



EPISODE 25: The COJ Team Soaks Up the Sun with... Sheryl Crow!!

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** Well, Happy Monday. I am even more excited than usual to share this latest Cup of Justice episode with you because y'all — we got to talk to Sheryl Crow and we had an amazing conversation. Sheryl is not only a Grammy award-winning singer and songwriter, she's a big fan of fighting for what's right. And much to our surprise when the trial ended, she has followed the Murdaugh case from the beginning. Sheryl grew up in a small town and watched as her father dealt with the highs and lows of a justice system he deeply believed in and respected. Liz, Eric, and I, and Sheryl — and wow. It's really surreal to say that — talked about how someone like Alex Murdaugh could cause so much damage, the importance of finding justice for Stephen Smith and his family, and how despite the darkness we've seen over the past two years how hope still exists. Thank you again for your generosity, humor, talent, and insight, Sheryl. We loved you and your music before, and we love you even more now that we've seen what a big heart you have for justice. So, cups up, y'all. Let's get into it.

[00:01:26] Wow.

[00:01:27] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my gosh.

[00:01:27] **Mandy Matney:** Sheryl Crow.

[00:01:29] You guys. I am so — I mean, I'm gonna start crying. I'm so happy to meet y'all and I'm I just can't tell you how much it means to me — the work you guys, I mean, the work you have put into this for the justice sake of it and, I mean, I'm an old lady, so to just see that the young people are holding people accountable and it just it means so much to me, not only as an American and as a mom, but as the daughter of an attorney from a small town.

[00:01:59] **Eric Bland:** I remember that.

[00:02:00] **Sheryl Crow:** Yes. And to grow up with somebody who was like fighting my dad still, I mean, he believes in the justice system. He has fought his whole life to see that it works correctly and to see where we are now and



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that these young, you rocking young women who are like doing the research and bringing the truth to the forefront and however you have to do it.

[00:02:23] **Eric Bland:** Plus an old man. Young women and an old man.

[00:02:26] **Sheryl Crow:** Eric, hey, we're the same age. We're 61 and I'm gonna step out here and just say I think we look pretty good.

[00:02:32] **Eric Bland:** You look damn good for 61, girl.

[00:02:35] **Sheryl Crow:** Yes. With the right lighting, I think we look.

[00:02:40] **Mandy Matney:** Oh my gosh.

[00:02:41] **Sheryl Crow:** We look at least, I mean, we look 58.

[00:02:44] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. 51.

[00:02:46] **Sheryl Crow:** 51.

[00:02:47] **Mandy Matney:** 32. I give you 32 — both of you. You guys both look amazing.

[00:02:51] **Sheryl Crow:** Anyway, I'm super big fan and I just appreciate, I mean, just I just appreciate what you guys not only have done, but the fact that you're so committed to bringing justice and, oh my gosh, Stephen Smith. I've been crying all the way through that. I mean, if that were my kid. I have kids, and if that was my kid, I don't know what — I mean, I don't know how Sandy's doing it, so I just appreciate that you guys are advocating for her and that you're, you know, just taking on the system. Anyway, I love you guys. That's all I'm saying.

[00:03:20] **Eric Bland:** Taking it to the man.

[00:03:21] **Sheryl Crow:** Taking it to the man, holding the feet to the fire, you know, where the rubber meets the road, all that stuff, you know?



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[00:03:28] **Liz Farrell:** I'm still catching my breath that it's Sheryl Crow that is literally just you meant so much to me in college and your, I mean, I could play your songs over and to the point where my roommates were like stop. Just over and over and over again. Every song hit a mood. And we were talking before this about what we wanted to talk to you about, and one of the things I wanted to talk to you about was writing because I was telling them about the song "Picture" and just, you know, putting Kid Rock aside, you get this like get the guy's version and you're like kind of locked in like, okay, this is what the song is. This is what it's about. Feel bad for this guy, you know, sort of rough going and he's in love and he wants — and then, she chimes in, you chime in, and it's like, okay. Now, the story's different. So it was really helpful as a writer just to you see those parallels between writing a story and writing a song and just how you can sort of grab somebody by the hand and say, follow me, listen through the end, and I'm gonna get you there and you're gonna really enjoy this. And so I learned a lot from that just even just from your songs from — Yeah, very formative.

[00:04:32] **Sheryl Crow:** I love that. I was singing about this the other day 'cause I've been writing a lot and, you know, I know people are tired of politics. They're tired of the gun issue. They're tired of — people are just tired and stressed out and that our mental health is being taxed and. But I was thinking about it the other day, my second record I put out a song about a kid buying a gun at Walmart and the album got banned and it was like a big thing. This is before social media. And I was thinking about it, you know, now I feel like as a songwriter, I can write — the place I go to make my point known are songs. But for you guys as journalists, I mean, you're kind of doing the same thing. I mean, it's done in a different artfully way, but your messaging, your investigative work is through podcasting. I mean, for me, my message always comes through lyrics because I get a lot of, will you just shut the F up and sing? And, you know, for all of us who are not only curious, but are advocates for what's right, you go where you can to make your voice be heard and it gets harder and harder to do that, you know? It gets you get written off in a thousand different ways. I mean, I watch it with journalists and people are like oh, the fake news and blah, blah, blah. You know, it's interesting what podcasts have done and how I got turned onto you guys. I mean, it's through friends who are like-minded and like you gotta check this out. And my friend told me this is how it works when you get to be a mom, right? You're standing on the sidelines at a baseball game and somebody comes over, one of your friends' moms and says, have you listened to the Murdaugh Murders? I mean, you know, however the word gets there, it's the like-minded people that spread the message. And it's kind of like songs, you know? Have you heard



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this girl who blah, blah blah has written...? And, you know, it's generally not the hits. It's the deep cuts or the album cuts where you get to really say what you think. And even though people know you as "All I Wanna Do" or "Soak Up the Sun," the people that really know you are the ones that know the ones that are about what's happening in reality. So yeah, it's an interesting journey, you know? And the Kid Rock thing is really interesting 'cause, you know, he and I are on very polar opposites of the issues right now, but you can meet in the middle where music lives, you know?

[00:06:52] **Liz Farrell:** I love that.

[00:06:53] **Mandy Matney:** And people forget that.

[00:06:54] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. It's finding your voice. Finding your voice is a huge thing for writers. And I think Mandy and I have had just a whole different perspective on that in the last year and a half because finding your voice and then Mandy getting criticized literally for her voice when it has nothing to do with the work that we're doing. It just it sort of just takes this whole new focus.

[00:07:16] **Sheryl Crow:** Okay. I'm gonna tell you. They did a Bob Dylan — this is years ago — were they he had lyrics left over or whatever, and they went out to several artists and said, do you wanna take a Bob Dylan lyric and write music to it? So I did, you know? And I was like I don't feel pretty good about this. It's cool, you know? And then, I just happened to read this before social media. Maybe it was during — I don't know. I happened to read something that said that I sounded like a cow being given an abortion in a field somewhere. And I was just like really?

[00:07:49] **Eric Bland:** Really?

[00:07:50] **Sheryl Crow:** Really? I don't even — what does a cow sound like being given — I mean, do we give cows abortions? Anyway, I was just like, you know, how low — anyway, so I feel your pain, Mandy. I do but, you know, people are gonna find any tiny little thing to pick you apart and especially where the truth lives, you know what I mean? People don't like they don't like you challenging what they already believe, and so they're gonna find the smallest, stupidest thing to pick on. And it is the one reason that I don't — I mean, my social media person's sitting here and she's gonna shake her head when I say I don't do social media because I don't like how mean people are.



