



EPISODE 80: Alex Murdaugh Trial Week Four: How many lies will the jury buy?

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know what story Dick and Jim will tell the jury. Dick and Jim will tell the jury to get them to overlook the long list of Alex Murdaugh's lies. But after three and a half dramatic weeks with a denied request for a mistrial, accusations of affairs, bombshell testimony, and even a bomb threat that evacuated the courthouse, I am sure this is far from over and there is no predicting what the jury will decide. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been covering the Murdaugh family for almost four years now. This is another special episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast live from Walterboro as the Murdaugh Murders trial is underway. MMP is produced by my husband, David Moses, and written by my best friend, Liz Farrell.

[00:01:06] Well, we are in the middle of Week Four of the Alex Murdaugh trial and it has been very on brand in the last week. Since the last podcast, the courtroom drama has been cranked up several notches. Just hours after releasing episode 79, court was suddenly interrupted by a reported bomb scare at the Colleton County Courthouse and it feels like it's been nonstop drama ever since. SLED confirmed that the Colleton County Court personnel received the threat last Wednesday and the entire courthouse was evacuated for about two hours. Thankfully, the bomb scare did not delay court too much, but it was a chilling reminder of how much fear and attention is surrounding this case and unfortunately, increasing the odds of a mistrial. And I hope that SLED will find and charge the person who is responsible for the bomb threat to show the world that terroristic threats will not be tolerated in South Carolina. And the drama only escalated from there as the prosecution is creeping closer to resting this week. A couple days after the bomb threat, Dick Harpootlian made a motion for a mistrial during Blanca's testimony. And yes, that's the Blanca and we will talk about her in a minute. The motion was ultimately denied by Newman, but it definitely initiated the worries of a mistrial, which continued on Monday with the dismissal of two jurors due to COVID. That means that we only have three alternate jurors to go, which is very concerning. The longer the trial goes, the State runs the risk of losing more jurors.

[00:02:49] And speaking of concerning: as the State wraps up its last few days of testimony, we have got to talk about SLED's investigation. I'm going to be honest. I've had a lot of questions while watching this trial, especially in the last few days. Why wasn't Alex treated like a suspect initially when he was the



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husband and the first person to find the bodies? Why wasn't all of Moselle treated as a crime scene? Why were Alex's law partners and friends allowed on the crime scene? What happened with the blood spatter evidence? Why is it not entered into court? Why did it take until September to search Alameda? Why was this investigation so slow? Why no urgency when two people had been murdered? And why was Alex still allowed to carry a Solicitor's Office badge when he had lied multiple times to police about the murder of his wife and son when he was the only suspect? I think I know the answer and I hate to say it because I feel like a broken record right now. I believe it's power, privilege, and the two systems of justice that allowed for these kinds of mistakes that gave this kind of leeway to a man like Alex Murdaugh. If Alex were an average man, I think he would've been hauled in immediately. I don't think any of his friends would've been allowed anywhere near the crime scene. I think charges would've happened a lot sooner and I think the investigation would be a lot more complete. And if Alex Murdaugh were an average man with a public defender, I think this trial would've been over a long time ago. But Alex is not average, so here we are in the middle of Week Four with no end in sight. I wanna be clear though. I don't think the anomalies in the investigation mean that the State has no case. If anything, the holes in the investigation have benefited Alex. One of the questions the defense asked the lead SLED agent on Wednesday was why Alameda wasn't searched that night. That SLED agent had a quick answer because there was no probable cause to do so. Alex was not a suspect yet and that's really the issue here. SLED did not consider Alex a suspect until there was no choice. This is where the evidence took them. We keep saying it because it's true. It would've been much easier for the State if Alex was not the suspect. The other thing I wanna mention is what we've been saying again and again. Solicitor Duffie Stone didn't recuse himself for more than two months. That means his office, the office Alex worked for, was calling the shots. Were agents shut down when they suggested getting warrants for the powerful and almighty former solicitor Randolph Murdaugh's home? Were agents hindered in the collection of evidence because of Duffie's involvement? We already know that his involvement caused a delay in the retrieval of Alex's phone data and that led to some information getting overwritten. So, again, what we're seeing right now with the questions being raised about the thoroughness of the investigation, we think most of that is attributable to the deference that was being paid to the Murdaughs and their powerful friends.



