I'd rather have a Larry Bird. But as a coach, I'm looking at Iverson saying, man, what talent! I saw that in Jim Griffin.

[00:40:10] **Liz Farrell:** Well, beyond that, he did a service for us because Alex got a really good defense. I think that there's very, yeah, it's very little room for people to say that he got done wrong. I know that people still say it, but they did their best for him or Jim did his best.

[00:40:29] **Mandy Matney:** Well, he was a bad Alex was a bad client.

[00:40:32] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, yeah. I mean, he delivered them a plate of spaghetti with messy watery sauce.

[00:40:39] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And he just kept making it worse. He kept adding random ingredients.

[00:40:43] **Eric Bland:** My close second best was the growth of so many different attorneys at that trial — Savannah, the some of the younger attorneys on the state side — Hernandez or Fernandez.

[00:40:55] **Liz Farrell:** Fernandez.

[00:40:56] **Mandy Matney:** Fernandez was awesome.

[00:40:57] **Liz Farrell:** He did such a great job.

[00:40:58] **Eric Bland:** And then even Maggie Fox. I felt like she was so underutilized by —

[00:41:02] **Liz Farrell:** I feel like they should have used her more.



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[00:41:03] **Mandy Matney:** They should've used her a lot more. She was —

[00:41:05] **Eric Bland:** So, but Judge Newman's the star of the play.

[00:41:08] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I —

[00:41:08] **Eric Bland:** I never heard a bad word except that, you know, he's too liberal. No, no. He's liberal with his rulings but.

[00:41:14] **Liz Farrell:** And there were a lot of trolls.

[00:41:16] **Eric Bland:** That made it personal?

[00:41:18] **Mandy Matney:** Well, then, I swear that there was like a troll army that who —

[00:41:22] **Liz Farrell:** Can you explain that though 'cause —

[00:41:23] **Eric Bland:** Are you saying bots or are you saying trolls? What are bots?

[00:41:26] **Liz Farrell:** This is what she's learned and it's really important because it changes a lot of things for me.

[00:41:31] **Eric Bland:** What are bots? Are they robotic or are they real people?

[00:41:33] **Mandy Matney:** They are robotic but they are basically — how can I even explain it?

[00:41:39] **Liz Farrell:** It's a service you can pay for.

[00:41:40] **Mandy Matney:** It's a service that PR companies can pay for. And you can say —

[00:41:43] **Liz Farrell:** And they do have a PR company.



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[00:41:44] **Eric Bland:** And there's an algorithm that releases stuff during the day at night?

[00:41:47] **Mandy Matney:** So, today, you can say, "Say that Eric Bland made Liz crazy." And so, they will say that in a bunch of different ways in a bunch of different tweets. And —

[00:41:59] **Eric Bland:** Does somebody have to write the tweets or does a computer write the tweet?

[00:42:03] **Mandy Matney:** It's an algorithm. But anyways, this one day I was really noticing it with Judge Newman because for the rest of trial, all of a sudden, all of these really weird accounts were saying stuff about Judge Newman and it was but it and that is something that the defense wanted is that people to think that Judge Newman was against them so they can sway public opinion by deploying these bots. I don't know if they did but it's possible.

[00:42:27] **Eric Bland:** Did it scare you when I was on TV and all these Dick accolades are out there, all his sicko fans are out there, salting the earth that they're killing and doing a great job? Did you think that was gonna get to the jury? Did that bother you?

[00:42:44] **Liz Farrell:** That's like asking me if I'm scared of a nursing home that went rogue. No, I'm not like.

[00:42:53] **Eric Bland:** So, just these people constantly talking on TV?

[00:42:56] **Mandy Matney:** They've been wrong this entire time.

[00:42:58] **Liz Farrell:** But it's just they're not gonna hurt me. I don't care. Like there's nothing you can do.

[00:43:02] **Eric Bland:** You don't think that the husbands of these jurors or the wives of these jurors we're listening to it may say it to them at night, you know, honey, everybody's out there on CNN saying, you know, the



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government's doing a horrible job or Dick is killing it. There's reasonable doubt.