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You know, I'll go to her and say, I read this today, can we post that? And she'll also give me responses to people and I say, can we respond? But I can't dig through it because it makes me lose my faith in humankind so.

[00:08:44] **Mandy Matney:** So you just don't — you don't look at it?

[00:08:47] **Sheryl Crow:** I don't look at it and I've not let my kids have it. My 15-year-old's getting ready to turn 16 in a month and he asked me a couple of probably a couple months ago if he could have Instagram because he's on the fishing team.

[00:09:02] **Eric Bland:** Right.

[00:09:02] **Sheryl Crow:** You know, and so he has his own private Instagram. And luckily, God bless my kid, he's such a goofball that it doesn't really occur to him. I mean, he's inquisitive and everything, but I trust him because he's sort of out in the, you know, I wanna post this big bass fish I just caught, you know? And it's not like he's not that kid so. Now, my 12-year-old, I'm gonna have to like I'm gonna have to go spelunking when it comes to so when he gets social media 'cause, you know, he cares a little bit more about persona and stuff but.

[00:09:35] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah.

[00:09:36] **Eric Bland:** What hooked you in this? You know, what was the hook for —

[00:09:39] **Sheryl Crow:** Seriously, and I'm going to say Stephanie Walton's name because I know she'll be listening to this. She doesn't miss you guys. She turned me on to you guys and I think it was at a time when — when did y'all get — I mean, it's been four, I mean, I started at the very first. So that's been what, three years ago? Four years ago? You started investigating them like four years ago?

[00:10:00] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I started the podcast in 2021.

[00:10:04] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah, so it was all through COVID. And anyway, we got to talking about podcasts and I was saying how much I was getting into



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podcasts and she said, well, you have to check out this podcast called the Murdaugh Murders. And she sent me, you know, she sent me a link and said, you just have to check this out. And the very first one I listened to, I was like, oh my gosh. She also turned me onto "Bone Valley" and some other ones. But this — you guys — and I did listen to "Bone Valley" all the way through and that just I dunno if you guys are hip to that or not, but I mean there's just so much injustice and almost invariably is because there is money and power that reigns over what happens in the courtroom or what never gets to the courtroom. And like I said, having grown up with a dad who was just like Atticus Finch, I just was very I was just locked in. And every week was just like, how the hell, you know? How is this happening, you know? And I loved the outcome. I mean, I loved the fact that all these people who lost everything and weren't even savvy enough to realize what was happening to them that you guys were championing them. And anyway, it's just it's a brilliant story. It's, I mean, it's a 19-part mini-series if it ever gets made into. I mean, it's just so deep. But you know that if this is happening, that it's happening everywhere, you know?

[00:11:30] **Eric Bland:** I always say that we didn't have a license that South Carolina's unique. Every state has a small hamlet, a small town where there's a few powerful people that control what goes on. Now, I'm not sure it goes to the extent that Alex did it in the all the different crimes, but it's in every state.

[00:11:50] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah. And, you know, we see it every day at every level. I mean, in and outside of the court system, it exists everywhere where there's money and power. And I do, you know, it's been interesting. I dropped my kid off at school this morning and there were armed guards everywhere and I just, you know, it does make you feel like, okay.

[00:12:10] **Eric Bland:** Yes, since you're right there from last week's shooting, right? It's right near where you are.

[00:12:14] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah.

[00:12:15] **Mandy Matney:** Terrifying.

[00:12:16] **Sheryl Crow:** It's terrifying. And you do just go, okay, where can you go to exist in some sort of utopian society? And you can't. I mean, you just have to do what you guys are doing, which is you have to live in it but not accept it. You have to raise your voice. You have to hold people's feet to the



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fire. You know, it's not convenient to, you know, go to the protest and do — but at the end of the day, you do have to show up because it's not enough to just act like it's not all happening, you know, on every level. And the people that knew what Alex was doing and that were either too terrified or didn't wanna lose their positions of power, they had to live with that, you know? And they're guilty, you know? He's sentenced to life, but they're guilty, too.

[00:13:04] **Liz Farrell:** There's nothing that brings me more pleasure than hearing Sheryl Crow shaming the people that didn't speak up in this because that has been one of the hardest things for Mandy and me is just because we have seen what the fear looks like. But there are, just like you said, people who are more interested in not losing their power and that's why they didn't speak up. And they do. They have to live with that and hopefully, they will turn that into something good and do the right thing the next time. But one man created all this destruction. And I think the thing goes with school shootings, right? It's one person creating all this destruction, but it's the, in my opinion, it's the tool that allows them to have this much destruction happen in such a short amount of time. So with Alex, it was always like his tool was his family name, and he was able to do all of this simply because of his family name.

[00:13:52] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah. You know, and I do look at it and I go, okay, so where's the hope in this? And because I have to — I mean, Eric, you and I are generationally coming from a different place. I have to look at it from the place from the standpoint of hope because I have little kids.

[00:14:07] **Eric Bland:** Right.

[00:14:07] **Sheryl Crow:** And I look at it and go, okay, so Laffitte for instance. I go, so do the kids look at that and think all that power and money was worth it when their dad's walking around with an ankle bracelet and is getting ready to go to — you know, all that. Do they go, okay, I'm gonna follow in his footsteps? Or do they go a completely different direction, right?

[00:14:32] **Eric Bland:** We don't know yet. You know, right now it seems that they're still on their father's heels and they're mad at the system and they're mad at us and they're mad at everybody except the person that they really should be mad at is their father who did this to their family.



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[00:14:47] **Sheryl Crow:** Right. And I guess my feeling about it is I'm hoping that the next generation of Americans don't think all this is okay. Like they will buck that and go, we're better than that as opposed to falling into, I gotta have money, I gotta have power, I'm keeping my AR-15s, or, you know, whatever it is they think looks like success or patriotism or whatever it is because they're living — they're the frogs in the pot of boiling water. I have hope that they're growing up more savvy than we did, you know? And maybe for me as came from a small town, everybody was either middle class or less than. There was nobody with big wealth that now all this big wealth that's so enticing is starting to look kind of nasty. And hopefully, our kids will look at that and think, what are we fighting for here, you know? It's not normal to watch your parent go to prison. It's not normal to walk into a school with armed guards. What is our barometer now of what is normal? And do we get back to a point where we go, okay, the justice system can only work if the people around the powerful are willing to take on the powerful at all costs? And that's, you know, this is like a turning point I think across the nation because of podcasters. I mean, you know, it's not trial by podcasters. It's galvanizing a movement of people going, this isn't the way it's supposed to work and I'm not gonna stand by and be quiet.

[00:16:22] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And what's really interesting is as we're talking about all of this, like I can say I hate social media. I can say that it drives me crazy. Liz knows how much it drives me crazy and how much I hate it. But at the same time, it's also an equalizer in society and it's a tool that can be can destroy us but also can improve and equalize things to a tremendous extent. Because I don't think we would've been involved in the story to begin with if people didn't start speaking up in 2019 on social media, and that's where the Murdaughs, that's what they couldn't control. They're used to controlling their town, their newspaper, their the police, and da da da. But a widespread amount of people — and then podcasting as an equalizer, too, because guess what? You don't need like a fancy recording studio. You don't need a label. You don't need a big name behind you. You can just get in front of the microphone and say the truth and tell a story. And if you're good at it, then people will listen. And you don't need a lot of money and power for that.