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[00:06:28] During this trial, we have seen hundreds of pieces of evidence. We have heard from dozens of witnesses. And while it's been a rollercoaster and a bit haphazard, I think the pieces are finally coming together and the prosecution is stringing together a story that will make sense for the jury — the story of a man who allegedly chose to murder his wife and son in the hopes of escaping accountability for his own messes; a man who wanted deference from his law partners who were starting to ask too many questions; a man who needed time to escape the insurmountable pressure building around him; a man who had failed his wife and had failed his son, both of whom were dependent on him to provide the lifestyle that they enjoyed; a man who lied to police, family, and friends about being at the murder scene moments before his wife and son were killed; a man who thought he could get away with anything until it all fell apart in September 2021.

[00:07:41] To help the State tell that story of deceit and tragedy, Maggie Murdaugh's sister, Marian Proctor, was perhaps the most powerful witness we've seen. Marian has stayed entirely out of the spotlight since her sister was murdered in June 2021. But during her testimony, I understood why she stayed quiet. She was clearly terrified. I also wanna say that Marian really humanized her sister to the jury. You could tell how much she loved Maggie and how much she was grieving her. Marian said a lot of things that were very damning to the defense, starting with the fact that she spoke with Maggie on June 7th when Maggie was debating whether or not to go to Moselle that day. She said Alex really wanted her to go.

[00:08:29] **Creighton Waters:** So, we move closer to June 7th of 2021. I believe you testified that the family had received some bad prognosis on Mr. Randolph. Is that correct?

[00:08:40] **Marian Proctor:** Yes. Maggie called me that day and said she was at Edisto. She had some men working on the house and Mr. Randolph was not doing well at all and Alex really wanted her to come home that night. She hadn't planned on it but that he needed her to come home and Paul was gonna be there, too. And I said, well, Maggie, I said, you know, Alex and his dad are super close and that's probably what you should do. Go be with him if he needs you.



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[00:09:20] **Creighton Waters:** She said that Alex wanted her to come home that night?

[00:09:24] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:09:25] **Creighton Waters:** And what was your understanding of Maggie's intent for what they were gonna do that night?

[00:09:30] **Marian Proctor:** I was under the impression they were going over to Alameda to visit his parents.

[00:09:35] **Creighton Waters:** And that's why Alex wanted Maggie to come home?

[00:09:37] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.

[00:09:39] **Creighton Waters:** And that was from your conversation with her?

[00:09:41] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:09:42] **Creighton Waters:** She called you to let you know that that's what Alex had called her about?

[00:09:45] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:09:55] **Creighton Waters:** You said she was having some work done at Edisto on June 7th?

[00:09:58] **Marian Proctor:** Yes. Just maintenance work. Getting it ready for the summer.

[00:10:09] **Creighton Waters:** You encouraged her to go to Moselle?

[00:10:13] **Marian Proctor:** I did.



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[00:10:16] **Creighton Waters:** Was that the last time you talked to her?

[00:10:24] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:10:26] **Creighton Waters:** Do you remember about what time of day that was?

[00:10:43] **Marian Proctor:** I think it was around four o'clock in the afternoon.

[00:10:48] **Mandy Matney:** Heartbreaking. You could tell how much Marian was hurting by this — by simply telling her sister that she should support her husband and go to Moselle. This was a dark reminder of how many lives were forever changed by this horrendous crime. Marian also told the jury about how Alex was acting in the aftermath of Maggie and Paul's deaths.

[00:11:13] **Creighton Waters:** Over the course of the next couple of days or in the aftermath as the shock was wearing off just a little bit, did you have any conversation with Alex about what had happened?

[00:11:24] **Marian Proctor:** I didn't talk to Alex a lot. Alex was just really busy and the whole town was coming to see him and he was very, very, very torn up. I did at one point ask him if Maggie had suffered and he assured me that she did not. Now, I don't know that I think that's true. And I asked if Paul had suffered and he said no. And then later, I asked him. I said, Alex, do you have any idea who's done this? I said, we have got to find out who could do this. And he said that he did not know who it was but he felt like whoever did it had thought about it for a really long time.

[00:12:25] **Mandy Matney:** Wow. This was said right after the pathologist told the jury very horrific details of Maggie and Paul's murders — details that I hope Marian never heard. And he said "Whoever did it thought about it for a really long time." Was Alex telling on himself? How would he know that? And it's weird that he said this to the person who knew that he was the reason why Maggie was at Moselle that night and so few people knew that Maggie and Paul were at Moselle that night. Marian then told the court that Alex told her parents the same lie he told so many others — that he took a nap that



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night on June 7th after dinner and he said that he didn't go to the kennels before discovering the bodies. And Marian said that Alex was fixated on the boat crash case in the aftermath of the murders, which is interesting.