[00:43:16] **Liz Farrell:** I'm gonna say no and my proof of that is guilty, guilty, guilty, guilty. So, I think the people that were doing Dick's dirty work on national TV, one of them in particular lost his major case, Scott Peterson case. I mean that am I supposed to applaud that? He lost it. So, what I don't we need his advice. I don't. The others just seemed like they were glomming onto —

[00:43:43] **Eric Bland:** He actually said to me on the show, you know, very rarely does the government win circumstantial evidence cases. I said, well, what about Scott Peterson, Mark?

[00:43:55] **Liz Farrell:** You said that? Did you?

[00:43:57] **Eric Bland:** He got Bugs Bunny like this.

[00:43:59] **Mandy Matney:** Oh, God.

[00:44:00] **Liz Farrell:** He didn't answer it? The audacity of these guys. They just wanna change reality so bad.

[00:44:07] **Eric Bland:** With me, I mean, I've been on probably 15 different shows and he never made it personal to me. There were other people that called me vulgar, uninformed, misogynistic.

[00:44:19] **Liz Farrell:** What are some of the names you've been called throughout this? Like some of the things that people have said about you that end up being wrong?

[00:44:25] **Eric Bland:** Lately? Have you been called anything?

[00:44:27] **Mandy Matney:** Oh, yeah. All sorts of things. I have to block like, I don't know, 50 people a day. I can't even think of it.



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[00:44:34] **Liz Farrell:** Mostly it's biased. I think that's really like they're biased.

[00:44:37] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah or like just terrible journalists, they always say that like.

[00:44:40] **Eric Bland:** I sent out a tweet this morning that I said, look, you know, let's just think about Jim Griffin. He's going through a rough time. It's not easy. You know, the guy gave his left it all on the floor and somebody wrote me back wrote back on the tweet and said, I can't stand you. But I do appreciate what you say. Thank you for saying it. And I wrote him back and I said, well, thank you. I appreciate your, you know, you're entitled to your opinion. Thank you and thanks for responding.

[00:45:12] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, people are really, I mean —

[00:45:14] **Eric Bland:** That's okay. He can't stand me. That's fine. I'm okay with that.

[00:45:17] **Mandy Matney:** But why even say that? Like if you don't can't stand somebody, why are you tweeting to them?

[00:45:23] **Liz Farrell:** We'll be right back.

[00:45:27] **Mandy Matney:** This episode is sponsored in part by Ross & Pines. In 2023, Ross & Pines is teaming up with the Georgia Innocence Project for the retrial of the Joey Watkins case in Rome, Georgia. Ross & Pines will use scientific cellphone evidence to show that Joey could not have committed the murder he was charged with. Joey was wrongly convicted of murder in 2001 and after spending 22 years in prison, Joey's conviction was overturned and he was released on bond. Like many wrongful convictions, his defense team is preparing for another trial to decide his fate. Joey and his attorneys believe his case may involve police cover-up and prosecutorial misconduct. Learn more about the Georgia Innocence Project and their work with Ross & Pines at GeorgiaInnocenceProject.org.



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[00:46:28] **Liz Farrell:** I gotta say something for us because when Mandy and I started doing this in 2019, we were and we've told the story before about like we would go out to dinner probably once a week and we'll talk about this case, the boat crash case, and we would come up with like we things would lead us in weird directions and we'd be like does this look like this, or does that look like that? And there were always these preposterous situations and they always turned out to be true. And we would say personally to each other like, how are we always right about this? And like gloating is not good for — like I know that's not a good look but there is a feeling I have right now where it's just like once again, like this is like the biggest of like.

[00:47:05] **Mandy Matney:** Gloat. Not a gloat. It's like proud.

[00:47:08] **Liz Farrell:** It's just like all like — it just felt like we were crazy at times, you know? 'Cause it's like —

[00:47:14] **Eric Bland:** You worked hard. You girls worked hard.