[00:17:34] **Sheryl Crow:** That is so true. And, you know, I tell my kids all the time this and I have told this publicly quite a bit and my kids don't like it but. So, you know, in Nashville, just like every other city, you have people that are that stand out and ask for money, right? So we have this thing in Nashville called *The Contributor* and there are lots of people that will sell this newspaper for a dollar and that's a way of kind of at least working. They're



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selling something, you know, so that they can have some sort of life like homeless shelters and that kind of thing. So we always — my 15-year-old is a total empath. "Mom, how much money do you have?" "Well, I think I got like 80 bucks." "Okay. Gimme the 80 bucks." "I was like 80 bucks?" And then, my one in the backseat, my 12-year-old is like, "Mom. You know he probably is gonna walk around the corner and get in his Maserati and drive to his nice apartment." And I'm like, okay, so here's the lesson in that. It's all about intention. Your intention of going on social media and saying, look, there's something that's not right about that. If your intention is to shed light on that, you may have to endure a bunch of other people whose intention is to tear you down and their intention will save them, but your intention is all if your intention is good, the outcome of that is out of your control, but the intention is the blessing. I tell my kids all the time: it's not on you what he does with that money. It's your gift that you have the opportunity to give away 80 bucks to a guy who hasn't seen 80 bucks in a long time, right? What he does with that? That's on him, but your intention is to bless that person. So what y'all are doing I look at it the same way. Your intention is that you want to give voice to the people who clearly are voiceless and who are being taken advantage of. And you've created this forum for yourselves, right? So you've taken the opportunity, but the intention behind it is right. So you do have to deal with the bots. You have to deal with the haters. You even have to deal with the people that are still aligned with the powerful, who are, you know, just scumbags. But the fact is your intention is right and beautiful and powerful, and outside of that, that's on everybody else. You know what I mean? I clearly and so powerfully believe in the power of intention.

[00:19:55] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. I think it's what we do with our talent and how we use it that we can make a difference. But, you know, I'm a lawyer more than I'm a podcaster and I have never been more scared for our justice system than what I'm seeing now. I mean, we have the greatest justice system in the world. We don't charge people on Tuesday, try 'em on Wednesday and kill 'em on Thursday, like some countries do.

[00:20:18] **Sheryl Crow:** I'll tell you. I was a chaperone on Wyatt's eighth grade trip and we went to D.C. and we had this incredible tour guide who had served in Vietnam. He had been somebody who advocated for — I don't wanna say policing monies, but he testified a lot before Congress and then he became a tour guide 'cause he loved history so much. And the first place we went was Arlington Cemetery. And I was so, not just humbled, but so sort of I don't wanna say enraged but, I mean, I looked at some of the people and



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what they're doing to our government, just even in State of the Union speech, just standing up and yelling "Liar."

[00:20:59] **Eric Bland:** Correct.

[00:20:59] **Liz Farrell:** He was from South Carolina, by the way, Sheryl. The guy who yelled at — the original guy who yelled at.

[00:21:07] **Eric Bland:** And his son is the Attorney General of South Carolina that was in the Murdaugh case.

[00:21:13] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my. Okay. Here. Let me just hav, let me have a little cup of coffee out of my cups up.

[00:21:21] **Eric Bland:** Cups up.

[00:21:21] **Mandy Matney:** Cups up. Cups up.

[00:21:23] **Sheryl Crow:** Cups up, people. Later on it's gonna be like martini glass up.

[00:21:27] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I'm with you, Sheryl.

[00:21:29] **Sheryl Crow:** That's where I live, okay?

[00:21:44] **Eric Bland:** Everybody needs to drink from the same cup of justice. That's how we got our podcast.

[00:21:48] **Mandy Matney:** Cups up.

[00:21:49] **Liz Farrell:** Cups up.

[00:21:50] **Eric Bland:** I said it in Alex's first bond hearing. I said to Judge Newman, I said, you better make him drink from the same cup of justice that everybody else did. And the next week, Mandy, Liz, and I said, Boy, that would be a great name for a podcast.



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[00:22:03] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, it's — I don't miss the Cups of Justice podcast either. My kids were like, when it when the court case, the six weeks it was on, I would have it on all the time. Like I'd have it in the car. And my kids were like, mom, we're worried about you. You're like obsessed.

[00:22:21] **Liz Farrell:** Right. Were there any moments during that, though?

[00:22:25] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. What was your favorite part of the trial? Did you have like a favorite person?

[00:22:31] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, I mean, I love Judge Newman. I mean, I really I loved what he said in the end. I loved the way he handled the whole thing. I loved the lessons at the end that he gave everybody. I mean, it really does — you know, you have to live with the ghosts that come visit you. And I just thought he handled it with grace and dignity, with absolutely no bombast, which I really appreciated because I feel like, you know, I can remember my dad during the O.J. trial saying, this will be the end of a just and fair trial when you bring cameras in and you get personalities in front of a camera. And he was just like sickened by it. So I appreciated the tone of that case. I thought Creighton Waters, I mean, it was what I hoped for, but I'll tell you the thing that was the most damning was him. I mean, you got to see and it scares me because I look at — I'm sorry, I look at our former president and go the kind of gaslighting, that kind of mansplaining that makes you feel like, well, maybe I'm maybe I should re-look at this or whatever, you know, if you don't have all the facts. I mean, it's scary.

[00:23:43] **Eric Bland:** Sheryl, he's getting love letters in prison now.

[00:23:47] **Sheryl Crow:** Good for him. I mean, I don't know. It does.

[00:23:51] **Eric Bland:** What the hell?

[00:23:51] **Sheryl Crow:** I know. Let me tell you what. There are crazy people everywhere. There are nice dressed BMW-driving voting Americans who are not willing to look at what is happening to us. You cannot justify some of the stuff that's happening just because you're aligned with a party. I mean, you just can't. I mean — and, you know, used to it was easy. It was like, okay, so this party doesn't wanna pay as much taxes and this party wants everything to be



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socialized. This party wants this, that party — the reality of it is we're so divided now because we're listening to some real —

[00:24:37] **Eric Bland:** Bad people.

[00:24:38] **Sheryl Crow:** Assholes, real bad people, some idiots, and we're aligning ourselves with who we're against as opposed to who we're for. And that's just that's where I get into the fear for what the future looks like.

[00:24:49] **Mandy Matney:** But on the same token, I mean, I feel like there is a lot of hope there because — and I'm with you. I always have to look at the bright side, otherwise I'll go crazy. So I think the bright side in all of this is that like a lot of the worst people that I see on the internet are a lot older than me. A lot of like, sorry, but baby boomer generation is really, really mean online and it's hardly ever younger people. I feel like the younger — like you said the word gaslighting and I'm sure you say that to and mansplaining and I'm sure you say that to your kids those words didn't exist when I was growing up. Like we didn't have a — we just thought that that was the way that old men talked to people and that was that and that we just all had to accept it. But at least these kids know how to like call it out — and narcissism. I didn't know what a narcissist was until like 10 years ago maybe.

[00:25:41] **Sheryl Crow:** Until I got engaged to them. I'm kidding. Uh-oh.