[00:13:26] **Creighton Waters:** In the days and weeks following Maggie and Paul's murder, did Alex ever say anything about the boat case?

[00:13:35] **Marian Proctor:** We would talk about the boat case and he was very intent on clearing Paul's name.

[00:13:51] **Creighton Waters:** What did he say?

[00:13:54] **Marian Proctor:** He said that his number one goal was clearing Paul's name. And I thought that was so strange because my number one goal was to find out who killed my sister and Paul.

[00:14:11] **Creighton Waters:** But that wasn't Alex's concern, main concern?

[00:14:15] **Marian Proctor:** I know he must have wanted that too but it just, I don't know how he could have thought about anything else.

[00:14:27] **Creighton Waters:** He talked about the boat case. Did he ever act scared or afraid that the real killers were out there somewhere or anything like that? Or was he concerned with the boat case?

[00:14:49] **Marian Proctor:** We were afraid. We didn't know what was going on. My family was scared. I was scared for Alex and Buster. I felt like they needed protection. I think everybody was afraid and Alex didn't seem to be afraid.

[00:15:21] **Mandy Matney:** I cannot imagine how horrible this was for them to live in fear like that. On cross-exam, Jim Griffin made the mistake of asking Marian to elaborate on Alex's fixation with clearing Paul's name in the boat crash case.



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[00:15:38] **Jim Griffin:** Now, you mentioned that after the murders that Alex said that he was that he was very intent on clearing Paul's name from the boating accident, right? And you knew that Maggie felt very strongly that Paul was not driving the boat when the beautiful, tragic, beautiful Mallory Beach came to her tragic death, right?

[00:16:09] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.

[00:16:11] **Jim Griffin:** And Maggie was adamant. She was on a mission to clear Paul's name, was she not?

[00:16:17] **Marian Proctor:** Sort of.

[00:16:17] **Jim Griffin:** Sort of. And she was — and you're not critical of Alex for wanting to clear Paul's name after he was murdered, do you? Are you?

[00:16:32] **Marian Proctor:** I'm not critical about that at all. I think that was his way of honoring Paul after he was gone. I just thought his priority should have been focusing on finding out who killed Maggie and Paul.

[00:16:56] **Jim Griffin:** And how do you know that wasn't a priority for him?

[00:17:01] **Marian Proctor:** We never talked about it. We never talked about finding the person who could have done it. It was just odd and we were sort of living in fear because we thought this horrible person was out there and we didn't — we were mostly afraid for Alex and Buster but we didn't know the motive behind the killings did. We thought it probably had something to do with the boat case and we thought that up until September.

[00:17:45] **Jim Griffin:** Right.

[00:17:46] **Marian Proctor:** And then things started to change a little bit.

[00:17:48] **Jim Griffin:** Sure. Were you aware that Alex started carrying a gun after the murder? You didn't know that?



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[00:17:57] **Marian Proctor:** Alex always carried a gun.

[00:17:58] **Jim Griffin:** What's that?

[00:17:59] **Marian Proctor:** He always carried a gun.

[00:18:01] **Jim Griffin:** On his person that he started carrying a gun. Were you aware of that?

[00:18:05] **Marian Proctor:** I knew he usually had one in his car.

[00:18:07] **Jim Griffin:** Right.

[00:18:09] **Mandy Matney:** Notice he asked about Maggie's relationship with Alex and Marian mentioned September AKA the roadside shooting. And Creighton saw the door wide open and he walked right in.

[00:18:24] **Creighton Waters:** You testified about Alex not being focused on trying to figure out who killed Maggie and Paul and then something happened in September. Is that right?

[00:18:34] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.

[00:18:35] **Creighton Waters:** And that changed for you as you started to look at the motive, is that correct? That's what you just testified, correct?

[00:18:40] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.

[00:18:41] **Creighton Waters:** And in September, he got fired from the law firm, right?

[00:18:46] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.



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[00:18:47] **Creighton Waters:** And it started to come out about years and years of theft and misappropriation from clients, is that correct?

[00:18:56] **Mandy Matney:** Well, sort of. This is where things really spun off the rails on Tuesday afternoon. I want to play this clip quickly so y'all can get a taste of the chaos.

[00:19:07] **Jim Griffin:** Objection. Leading.

[00:19:09] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Objection sustained.

[00:19:10] **Creighton Waters:** What came out in September that changed your calculus?