[00:47:16] **Mandy Matney:** Just in — and the gaslighting and the amount of people that said and in different ways, like people that didn't even mean to work against us, I feel like would be — I don't know but.

[00:47:30] **Liz Farrell:** Aiding it. Aiding the cause of the Murdaughs.

[00:47:33] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah in different way. I mean, the amount of people who told me "I'm worried about you. I think you need to stop investigating that family."

[00:47:41] **Liz Farrell:** Yes. Yes, definitely.

[00:47:43] **Mandy Matney:** I've got a hundred of those.

[00:47:45] **Eric Bland:** I was going to gloat because I had one there's one attorney who's got a pretty national name. I don't know about their reputation but a national name and that person just made it very personal every time I was on TV. Like you don't know anything about criminal law. It's



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like, well, you know, I tried one murder case and I lost it so I know I don't ever want to try another murder case again and I've had some bank fraud cases. But admittedly, I said I don't have the criminal experience but I am knee-deep in this family and I'm knee-deep in this story and I really see it. And that person was 100% wrong. And I had all my followers and all my friends saying, you get on TV and you drill that person and you kill that person on the internet. And I just didn't want to do it. There was a part of me that really wanted to do it to stuff it down the throat.

[00:48:32] **Mandy Matney:** It's never worth it.

[00:48:33] **Liz Farrell:** So, speaking of petty things though, was there any moment where you felt petty in any of this? Like I maybe.

[00:48:39] **Mandy Matney:** This morning I said, this morning, I tweeted like good morning. How are all of the but there's reasonable doubt people doing today? Because I got so sick of hearing that, like but there's reasonable doubt, but there's reasonable doubt. And the doubts that they had were not reasonable. They were just crazy. What were yours?

[00:49:07] **Liz Farrell:** I almost went over today when Alex was leaving the courtroom, it occurred to me that I should hustle over there so that I could wave at him. It's terrible and I don't like admitting that but there was a piece of me that just wanted like there's this movie called Dick that I love and I know that it sounds some like something it isn't. It's about the Woodward and Bernstein and it has these two 15-year-old girls who end up being the ones that are at the like the —

[00:49:33] **Mandy Matney:** They're Deep Throat.

[00:49:33] **Liz Farrell:** They're Deep Throat. That's right. They're Deep Throat. So, I think —

[00:49:36] **Eric Bland:** Dick and Deep Throat.

[00:49:37] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.



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[00:49:38] **Eric Bland:** What are we talking about here?

[00:49:39] **Liz Farrell:** It's a great — no, it's a great —

[00:49:40] **Mandy Matney:** It's a really funny movie.

[00:49:40] **Liz Farrell:** It's such a good movie.

[00:49:41] **Mandy Matney:** It's for Dick. It's Dick — Dick Nixon.

[00:49:43] **Liz Farrell:** Yes. It's Dick Nixon. But we it's it reminds me a little of Mandy and me. There's like some of that vibe.

[00:49:47] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. They're silly and funny, yeah.

[00:49:48] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. And but at the very end, you see them like cutting an American flag, which is illegal probably. But they make an outfit and then they're standing on the like back porch of their house and they're it you don't know what they're doing. And then you realize that they have a sign that they've made and they're dressed like, you know, patriotically and they're waving up to the sky at the helicopter of Dick Nixon being flown away from the White House for the last time and that was me in that moment.

[00:50:14] **Eric Bland:** When he does this — the two-finger piece sign.

[00:50:16] **Liz Farrell:** Right. And the girls are like —

[00:50:17] **Eric Bland:** You don't have Dick Nixon to push around anymore.

[00:50:20] **Liz Farrell:** And so, their sign said, "You suck, Dick." And they had a big sign because his name is Dick. I'm sorry. Yeah, it's the comma. It's the comma that saves you. So, we're saying it with a comma but I would like to be outside of where the sally port where, you know, Alex is. I wanted to just wave at him and just smile.