[00:25:47] **Mandy Matney:** But like those terms were never —

[00:25:50] **Sheryl Crow:** I'm with you. I think, you know, like I said, sadly our kids are growing up having to like they have to really think about like what's gonna happen to them, you know? I'm hoping that they will see the example of some of their parents and go, that's not how I wanna be. That's not what I wanna do. That's not the way I wanna speak. That's not the way I wanna treat people. You know, I've always said modeling is the most powerful thing you can do for a kid, but I also am hopeful that some of the modeling that we do changes the way our kids look at the world by virtue of the fact that it's not working for their parents, you know? That they're more thoughtful, that they're having to, I mean, certainly they're more savvy. They're having to like navigate the world through cellphones. They're learning already how they're being manipulated by algorithms. That's part of their, I mean, they're growing up with it. I'm still trying to figure out how to work my cellphone, you know? And they're so savvy and they're able to call things out and to delineate



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between reality and. So yeah, I'm hopeful too that they're gonna like the environment, guns, hate rhetoric, division, all that stuff, that they're gonna be able to look at that and go, okay, wait. We're gonna work together.

[00:27:09] **Liz Farrell:** I do see your son's generation as being a kinder one, quite honestly. I hear kids their age saying things that are just so much more profound than as Gen X. I just never thought that way. So I do have hope for the next generation as grim as things do look. And like Mandy said, we wouldn't be where we are today, fortunately and unfortunately — unfortunately for Maggie and Paul but fortunately for the other victims who are now hopefully getting justice or going to get answers. In the case of Sandy Smith, we wouldn't be here today without that younger crowd, Stephen's age, calling all this out in social media in a way that they just couldn't that just didn't exist for them. It wasn't an outlet for them before Facebook. They just had to sort of talk about it amongst each other amongst themselves. And so I do think that that having access, it has the bright and the dark, but having access to so many people's opinions and so many worldviews so many other people's worldviews, it can also create a more empathetic generation. So I do see hope for your sons.

[00:28:20] **Sheryl Crow:** I agree with that. And, you know, like with Sandy, I think what's permeating everything right now where Sandy is concerned, where Stephen's concerned is humanizing, you know? You see this mom who for eight years has been, you know, just grappling with the grief of not only losing a son, but not having the opportunity to even really know what happens. And I feel like because of what you guys are doing and because of the story because of the opportunity that she's having to speak as a real person, as a person who's still in mourning, who's painting a picture of a darling boy who was well loved, you know, that somebody is going to come forward. I just feel like it's too — the weight of knowing what really happened to him hopefully and with Sandy and how much people are loving her from afar, you know, all over the world, that the weight of that will compel someone to speak up.

[00:29:26] **Eric Bland:** I just want to get her closure. That's why I got involved. You know, Mandy, as I said on last week's show, you know, she was a great salesman and said, look, Eric. Look, I got your money now. Step forward. You know, you do your dizzle, get on TV, scream and shout. That's what I do with my mouth. And but for me it's she needs closure. The woman just needs



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peace and she has not been at peace. And it's a horrible thing when you're when you have that uncertainty in your life and you don't have peace. And I'm just if I can find somehow to get her that peace, I'll feel pretty good about it.

[00:30:01] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, and, you know, and I'm so grateful that y'all are doing that 'cause how many other people have lost loved ones and it got shuffled or swept under a rug because of the powers that be and people who didn't want to put the money toward it or knew and did some covering up? And how often does that happen? So, I mean, this is she is just an example of what can happen, and I would never want it to happen. And I'm sure if it did to me because of who I am, you know, it'd be all over the place and there'd be like lots of resources. But here's a woman who lives out kind of in the middle of nowhere in South Carolina, and this can happen and you guys are just three South Carolinian American justice fighters who took on her case and.

[00:30:55] **Eric Bland:** We call ourselves the Justice Warriors.

[00:30:57] **Sheryl Crow:** You're the Justice League and I think you should have your own Marvel comic personally. But yeah, I mean, it's —

[00:31:05] **Eric Bland:** Somebody did make us dolls, though. We have dolls now that are out there. They knitted us of Mandy and Liz and Eric.

[00:31:11] **Mandy Matney:** They look just like us.

[00:31:12] **Eric Bland:** I mean, people have been so kind.

[00:31:14] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my God.

[00:31:15] **Eric Bland:** Sheryl, every day I go to the office, somebody sent a glass blown picture. Somebody sent coasters or dish towels and it just — this whole process I said to Mandy and Liz has made me feel like there are good people out there. They're out there.

[00:31:33] **Sheryl Crow:** Yes, there are good people and it's hard to not get bogged down with like, oh my God, where are we going? And the and humanity is blah, blah, blah. There are great. That's — the one thing I look at on social media is "Upworthy" 'cause I'm just like, ah, I love good news. I love



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good stories, and there are good people everywhere. And doing good feels good. I always say, man, the blessing is in giving back. It's not what you have. It's giving it away. And that's time and energy and concern and fighting the good fight. It doesn't have to be about money. It has to be about showing up, you know? No matter what you guys find out or we all find out about what happened to Stephen, he deserves the right to have his story be told and to have his family know what happened to him and rest in peace.

[00:32:27] **Eric Bland:** I said the other night, you know, he's probably been pounding on his coffin door for eight years, screaming, Hey, no, I wasn't — this isn't a hit-and-run, you know? And now, we took him out, we got him exhumed, we got an autopsy done, we put him back. Hopefully, now he can rest in peace.

[00:32:43] **Sheryl Crow:** I just I have to ask one thing. I can't — it's hard for me to understand how a lawyer at the crime scene could actually call the mother and offer representation.

[00:32:55] **Eric Bland:** Exactly.

[00:32:56] **Sheryl Crow:** To me, that just stinks beyond — I don't even know what to do with that. I'm just like, okay. And I don't wanna get into tying anyone to it, but y'all that listened to the podcast like I do, that struck me so hard when you first told that. And now with where we are, I'm just like, you can't look at it and not say the Murdaughs were, at least, I don't say that they're involved in his death, but wanting to insert themselves to represent or to control the narrative or whatever. That's just — man, that stinks.

[00:33:32] **Eric Bland:** Well, you look at the Mallory Beach thing. They showed up at the Mallory Beach scene. They showed up at the hospital. You look at the murder scene of Maggie and Paul. John Marvin's there. All of his partners are in the house the night of the murder. You look at Stephen Smith. There's an allegation that Randolph Murdaugh showed up at the accident scene. There's allegations that he called Sandy and her husband Joel. I mean, like you said, it's the insertion of your power into something that you're not a part of.

[00:34:04] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah, absolutely no part of or as far as we know, no part of. And I don't know. I just, you know, that's the kind of thing where you



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go, Stephen was already, he was already on his way to heaven at that time, but he had to be watching that and just going, oh my goodness.

[00:34:22] **Liz Farrell:** It's one of two things, right? So either Randy was there because PMPED was such a major powerhouse in Hampton County and the industry of Hampton County had become this law firm, had become lawsuits, had become filing cases against insurance agencies. So a lawyer who's a who does that sees that there's an incident where somebody has been killed in a hit-and-run. Oh, okay, if you find that person, now we've got a lawsuit, right? So it could be that. It could just be a sign of what that industry looks like in Hampton County and how people have had to live with the way that works. Or it's the other thing, which is you have them inserting themselves into a case that has nothing to do with them, so that they can have a heads up on where law enforcement is going with it. So, which is it if neither's great?