[00:19:13] **Jim Griffin:** And objection. Exceeding the scope across.

[00:19:17] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Objection's overruled.

[00:19:20] **Marian Proctor:** We were on our way to a football game and we received a phone call that from a friend of ours saying how sorry they —

[00:19:31] **Jim Griffin:** This issue that has not been ruled upon.

[00:19:37] **Mandy Matney:** Judge Newman, who remained cool, calm, and collected, had the jury exit the room. And without the jury present, Newman asked Marian what happened in September.

[00:19:50] **Marian Proctor:** So, we received a phone call from a friend of ours who said he was so sorry to hear about my brother-in-law. And the call came into my husband Bart and Bart said, what are you talking about? We don't know anything. And he said, well, your brother-in-law's been shot. And we literally stopped the car, pulled over on the side of the road. And it was just the worst feeling in the world because I thought whoever had killed Maggie and Paul had now shot Alex and I was horrified that Buster was next. So, we made a phone call to Buster and Buster said his dad had been shot but that



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he was okay and he was on his way or in the hospital at that time. I can't remember. And then at some point and I'm not sure — I think I was in shock. At some point, we spoke with Jim Griffin that day and he told us that yes, Alex had been shot, that he had been fired from the law firm because he had been caught stealing money.

[00:21:09] **Liz Farrell:** Fired fired or...? I'd say I'm joking but you all know that he didn't get fired. Alex was allowed to resign. I wonder how that looks on his resume now.

[00:21:21] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Did you say that you had a conversation with Mr. Griffin?

[00:21:24] **Marian Proctor:** That day that we found out that Alex had been shot, we did have a conversation with Mr. Griffin and he's the one —

[00:21:29] **Judge Clifton Newman:** And Mr. Griffin told you that he'd been fired and that he'd been caught stealing money?

[00:21:33] **Marian Proctor:** Correct.

[00:21:35] **Jim Griffin:** That's just hearsay. Absolutely hearsay.

[00:21:41] **Judge Clifton Newman:** What kind of quandary does that put you in? You're gonna be a witness as well?

[00:21:47] **Mandy Matney:** Then Creighton asked the judge if he could ask Marian about their marital issues and I wanna talk about that for just a minute. We have heard from several sources that Alex cheated on Maggie and honestly, this infidelity issue seems wholesome compared to everything else that Alex has been accused of. But even though we've heard this many times, it was still surprising to hear it discussed in open court and reminded us of how crazy this whole thing is.



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[00:22:16] **Marian Proctor:** It was an affair that happened or Maggie thought it was an affair that happened many years ago. They were able to resolve the issues but Maggie still brought it up.

[00:22:34] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Recently is when?

[00:22:38] **Marian Proctor:** A year ago. She did not think anything was going on. She just — it still bothered her.

[00:22:46] **Mandy Matney:** Jim really did not want the jury to hear about this alleged affair because for some reason, people think affairs are a more understandable reason to murder your wife than being under incredible financial pressure and having so much debt and having a closet full of skeletons that's about to be open because of a \$10 million catastrophe caused by your son.

[00:23:09] **Jim Griffin:** It's not admissible under 403. Unfair prejudice outweighs the probative value of this, whether it still bothered her. I mean, she testified that they weren't without their problems like all married couples but they had a good marriage. I mean, it's been addressed and it's highly inflammatory.

[00:23:35] **Judge Clifton Newman:** That's why your questions have to not lead into things that might be inflammatory. We're gonna be in recess for about 15 minutes.

[00:23:48] **Mandy Matney:** I had to play that clip because it was probably the best thing that I've heard in the last few weeks. Anyways, the jury was called back in and Marian told the court about what happened in September.

[00:24:00] **Marian Proctor:** So, we pulled over on the side of the road. We were all in hysterics. We called Buster and Buster said yes, that his dad had been shot, that he was being airlifted to the hospital, that they thought he was hoped he was gonna be okay. So, we wanted more information, so we called Jim Griffin and he told us that Alex had been shot in the head and that he had been fired from his law firm for stealing.



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[00:24:36] **Creighton Waters:** What was your concern when you heard that he had been shot?

[00:24:42] **Marian Proctor:** Initially I thought he might be dead. I had just lost two other family members and I felt like they were being targeted at that point. I felt like the family was being targeted.

[00:24:57] **Mandy Matney:** So, listen carefully because this is what the jury heard Marian say about the roadside shooting.