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[00:50:41] **Eric Bland:** Well, I sent this tweet out and I shouldn't have but it's gotten 131 comments and it's been viewed 83,000 times. I showed the picture of him in the cuffs and I said, "Karma is a you know what. Just this one, I'm gonna send Alex a Cup of Justice coffee cup. EB.

[00:51:00] **Mandy Matney:** Today, I really wanted to bring dog bowls to the press conference and toss them out like frisbees because I have them.

[00:51:07] **Liz Farrell:** I really wish you had. I really do.

[00:51:10] **Eric Bland:** I'll send Dick a Cup of Justice coffee cup and say one for you, one for Alex. I'm sure it'll come back broken but.

[00:51:17] **Liz Farrell:** I just see him with his fist in there being like, you dagnabbit, kids. Like.

[00:51:24] **Mandy Matney:** But yeah, I mean, to wrap this up, there's something I keep forgetting to say but like when we think of how powerful this was, it really, really hit me last night seeing a bunch of people online saying things like — a lot of people were saying America was so prepared for not guilty or a hung jury. No but because think of the biggest cases — Casey Anthony, O. J. were both not guilty.

[00:51:53] **Liz Farrell:** She's right. She's a scholar on O. J.

[00:51:55] **Mandy Matney:** O. J. and I will be with Casey Anthony.

[00:51:57] **Eric Bland:** Was Phil Spector a guilty case? The record guy? And Baretta. Remember Robert Blake. He committed a murder. Was that a guilty? I gotta look at that.

[00:52:05] **Liz Farrell:** I think so. Those are like the lesser O. J. cases.

[00:52:07] **Eric Bland:** Okay.



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[00:52:08] **Mandy Matney:** But I think of that it's so big to have — I think about the future, right, all the time. And I like with that moment on our state and Alan Wilson and all those lawyers beaming, I was just thinking about like think of all those kids in law school right now.

[00:52:24] **Liz Farrell:** Yes. Yes.

[00:52:26] **Mandy Matney:** That are deciding in which direction they wanna go and like.

[00:52:29] **Eric Bland:** A couple kids asked me here. They're gonna go to law school because of it.

[00:52:32] **Mandy Matney:** I've seen it online so many times of people saying like, I saw a girl the other day that says, I'm studying for my LSATs right now because I wanna destroy people like Dick Harpootlian, like and I wanna be the anti-Dick Harpootlian.

[00:52:46] **Liz Farrell:** I love that.

[00:52:47] **Mandy Matney:** And it just makes me that gives me so much hope and inspiration and like makes me keeps me want to keep going and doing this. And for us younger journalists that know that I think with all of this and it, of course, at times it felt like we were running our heads into brick walls and never able to see an end or a conclusion or anything whatsoever and everybody was like, what are those crazy people doing? I think it's just really, really good for that symbol for that moment for America for the whole fucking world to see all of these people, good people winning and that you can choose these careers and go down these paths and do the right thing and you can win at it.

[00:53:38] **Eric Bland:** Well, let's win for Stephen Smith in the years to come. Let's take a little focus off and this is the lawyer coming out of me. Let's not make Dick and Jim, the capital B boogeyman. Let's make him a small. Let's make let's put it on Alex where it belongs really.



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[00:53:53] **Liz Farrell:** No, I fully support it.

[00:53:55] **Eric Bland:** It's Alex.

[00:53:55] **Liz Farrell:** I mean, Dick could do better but.

[00:53:57] **Eric Bland:** How did everybody move forward? Because remember the world had stopped for six weeks. I mean, it stopped.

[00:54:03] **Liz Farrell:** I would say be pesky is the new thing. I really think that people should be pesky because that's what brought us to this point. So many people have come up to us and just like reporters here are just saying like, you guys did this. Like you made this happen. We're here because of you and it is there's a reverse of that too is that we needed them to be here. But it's like we needed them to be here too and like.

[00:54:29] **Mandy Matney:** To validate the whole thing too 'cause otherwise it would've just been Liz and Mandy in their crazy little adventures. And, yeah, and it's very true. And I think that —

[00:54:41] **Liz Farrell:** It's just so doable. It's just be pesky and maybe they will be changed like this. I mean, we got way more than we thought we could. Like just so far.