[00:35:11] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah, right. I mean, it's ambulance chasing and I totally I understand that, but I also go, I mean, it's not lost on me that it would be Randy and if his firm was to take the case, does Sandy get the money?

[00:35:28] **Liz Farrell:** What a great question.

[00:35:29] **Sheryl Crow:** What happens to the money? Is she one of those people that just happened to be represented? Because, I mean.

[00:35:35] **Eric Bland:** I don't wanna tarnish the whole firm but, you know, certainly if it was Alex.

[00:35:40] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, that's what I mean. It's like.

[00:35:41] **Mandy Matney:** It's crazy, too. I mean, I've never seen anything like it when we first started investigating all of this and looking up all these names involved in the Stephen Smith case. Kids of our teenagers had lawsuits, were involved in law in PMPED lawsuits, teenagers, several of them. Like you look up all these different names and look it up. Lawsuit. Look it up. Lawsuit. And it's like either there's something going on here. There's something going on here regardless 'cause it seems like there's they literally made a business out of —



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[00:36:21] **Sheryl Crow:** Creating lawsuits.

[00:36:23] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, creating lawsuits and in Hampton County. And that's another thing that like people don't get. Like the your auto insurance is a lot higher because of all these lawsuits. Like it's harder. The poor people pay for it, you know? And they —

[00:36:43] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, there's no Walmart. There's no industry. You have nowhere to have your wages go up.

[00:36:49] **Mandy Matney:** Right. Nobody wants to build any businesses there because they are terrified of getting sued by the law firm. And it's just thing after thing after thing where it's really like a Caste system like.

[00:37:00] **Sheryl Crow:** Right, a Caste system.

[00:37:01] **Mandy Matney:** PMPED's here, Caste system and everybody else in the town is here and they all just kind of dealt with it because they had no choice. And like I go back to — and again, talking about the young people and how I've been inspired by them this entire time. My very first source in this would not talk to me on the phone about the Murdaughs. And she was like, can I meet you at a coffee shop? And I met her at a coffee shop and I'll never forget. She looked at me and said, if my grandparents knew that I was telling a reporter about the Murdaughs, they would kill me. That always resonated with me because like, I'm not from here. My parents aren't from here. I'm from Kansas City. They don't know who the Murdaughs are. They're not gonna tell me. But like it's really hard on these people 'cause generationally, they have been told to shut their mouths and don't talk about it. And finally, this Mallory Beach's generation and Stephen's generation said, no. We're done with this.

[00:38:09] **Sheryl Crow:** And that — that's where the hope is 'cause, I mean, even, I mean, do you guys see that do you feel like anything now that the practice or that the way it's always been, do you feel like it can change now? That people are gonna wake up and go, oh, so we're actually living in almost poverty with no opportunity here because of the way this whole thing is set up and now they're hopefully going down or perhaps some of the people that are in that law firm still are good people and will do something to lift up their communities. I mean, do you see any upshot or any kind of change coming on, or is it just the way that it is? Like industry won't even come to that area or kids won't just won't move back.



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[00:38:54] **Eric Bland:** It'll take other lawyers to go put up a shingle there. It'll take new judges to come through that don't have the connection to that area. And it'll take more people moving in. It'll demand more commerce. It's gonna be a slow. It'll be a slow, gradual change if it happens, but it's not gonna happen overnight.

[00:39:28] **Liz Farrell:** Also, I hate to say this, it's the beginning. We're at the very beginning. I know, Sheryl, from your perspective coming into the story, you must have been like, this how is this real? How is this a real thing? Because every time there's a new twist or turn, you're just like, that doesn't sound like — it sounds like fiction. But this is just the beginning and there are a lot of people that still are yet to be held accountable. And I think that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, us putting pressure on them to continue just because Alex is now going to be in prison for the rest of his life. That's amazing, and that is a huge first step. But there's, like you said at the very beginning, there's other people here of power who didn't wanna lose their position by speaking out and hopefully now they can. But otherwise, no. It will stay the same, unfortunately, without that extra pressure, which is what's gonna have to keep coming. And people kept asking us like, what are you gonna do now that the that he's in prison? It's over. And it's just like, wow. I don't know that people understand just how not over this is. Like that was just — we got one. We got one.

[00:40:35] **Sheryl Crow:** I mean, honestly, every week you guys would have something, some new thing, and I would just be going, oh my God. And then I'd be like, okay, well, next week it'll be more. And then the next week it would be like, oh my God. I mean, just the layers and the layers and the just the tentacles. Oh my God. Oh my God. Well, that's, it's so true. And honestly, it's like, you know, talking about accomplices. One person can't pull this off and they certainly can't pull it off for, what, three generations of people. And, I mean, there are some people that should be kind of nervous, you know? Wow. And I keep like every time I tune in, like yesterday I listened to talking about the exhumation and, I mean, there's just always like little nuggets where you go, well, why did that happen and why would they cover that? And why — I mean, it's just it does blow your mind. And I guess the thing for me is like, okay, so this is happening here, but you know it's going on in other places, too. And I love the fact that there will be people that are hip to what you guys are doing and are gonna wanna do that where you know they're gonna wanna shed some light, bring, you know, drag their communities into the light. And that is a very big deal.



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[00:41:57] **Mandy Matney:** That's a big deal. Yes, oh my God.

[00:42:01] **Eric Bland:** You need to write that song.

[00:42:03] **Sheryl Crow:** I'm gonna write a song called "Soak Up the Sun."

[00:42:05] **Eric Bland:** Write a song "That's a Big Deal."

[00:42:08] **Sheryl Crow:** Yes.

[00:42:09] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I mean, it's the more that I think about it, it really sucks. But I think of a Alex as a product of a bad system. Like I think of Alex of like a branch of a tree and the tree the whole tree's bad. We need to cut off the tree. Alex is just a branch and we have a long way to go. And I hate to say that because I, you know, maybe wanna have kids someday or something else. Sorry.

[00:42:39] **Sheryl Crow:** You might wanna have a hobby. Who has time for hobbies?

[00:42:43] **Eric Bland:** There's a thing in the law called fruit of the poisonous tree. Sheryl probably heard her father talk about it. But Alex is the fruit of a poisonous tree.

[00:42:53] **Mandy Matney:** And it's just it's —

[00:42:54] **Sheryl Crow:** And a very enticing fruit to a lot of other people, you know, that would fall in line, you know? It's low-hanging fruit for sure, but it's true. You know, I do, like Eric, because I grew up with I remember my dad had a lawsuit. I grew up in Dunklin County and the county next to ours, which is where he grew up, was called Pemiscot County, and I think I was maybe I was in third grade. So what does that make you, like nine or 10 years old? Young lawyer took on this case at Pemiscot County to represent I guess their in their voting system, they'd had a whole bunch of people come in and stuffed the ballot box with dead people. And, I mean, it was, you know? And I remember coming downstairs about two in the morning, which for a little kid is like, and my dad was asleep on the couch, sitting up with a shotgun. And we'd had all these death threats and, you know?



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[00:43:49] **Liz Farrell:** Oh my gosh.