[00:25:04] **Creighton Waters:** Subsequent to that, did your concern that the family was being targeted, did that change as well?

[00:25:11] **Marian Proctor:** Over the course of a few weeks, we were still on high alert, worried for Buster. But at that point, information started coming out about some things that Alex had done financially that we had no idea about.

[00:25:35] **Creighton Waters:** And that changed your assessment about what you heard about him being shot as well. Is that correct? Can you answer out loud?

[00:25:46] **Marian Proctor:** The shooting, that was an event in itself. The roadside shooting.

[00:26:10] **Creighton Waters:** You just stated that the shooting itself, the roadside shooting, was an event in itself. Did other information come to your attention that changed your assessment about the roadside shooting at a later time?

[00:26:20] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:26:22] **Mandy Matney:** Now, this is hard because it could be interpreted in two different ways. The jury could see this as "Alex stole money and lied, so what else is he capable of?" as the reason why Marian changed her mind after



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the murders. But they could have also seen it as Alex was up to something and maybe someone did target their family because of whatever it is he got into. This wasn't really clear. But the good news is that on Wednesday, Newman ruled and then ultimately reversed his ruling, allowing that additional roadside shooting testimony will be admissible. We will talk about this later but additional testimony should help clear up the questions with Marian's testimony. And for the record, I don't think Cousin Eddie is gonna testify for the State. But I think additional testimony will show the jury that Alex staged his own shooting as the walls were closing in on him once again — a pattern of violence to avoid accountability. And finally, on redirect, Marian told the court something very interesting about Paul and I hope this was Creighton hinting at something bigger.

[00:27:36] **Creighton Waters:** And changed that initial concern that Alex was somehow being targeted?

[00:27:41] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:27:44] **Creighton Waters:** Did Maggie have a nickname for Paul?

[00:27:49] **Marian Proctor:** Little detective.

[00:27:55] **Creighton Waters:** Little detective? And what did that mean?

[00:27:59] **Marian Proctor:** She felt like that he was always looking to make sure his dad was behaving.

[00:28:15] **Creighton Waters:** And what specifically was the concern?

[00:28:18] **Marian Proctor:** Pills. Prescription pain pills.

[00:28:24] **Creighton Waters:** And had Maggie expressed to you concern over time about the defendant's pill usage?

[00:28:33] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.



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[00:28:38] **Creighton Waters:** How long had that been going on?

[00:28:41] **Marian Proctor:** I am not sure but I think it had been going on for some time.

[00:28:47] **Creighton Waters:** And did that concern continue up until recent times as we move to their Maggie and Paul's murder?

[00:28:54] **Marian Proctor:** Yes.

[00:28:59] **Creighton Waters:** And what did specifically "little detective" mean as it related to the pills?

[00:29:05] **Marian Proctor:** If there were pills in the house that his dad was taking that he wasn't supposed to, Paul was determined that he would find them.

[00:29:17] **Creighton Waters:** And did that happen on occasions?

[00:29:21] **Marian Proctor:** I think so, yes.

[00:29:23] **Mandy Matney:** This is really heavy because I was hard on Paul when I first started reporting on the Murdaughs. I didn't understand him like I do now. I believe that he was responsible for Mallory's death, but I know now that Paul was so much more complex than I ever thought he was. Marian is not the first person that I've heard say that Paul would take his father's pain pills away. I think that Alex was addicted to pain pills but I think that he was able to keep his addiction very quiet and very closed off. And I think that it's telling that Alex's team only told the world about his addiction when they felt like it benefited him. And the description of Paul being a little detective, we need to talk about that because in the second SLED interview on June 10th, 2021, Alex used those words to describe Paul.

[00:30:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** I want to tell you one thing while I'm thinking about it.



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[00:30:20] **David Owen:** Yeah.

[00:30:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** Paul was really an incredibly intuitive little dude. I mean, he was like a little detective and, I mean, Paul would, you know, he — you know what I'm trying to say?

[00:30:40] **David Owen:** Yeah.

[00:30:42] **Mandy Matney:** I thought about this a lot. I know Paul was curious. I know that his parents' credit cards were getting denied in bars in weeks leading up to the murders. And I keep asking myself if something happened on June 7th, if Paul was asking a lot of questions about money or the pills and if that led to his murder. And I gotta wonder. Was Alex telling on himself?

[00:31:11] **Liz Farrell:** We'll be right back.