[00:54:54] **Eric Bland:** Okay. So, what now? You guys are done. And I'm like, what are you talking about we're done? I sent out a —

[00:55:00] **Liz Farrell:** No one says that to me. No one says that to Mandy.

[00:55:03] **Eric Bland:** I sent out a tweet on Monday, guys. I said, look, we're not one-trick ponies. You know, we've had we've been talking about this for four months, the transition. And I said what we're gonna do is there's still a ton of Murdaugh to come. There's post-trial motions, there's Russell's sentencing, Cory Fleming's trial's gotta get scheduled. You just heard Judge Newman say I'm gonna put my foot on his throat and I'm gonna schedule these financial crime cases. Creighton just told me Satterfield is coming up. We have so



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much more that are coming. You know, there's a changing of the guard at the ODC. John Nichols has retired so there's gonna be a new Office of Disciplinary Counsel person. We're gonna see how far that his investigations go. Is Judge Mullen being investigated? But the other thing that's really neat is we're going to expand the Cup of Justice to bring in the Dr. Kinseys, bring in potentially a Mark Tinsley, ask a super super fan that's super, super —

[00:56:02] **Liz Farrell:** Why do you say potentially Mark? We can get Mark.

[00:56:04] **Eric Bland:** Yeah but he may not do it before the trial.

[00:56:06] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, sure.

[00:56:07] **Eric Bland:** You know, a super, super well-known fan like a Sheryl Crow, possibly if God says we could get her. But we're gonna have a part where we're gonna the fans are gonna have a little bit more input like we started and we're gonna have a guest. So, maybe —

[00:56:22] **Liz Farrell:** The show is gonna evolve with our peskyness.

[00:56:25] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. It just depends on, I mean —

[00:56:27] **Eric Bland:** One of the things I said to David was, you know, the doomsday trial that's coming up in, which is very interesting. So, there's trials that are starting that are gonna be interesting to report on.

[00:56:37] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, yeah. For sure.

[00:56:39] **Eric Bland:** And, you know, what's gonna happen to MMP? I see a crime and corruption sign. Where did crime and what does that mean? What did what's gonna happen, Mandy?

[00:56:48] **Mandy Matney:** I think just stay tuned.

[00:56:52] Hello.



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[00:56:53] **Scott Grooms:** I'm sorry. Did I — ? I was just gonna say thank you.

[00:56:58] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you.

[00:56:58] **Mandy Matney:** Oh, thank you.

[00:56:59] **Eric Bland:** No, thank you.

[00:57:00] **Mandy Matney:** You guys did great.

[00:57:00] **Eric Bland:** When did you sleep?

[00:57:02] **Scott Grooms:** I will tomorrow.

[00:57:05] **Eric Bland:** He was helping out at the party the other night.

[00:57:07] **Liz Farrell:** I know, I know.

[00:57:09] **Scott Grooms:** I am. That's good. Well, I'm sorry to crash.

[00:57:13] **Liz Farrell:** Excellent. No. Thank you.

[00:57:14] **Mandy Matney:** No, you're fine.

[00:57:14] **Scott Grooms:** No, it's been fun. But before everybody left, I just wanna say thank you.

[00:57:18] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you.

[00:57:19] **Eric Bland:** That's very kind. Thank you for your hospitality.

[00:57:20] **Mandy Matney:** Thank you.

[00:57:21] **Liz Farrell:** It was above and beyond, Scott.



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[00:57:22] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, it was amazing. Thank you.

[00:57:23] **David Moses:** Can we include that on the show, Scott?

[00:57:25] **Scott Grooms:** Sure.

[00:57:26] **David Moses:** Alright.

[00:57:27] **Mandy Matney:** It's nice and natural.

[00:57:29] **Liz Farrell:** Putting the cups down.

[00:57:32] **Eric Bland:** Cups down.

[00:57:34] **Mandy Matney:** Cups down. We did it.

[00:57:55] **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.