[00:43:50] **Sheryl Crow:** People hanging up the phone. Yeah, people calling, and then when my dad would answer, hanging up the phone. So like finding out if we were home. And I just remember that being my earliest introduction to the justice system, right? I'm just thinking, wow, it's like Cowboy and Indian or, you know, it's Wild Wild West or whatever. And then, growing up and him talking about the different cases that he had, he was, he, I mean, he was like fire and brimstone, just, you know? But knowing that — and I would ask him. Dad, how would you represent somebody that you thought might be guilty? He's like, that's not my job. My job is to, you know, prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, you know, it's on the —

[00:44:35] **Eric Bland:** Just make the system work. His job is to make the system work.

[00:44:39] **Sheryl Crow:** The way the system works is to be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt. Everyone gets their day in court, fair representation, da da da da da. And I think that's why it's been so profound to me what you guys have done because how much longer could this have gone on? And it all stemmed from the beginnings of your podcast where you started just shining a light on all these people who were not getting their day, you know, not getting their the money that they deserved. Not, I mean, just, and it they'd still be doing it. I mean, it would still be — I'm convinced it would still be happening.

[00:45:17] **Eric Bland:** Sheryl, it happened because Mandy and Liz but Mandy stumbled across in the court records that Gloria Satterfield, you know, there was a settlement of \$500,000, which outed Alex for the first time, you know? And.

[00:45:32] **Sheryl Crow:** I remember.

[00:45:33] **Eric Bland:** That's how I got involved. And so it all, you know, one document, maybe Alex, if you — what would've happened, Mandy, if you didn't discover that document? Would he have been outed? You know, would the Mallory case be different?

[00:45:47] **Mandy Matney:** I don't wanna know. I don't.



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[00:45:50] **Sheryl Crow:** I know. It's true. You don't wanna know because honestly, I remember when I was listening to it every week and thinking this has got to be making some people nervous.

[00:46:01] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, yeah.

[00:46:01] **Sheryl Crow:** You know what I mean? Because it wasn't like you were just posting, you know, to your family and friends. I mean, this was like I'm speaking up and that is total bravery to do that. I don't think, I mean, that cannot be overstated — total bravery to put yourself out there 'cause hey, the world's not a safe place. I'm sure you guys have had death threats and every, you know, and not being able to sleep just with the weight of knowing what you know and feeling like I gotta keep I've got to continue with this until something changes. And just the bravery and the courage that goes into that. I just am, I mean, I'm in awe of you guys and I hope to goodness that you can act with some self-preservation and find some joy outside of this. I hope you're getting massages and body work and, you know, 'cause it's very stressful. I mean, it would be stressful to me after I would hear something that you guys would — like the newest thing and then the next newest thing and then the next newest thing. And I would just be driving around like, oh my God. You know? It's just it's not fathomable and the fact that you brought it to Judge Newman. I mean, you literally dragged it to Judge Newman with your first podcast. It landed finally in court.

[00:47:23] **Mandy Matney:** Thank you.

[00:47:25] **Sheryl Crow:** Amazing.

[00:47:25] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. We could not have asked for a better judge, too, because, you know, the O.J. Simpson case with the cameras, I totally agree with that because it was such a — yeah, it was just a circus. I mean, this was a circus, too, for sure. But it kind of worked in the opposite way here. We needed those cameras because the more people that were watching, the safer Mandy and I personally felt I believe. Like it just felt like we had so many more people who saw the things that we were seeing in this sort of vacuum. And because they were now seeing it, it put it on them as well. So people that were speaking out about it sort of like shared the burden of knowing this and seeing it and the peril of what the outcome is going to be was sort of shared by all of us. So that was really awesome. That used to get me like, during the trial, it'd get me really choked up just seeing all the reporters outside the



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courthouse and knowing that they're now sharing this burden with us in a very real way. And then, yeah. It just having those cameras in the courtroom, basically everything's always done in the dark, right, so this is the sunshine. This is the light. Like you really can't hide from that camera. It's right there on you.

[00:48:41] **Eric Bland:** South Carolina looked good. Alex did a really good job of bruising our state and certainly tarnished my profession. But I think Judge Newman wasn't Judge Lance Ito and Creighton wasn't trying to become a personality. And even though there was some moments with Dick and Jim, they did a good job. They hard-lawyered. There was really good lawyering. And then when it was over, people were peaceful. There wasn't a riot. Nobody disliked somebody just because you thought Alex was not proven guilty or Alex was guilty. I think we showed that you can have civility and that the justice system can work.

[00:49:23] **Sheryl Crow:** Yes, I agree. And I felt so — and I know you guys must have felt this way — just relieved not only with the verdict, but the fact that it seemed like we could all hold that. For a long time there, I thought, oh gosh, I bet this is gonna be a hung jury.

[00:49:41] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, I did too.

[00:49:42] **Sheryl Crow:** But my fear was that it might come back not guilty and I don't know how we would've all held that.

[00:49:47] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. No, we didn't see that. None of us saw that though I don't think.

[00:49:51] **Liz Farrell:** No, but I did have my passport ready.

[00:49:53] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my gosh. Let me — I wanna ask you guys a question though because this is just my little tiny analogy, but my first two Grammy Awards first two Grammy ceremonies, I was nominated and I had worked and worked and worked. I mean, I studied music in college. I just left my gear all over the place. And before — I was 30 when my first record came out. I was not a spring chicken. And so when I got the Grammy the first year or I won three Grammys, I did I got on the tour bus and went straight onto the next gig and didn't really internalize or hold that award because I don't know.



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I just didn't let myself. I was just like, well, I am into the work. I've got more work to do. And have you guys been able to just for a minute, celebrate the profundity of what you've done here? I mean, if there was a Pulitzer Prize for podcasts and — is there a Pulitzer Prize? Well, so I feel like they need to create just like in every other forum now with the internet, if you've got great journalism happening and in my mind, better journalism happening, without the pressures of having Big Pharma advertising you and, you know, having some sort of agenda that you have to push because you're beholden to — I mean, the best journalism now is happening where you're not beholden to anyone and it should be awarded and there should be a Pulitzer Prize for you guys. But are you able to just like at least for now and again, celebrate yourselves just even a bit? Eric is shaking his head no.

[00:51:40] **Eric Bland:** Now, I believe in the Nick Saban rule. You get 24 hours to enjoy your victory and then you got to soldier on. You can't rest so.

[00:51:49] **Sheryl Crow:** Can you do two things at once, you know?

[00:51:53] **Eric Bland:** Now, knee-deep in this Stephen Smith. So Alex is such in the rear view mirror and, you know, but I did a good job for Gloria. I did a good job for the Plyler sisters and Jordan Jinks and a whole bunch of others. But now, I got the same pressure. I gotta get a good result for Stephe,. And then I have 150 other clients out there that I gotta do it. It's just we soldier on. That's what we do. We just soldier on. But yeah, you know, we did have a like a tear and a smile. I remember when we were in the trailer after the verdict. But, you know, work goes on. You know, I have kids. I have a daughter who's a surgeon, a son. I gotta worry about them. And you have children and we soldier on.

[00:52:34] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah.

[00:52:35] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I think, I mean, I felt a lot of relief after the verdict just because I don't wanna know — like I'm a person that just gets sad about — I think I would've just lost faith in everything if that would've been if we didn't get that guilty verdict. And I don't even wanna go there 'cause I don't wanna think about it. But it was and I also have to say, Sheryl, you made that night. Oh my God.

[00:53:07] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. That's so true.