[00:31:12] Last Friday, we also got to meet the mysterious Blanca — Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson. She was the Murdaughs' housekeeper at the time of the murders and had known the family for a very long time. And like with Shelley Smith's testimony — and Shelley Smith is Miss Libby's caregiver who was at Alameda when Alex got there around 9:20 that night — Blanca's testimony was very damning against Alex. One of the first things the prosecution did was to establish just how familiar Blanca was with the family's clothing and their habits. She did the laundry for the entire family and she knew what clothes they wore and when they wore it. She knew where they kept their clothes and how they liked their clothes organized. This ended up being very important for the jury to understand because later in her testimony, Blanca revealed that she knew what Alex wore to work the morning of the murders.

[00:32:12] **John Meadors:** Can you tell these folks, did there come a point that morning where he left the house? Alex Murdaugh, did he leave and go to work or wherever?

[00:32:20] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, he did.



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[00:32:20] **John Meadors:** Okay. And can you tell them what he was wearing, Alex Murdaugh, best of your memory, when he left Moselle?

[00:32:28] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** He had a pair of khaki pants, a green greenish, I'd call it seafoam color, polo shirt. And he put a sports coat blue sports coat over it. And he put his shoes on, which were usually right there next to a dresser that they had right there in the living room area. That's where his shoes used to go right there, so he just used to kind of slide his shoes on his way out the door.

[00:33:01] **John Meadors:** Do you remember what type of shoes he had on on June 7th, 2021 when he left?

[00:33:05] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** His regular work shoes, the brown — it was a pair of brown leather shoes.

[00:33:13] **John Meadors:** Was it a long-sleeve shirt or a short-sleeve shirt he had on?

[00:33:17] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** The polo's a short-sleeve shirt.

[00:33:20] **John Meadors:** And staying out of everybody's view, do you remember anything specifically about that shirt?

[00:33:28] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** As he put his coat on, he was putting his shoes on and he was trying putting his coat on. And he was getting ready to walk out. He turned around and I said, Alex, I said, hold on a minute. I said, your collar's sticking up. So, I — he turned around and I fixed his collar inside his jacket 'cause one collar was sticking up on his shirt.

[00:33:50] **John Meadors:** So, you actually helped — I'm sorry — but you helped move his shirt.

[00:33:53] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yeah. Yes, I did.



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[00:33:56] **Liz Farrell:** This was huge because obviously this wasn't what Alex was wearing the night of the murders when police got there. More importantly, it wasn't what he was wearing in the Snapchat video that Paul had taken of him shortly before eight o'clock that night. In that video, Alex is not wearing a polo shirt but instead appears to be wearing a light blue fishing shirt that seems to be unbuttoned at the top. It's not clear from the video whether he was wearing a T-shirt underneath it but this would indicate that Alex had already changed out of his work clothes, making his T-shirt and shorts his third outfit change of the day, at the very least.

[00:34:32] **John Meadors:** Now, this — who's in the picture?

[00:34:35] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Alex.

[00:34:37] **John Meadors:** Okay. And can you tell what kind of pants he's got on?

[00:34:40] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Khaki pants.

[00:34:41] **John Meadors:** Okay. Can you tell what kind of shoes he's got on from that, Ms. Simpson?

[00:34:44] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** It appears to be the — a pair of loafers.

[00:34:47] **John Meadors:** Loafers.

[00:34:49] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** House shoes. Loafers.

[00:34:51] **John Meadors:** Okay. Well, tell me what you mean by "house shoes."

[00:34:54] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Just his shoes that he would usually wear around the house if he was wearing shoes.

[00:35:03] **John Meadors:** So, would he usually just wear 'em inside?



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[00:35:06] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir.

[00:35:08] **John Meadors:** But these appear to be those shoes.

[00:35:10] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** It appears to be, yes.

[00:35:12] **John Meadors:** And this shirt that Alex Murdaugh's wearing on June 7th depicted in State's 306, had you seen that shirt prior to June 7th?

[00:35:24] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** It was in the closet.

[00:35:25] **John Meadors:** Okay. And what type of shirt is that?

[00:35:27] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** A Columbia shirt.

[00:35:29] **John Meadors:** Columbia shirt.

[00:35:29] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir.

[00:35:30] **John Meadors:** Okay. And how many of those type shirts did he have?

[00:35:34] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** He had a few in the closet.

[00:35:35] **John Meadors:** And what color is that shirt?

[00:35:39] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Just like a greenish aqua seafoam.

[00:35:46] **John Meadors:** After June 7th of 2021, did you ever see that shirt again?