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[00:53:08] **Mandy Matney:** That was — thank you. Like.

[00:53:10] **Sheryl Crow:** I hope it wasn't lost on you guys that I was making — what was it called? Bang Bang Shrimp. That was not —

[00:53:19] **Liz Farrell:** It was lost on me, now that you said it. Oh my gosh.

[00:53:22] **Sheryl Crow:** Planned. I mean, I just happened to be making shrimp, which I don't usually do. And I was doing it in the air fryer. And I'll tell you what is really funny. Like I had several people say, what are you making? And I was like, oh gosh, I'm making Bang Bang Shrimp. That's just poor taste. But also the fact that I got messages from people saying, oh, by the way, that air fryer has been recalled. And I'm like, thanks for saving my life. Not only has Murdaugh Murders Podcast given me lots of enjoyment, it also has saved my life from blowing up my kitchen with a recalled air fryer.

[00:53:56] **Mandy Matney:** That is hilarious.

[00:53:58] **Liz Farrell:** Do you know those movies where — and I guess I think of like and it's such an obscure movie, but there was this movie called "Kidco." I remember from growing up and it was kids that started their own business and it was sort of a movement of manure and they're fighting against the powerful guy in town and you don't really have a sense of how big your what you were doing was until a moment when, you know, you're celebrating. You're like, check, we did it. Oh my God. Wait a minute. Sheryl Crow was watching this whole time.

[00:54:26] **Mandy Matney:** And made a video?

[00:54:28] **Liz Farrell:** Right. It was like, oh my God.

[00:54:31] **Sheryl Crow:** My kids were worried. I'm just gonna say. They were like, oh my gosh, she's gonna have to go to like a podcast rehab.

[00:54:40] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. You just you walk out and you hear — there's another movie that Mandy and I were like I guess sort of as like a coping mechanism would watch these sort of obscure movies like "The Legend of Billie Jean."



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[00:54:50] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, that's a great movie.

[00:54:51] **Liz Farrell:** Where she's got this sort of like movement and then she doesn't realize how big her video is that blows up that she's — What's fair is fair, she keeps saying because the powerful guy tried to do them wrong. And so she gets out of her car and all these women have her haircut and they've cut off their hair basically and it's sort of a Joan of Arc way for her. And so it's that same sense of awe that we just I still am surprised by people who know about the Murdaugh case or who know about us. But yeah, when we saw that, that was just when we started to realize like, we've been in — literally, it's a laptop in a microphone and Mandy and David are, you know, this started at the kitchen table. It's not — Mandy's in one of her guest rooms right now with — so it's not like something that's super fancy, so you don't really get a sense of how big the whole thing. Even if even though you know how many people are listening, it still doesn't register.

[00:55:47] **Sheryl Crow:** Yeah. 'Cause you're living in the, I mean, you're like in almost like you're sequestered. I mean, you're just like in a vacuum. Yeah, I mean, you guys can't know. I mean, I think it's the same as a musician when you make records. You cannot know the impact that once you let it go, you don't know what it's gonna do. I mean, there are songs I go, well, this means something to me, but I can't imagine it's ever gonna mean anything to anybody else. And those invariably are the ones where people will stop you in the airport and go, oh my God, that song got me through a divorce or da da da da da. So you let go of it and you just assume that it's like that intention thing, right? If your intention is good, it's gonna have a life beyond what you can envision. And, I mean, I'm just a person who, I mean, I am well known, but I am like a lot of other Americans or a lot of other people that wanna see people doing good, that wanna see justice served, that wanna see the smallest or the meekest of all of us have somebody that champions them. And the story is uplifting, you know? For me, I hung on it because I felt like everything that you guys was that you were unfolding had hope in it, you know? It was always like the end of a mini series where there's like a, what do you call it? A hung or like a —

[00:57:08] **Mandy Matney:** Cliffhanger.

[00:57:08] **Sheryl Crow:** Cliffhanger, yes. Cliff — this is what happens when you get to 60. Do you have this problem, Eric? It's like, oh, that word, that word.



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[00:57:14] **Eric Bland:** Eric does that all the time — grasping for words.

[00:57:16] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my God. If I had to go into a courtroom and use words, I'd be like, okay. It's that word that has a cliff in it and — but it was like a cliffhanger but you still hung onto it for the hope of it. And so, I mean, I might be Sheryl Crow, but there's so many other people that are just like me that love to see things go right. You know what I mean?

[00:57:43] **Liz Farrell:** Right.

[00:57:43] **Mandy Matney:** So, Sheryl, how do you stay like — my question for you I think I have millions but how do you how have you stayed like so grounded and above the noise and, I mean, your career has been so long and you can't find anything bad about you on the internet.

[00:58:03] **Sheryl Crow:** I'm sure you could.

[00:58:04] **Mandy Matney:** Not really. But like how do you do it?

[00:58:08] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, I will say my dad's 91, my mom's 86 — still married. They raised us in a very modest — I mean, we didn't nobody had money back then, and I did not make it until I was 30. I had I held real jobs. I was a school teacher. I had I waited tables for years. And I think not having grown up in privilege and having seen a different kind of America but also being raised by parents who were very — my dad was a Republican. My mom was a Democrat. We were raised with these healthy, fiery discussions. And then, when we turned 18, each one of 'em would secretly come and say, you're gonna vote Democrat, right? You're gonna vote Republican, right? You know, because they knew they were canceling each other out. And I just was exposed to people who were just, you know, curious and felt very responsible for the way the world was supposed to look by the way they raised their kids. And also, I would say I have grown up also with some mental illness issues, and that has given me a real sense of what it feels like to battle back. And living in the world of social media for me has not been healthy. I know you've taken breaks from Twitter, Mandy. And, I mean, sometimes you have to advocate for yourself. And so there's just along the way, I don't know, I think my earliest beginnings as a Midwesterner has informed everything, you know, just that sort of, I want things to be okay and fair. I don't like it when people are jerks, you know? I don't like it when people when things aren't fair. It



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doesn't sit well. And I think that's one of the reasons I wanted to be a songwriter, you know? Like we got raised on my dad reading Pudd'nhead Wilson to us and, you know, and that's what I'm trying to do to my kids. And of course they think I'm like, they say I was born in the 1870s, which I kind of was but, you know, I don't know. I mean.

[01:00:08] **Mandy Matney:** Do your kids know how famous you are? Like do they get it?

[01:00:11] **Sheryl Crow:** They don't understand how famous I was, you know? I'm not I'm — now I'm their mom and I love that. And they did grow up on the road, but they were too little to understand that that's not how every other kid grew up. But like I went to them and said, look. I'm gonna be outspoken about this gun stuff and I want you guys to know that. And you go to a conservative school with a lot of families that support Trump and who are very adamant about Second Amendment rights, which I'm not opposed to them. I just think there are sensible gun laws we could pass, but not gonna happen in the state of Tennessee. But I said, I'm gonna be vocal about it and I want you guys to know that and I want you to be okay with that. And we had some hard discussions and they will ultimately decide who they are and who they want to be in the world and what they want that world to look like. And I think that's how I was raised, you know?

[01:01:02] **Liz Farrell:** I love that.

[01:01:03] **Eric Bland:** We've taken up so much of your time.

[01:01:04] **Mandy Matney:** I know. We really have.

[01:01:05] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my God, I love you guys. I feel like you're my family.

[01:01:08] **Eric Bland:** You're sweet.

[01:01:09] **Sheryl Crow:** Just wanna let you know what time Easter dinner is in case y'all need in case y'all are gonna come.

[01:01:17] **Mandy Matney:** Oh my gosh.

[01:01:18] **Liz Farrell:** Amazing.



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[01:01:19] **Sheryl Crow:** I know. Actually yesterday, I was like, oh my God, it's five o'clock. Where's the podcast? I mean, I'm a little bit jonesy about it, you know? I'm like.

[01:01:27] **Mandy Matney:** Oh my gosh.

[01:01:27] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh my God, I need like a fix.

[01:01:29] **Eric Bland:** We promise you we're not a one-hit wonder.

[01:01:32] **Sheryl Crow:** No, I don't think that. And I really am very serious about like a Pulitzer or something like that 'cause I think we've gotten to a point now where it's too easy to say, okay, the press is fixed because they're so sponsored. I love that there are people like you guys and you are young, you're of a different generation that are now leading the fight but also exemplifying what it means to be a serious and thoughtful and super responsible journalist. And Mandy, I love that you are also exemplifying what it means to be courageous and to take on the system. I mean, you're just one lone young woman who was like I can't stand to be quiet about this. I need to find a way to lift up humanity. And I mean, that's to me that is the message of living is to look around. I tell it to my kids all the time. Your only job is to look around and say, where can I help, you know? Yours is not to judge. Yours is just to look around and say, where can I be helpful? And I guarantee you, if you do it, your life will be full. And I just love that you guys exemplify that. And Eric, if I could get my dad to listen to a podcast, he would effing love you. He would. He would be like, Dick Harpootlian.

[01:02:51] **Eric Bland:** You know, look. I'm in the fourth quarter of my career. I never envisioned this, you know? My mouth's my weapon, my words are my currency, but I do it in court and I never, never imagined that, you know, that I can walk around and people would say, there goes Eric Band or whatever, and I'm like, what? And somebody asked me for an autograph. I said, look, I'm not autograph-worthy. I'm not giving you an autograph. I'll take a picture. But I mean, I'm nobody, you know? I'm just nobody. And it's just crazy.

[01:03:17] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, I love it 'cause I think it's the nobodies who stick their necks out sometimes, you know, for all the right reasons. And as far as you've been on the fourth quarter, my dad tried lawsuits in his seventies and so I think, I mean, he retired like at 75 and continued to go into the office till he was 85.



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[01:03:35] **Eric Bland:** Wow.

[01:03:35] **Sheryl Crow:** I think you've got like two or maybe three more quarters.

[01:03:39] **Eric Bland:** Okay. Okay.

[01:03:39] **Sheryl Crow:** Let's look at it more like a cat with nine lives. Yeah. Yeah.

[01:03:44] **Mandy Matney:** That's amazing.

[01:03:45] **Eric Bland:** Well, you've been an amazing woman. You know, we followed your career. I have for a long, long time. And, you know, I have a place in Aspen, so we would always talk about, you know, you and Aspen and you're just amazing. You don't age.

[01:03:58] **Sheryl Crow:** Oh, well, I'm gonna go scrape off the caulking when I get outta here.

[01:04:07] **Eric Bland:** You just have found it. You've and you're not letting go — the lightning in a bottle.

[01:04:11] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, I appreciate that very much. I mean, I do. I'm gonna I feel like in my life that you guys are, Liz and Mandy, I feel like you guys are like I was and like I am. Like I keep feeling like there's more work to be done and that my best work is in front of me and that that's the thing that keeps me going. And I think as long as you're curious and you see things that you need to speak about, you will always find work. And that work will never feel like work at the end of the day. It will feel like you're just showing up, and I love that. I see that for you guys. So, I'm gonna always be like checking out what's going on on Luna Shark and the good work you have in front of you. And I hope — I know that awards and accolades and stuff don't mean everything, but I do I hope there's a way that for people who are not aware of what you guys do that even other journalists, other young journalists, will become aware of what you guys do. I went to University of Missouri and at the time we had the number one or two top journalism school and I think it still exists that way. And just, you know, getting universities to come in and to bring you guys in and speak about how you can be a journalist in the world



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that exists now for young people, which is what you guys do and it's just so brave and cool and I love it. So y'all keep up the good work and I love spending time with you and thank you for having me on.

[01:05:33] **Eric Bland:** Oh, thank you. It's our pleasure.

[01:05:35] **Sheryl Crow:** I'm a huge fan.

[01:05:36] **Mandy Matney:** Thank you. We're your huge fans.

[01:05:38] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you.

[01:05:40] **Mandy Matney:** I can't thank you enough for this. This made my month, yeah.

[01:05:45] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, and, you know, it is kind of weird that I'm like like I pour my coffee into my cups up and on Wednesdays I get like all excited and —

[01:05:56] **Eric Bland:** Sheryl Crow's a groupie.

[01:05:57] **Sheryl Crow:** I'm a groupie. I'm a groupie. That's right. I am. Yes, and I'm shouting out to my friend Steph, who I know is — and my friend Sarah, I mean, we just texted ad nauseam. I'm like, oh my God, did you just have you listened to the podcast, you know? So and I know that there are lots of you guys out there who are relating to that. Like you get on your text and you're like, can you believe — if you haven't checked it out yet, you've gotta listen to blah, blah, blah. So anyway, thank you guys. It's been really joyful and, you know, I'm gonna keep on, you know, keep on listening.

[01:06:28] **Mandy Matney:** Thank you.

[01:06:29] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you. I hope we can have you back on when we find out what happened to Stephen Smith.

[01:06:34] **Sheryl Crow:** I want you guys to give Sandy the biggest hug for me. And if you're listening, Sandy, my heart goes out to you. I embrace you cyberly, however you do that. And I feel Stephen, man. I know we all do. We feel his joy



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right now, and we know that he is he's loving that you're finally getting — just being seen and being heard and getting some justice so.

[01:07:00] **Mandy Matney:** I'll tell her that.

[01:07:01] **Eric Bland:** To say that word justice, you know?

[01:07:03] **Sheryl Crow:** That's a big one. It sounds good, yes.

[01:07:07] **Mandy Matney:** Sandy's a huge fan of you, Sheryl. She was like, oh my gosh. You're talking to Sheryl Crow? I think I told her earlier this week.

[01:07:15] **Sheryl Crow:** Well, I'd just tell her I have a lot of love and respect for her so and for her daughter. And so, yeah. I'm gonna be there all the way until she's having her — what is it you guys had? Coke celebration, you had like a glass of wine? Whatever y'all do to celebrate the moment when — yes. I'm gonna be there right there with you.

[01:07:36] **Mandy Matney:** Oh my gosh.

[01:07:37] **Liz Farrell:** Awesome. Well, with that, I say cups down, Sheryl.

[01:07:42] **Sheryl Crow:** Cups down.

[01:07:43] **Eric Bland:** Cups down, Sheryl.

[01:07:44] **Mandy Matney:** Cups down, Sheryl.

[01:07:45] **Sheryl Crow:** Alright. Love you, guys. Keep it up.

[01:07:47] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you so much.

[01:07:49] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, thank you. Love you.

[01:07:57] **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,



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our executive editor, and Eric Bland, attorney-at-law, AKA The Jackhammer of Justice. From Luna Shark Productions.

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