[00:35:51] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir. There was like a pink one, a white one, a baby blue in the closet. I do not remember that shirt being in there.



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[00:36:02] **John Meadors:** And on June 8th of 2021 in the morning hours when you came back over there, was that shirt there?

[00:36:09] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir.

[00:36:11] **John Meadors:** Were these shoes that you called house slippers, were those there?

[00:36:15] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir.

[00:36:16] **John Meadors:** Did you ever see those house shoes again?

[00:36:20] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir.

[00:36:21] **John Meadors:** And where did he usually keep them?

[00:36:23] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** In the closet.

[00:36:26] **John Meadors:** Did he have any other type shoes? Canvas or any kind of boat shoes?

[00:36:33] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** He had a lot of shoes in the closet.

[00:36:35] **John Meadors:** Do you remember any shoes that were canvas type shoes?

[00:36:39] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** The boat shoes, like the Sperry.

[00:36:43] **John Meadors:** Sperry shoes?

[00:36:44] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir.

[00:36:45] **John Meadors:** And do you remember those?



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[00:36:47] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir. They used to sit in the closet.

[00:36:50] **John Meadors:** They used to sit in the closet. After June 7th of 2021, did you ever see those Sperry boat shoes again?

[00:36:59] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir. I do not recall seeing them in the closet.

[00:37:01] **John Meadors:** Never ever?

[00:37:02] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** No, sir.

[00:37:25] **John Meadors:** Did you stay home and work for a period of time for Alex Murdaugh at the Moselle?

[00:37:32] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir. I did.

[00:37:35] **Liz Farrell:** So, not only did it look like Alex had already changed from his work clothes that evening, Blanca never saw the clothes he was wearing in that video again. Then in August after Alex's meeting with SLED were they informed him that they knew he had been wearing different clothes that evening before the murders, he did the same thing he did to Shelley Smith, his mother's caretaker. And he seemed to be attempting to plant a false memory in Blanca's mind. With Shelley, it was about the time he spent at Alameda. He wanted her to say 30 to 40 minutes when it was about 20. Worse, he offered to help Shellye pay for her wedding and get her a better job at the county school district. She was so nervous about this conversation that she called her brother, who was a chief of police in Hampton. With Blanca, it was about him wearing a different shirt that night but Blanca wasn't having it.

[00:38:25] **John Meadors:** In August of 2021, Ms. Blanca?

[00:38:28] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir?



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[00:38:30] **John Meadors:** Did you have a conversation with Alex Murdaugh about a shirt?

[00:38:37] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, I did.

[00:38:38] **John Meadors:** And let's go back. Where did this take place?

[00:38:42] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** At the little house.

[00:38:43] **John Meadors:** Alright. What do you mean the little house?

[00:38:48] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** After Paul and Maggie were killed, Paul — Alex was not staying at Moselle. My husband and I were and he would often stay in different places but all his clothes and toiletries and everything were placed in the house that sits between Mr. Johnny Parker and his brother Randy. There's a small two-bedroom house right there and that's where all his belongings at the time went.

[00:39:17] **John Meadors:** And where is that located?

[00:39:18] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** In Hampton.

[00:39:19] **John Meadors:** Okay. In Hampton. And who furnished this little house with clothes and toiletries and made sure his stuff was there?

[00:39:26] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** I did.

[00:39:27] **John Meadors:** And who was Alex Murdaugh staying there with when he stayed there, if anybody?

[00:39:34] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** He never stayed there. He would just go and get his clothing and eat whatever, you know, if he would have a snack or something. He wasn't really eating.



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[00:39:45] **John Meadors:** Well, during the month of August, do you remember him having a conversation with you about a shirt?

[00:39:51] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir.

[00:39:52] **John Meadors:** Did you find that to be unusual?

[00:39:54] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** Yes, sir.

[00:39:55] **John Meadors:** Okay. Tell them what the conversation was and why you found it unusual, please.

[00:40:01] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** He walked in to the little house and I was almost I was getting ready to leave and he said, B, I need to talk to you. And he said, come here. Sit down. So, I went into the living room. I sat down. And he was pacing back and forth in the living room. And he said, I got a bad feeling. He said, I got a bad feeling. He said, something's not right. And then he said, well, you know, there's a video. There was a video that was out. I hadn't seen a video. And he said, you remember the shirt I was wearing, that Vinny Vines shirt? Those were — that's what he said to me. And in my mind, I was saying, I don't remember a Vinny Vines shirt. It was the polo shirt. But I didn't mention. He said, well, you know what? I was wearing that shirt. He said, you know, in the that day. And still, I was just — I didn't say anything but I was kinda thrown back because I don't remember that. I don't remember him wearing that shirt that day when he left. I know what shirt he was wearing 'cause I fixed the collar and the collar's a different material.

[00:41:27] **John Meadors:** And I don't know what a Vinny Vine shirt is. But when he left that day, was he wearing a Vinny Vine shirt or was he wearing the collar you've described?

[00:41:35] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** It was a polo shirt.

[00:41:40] **John Meadors:** Just using your common sense that it appeared to you he was trying to tell you to say I was wearing a shirt —



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[00:41:45] **Jim Griffin:** Objection, Your Honor. Speculation.

[00:41:47] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Objection sustained as to the form of the question.

[00:41:50] **John Meadors:** How did you take that conversation?

[00:41:54] **Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson:** I felt like he was I felt like I felt confused at first and then I know what he was wearing the day he left the house and I was basically confused. I didn't really know whether he was trying to get me to say that that shirt was if I was to be asked then if that was the shirt he was wearing the day.

[00:42:21] **Liz Farrell:** We'll be right back.

[00:42:25] These incidents once again show that Alex Murdaugh was lying about his alibi and worse, he was trying to get other people to lie for him. Innocent men don't usually need to lie about their alibis. They don't have to offer to help pay for weddings or try to convince the housekeeper that they had a different outfit on the day his family was murdered. Let's talk about that interview that got Alex so spooked. So, on Wednesday, we finally got to watch that August 11th, 2021 interview of Alex that SLED did. This is the one that led him to try and rewrite history with Blanca and August 11th is also the date that 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone finally recused himself from the case. If you've been a longtime listener of the show, you know that we've asked several times what happened in August 2021. Well, now we know. This interview was very damaging to the defense. First, Alex showed up at SLED with Cory Fleming by his side — Cory, who is accused of being his co-conspirator in the Satterfield case; Cory, whose law license is suspended in South Carolina and Georgia and who is out on bond and awaiting trial on 23 charges, most of them felonies. Cory is now the third lawyer Alex has with him for these interviews. But Cory is the only one of the three lawyers who tries to set some game rules for the interview. He demands to know if Alex is there as a suspect. During the interview, the door stayed open. Alex was free to go at any time, but the appearance of extreme cooperation is a part of Alex's



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manipulation. He repeatedly tells investigators that he understands they have to do their jobs. He tells them he is an open book.

[00:44:07] Now, during this interview, a few things happen. One: Alex is asked again if he was down by the kennels that night after dinner. Investigators tell him Rogan Gibson heard his voice in the background of the phone call with Paul at the kennels at 8:40 that night. Alex again denies that he was down at the kennels and says he has no idea who Rogan could have heard in the background of that call. Of course, this interview was way before Paul's phone had the information extracted from it in March of 2022, so no one knew at this time that Paul had a video with Alex's voice in the background, showing that Alex was indeed down by the kennels minutes before the murders. More than a dozen friends and family have identified that voice as Alex's with 100% certainty. Two: Alex is told that the casings from the .300 Blackout that killed Maggie matched the casings found outside the family's gun room from a few months earlier. Three: they asked him if he'd noticed any missing weapons from the house. Alex says he did and mentions three shotguns, then he tells investigators that he is now certain the .300 Blackout Paul had misplaced or stolen in 2017 got replaced. Remember the initial story was that Alex thought this gun, let's call it the third Blackout, had been stolen a while ago, basically saying that the only Blackout they had was the one in the gun room. Turns out, Alex's cousin, a DNR officer who sold them the guns, had also told SLED that there were only ever two Blackouts. It wasn't until investigators found a canceled check of Maggie's that they knew for sure there was indeed a third one that was now missing. Alex's cousin told SLED he had lost that paperwork. In this interview, investigators tell Alex again, who is now saying the family did have a Blackout at the time of the murders come to think of it, that they already know this because they had already cleared this up with his cousin. So, did Alex already know SLED knew about the third one and was trying to appear forthcoming? It's hard to tell but it sure looks that way given his earlier claims about the gun and given the defense's efforts to muddle the issue when trying to get the ballistics expert's testimony thrown out. Four: Alex lies during the interview and tells investigators that Maggie surprised him by coming to Moselle that night. "She wanted to take care of me," he tells them. Investigators already know that Maggie had called her sister on June 7th to tell her that Alex wanted her at Moselle that night and that her sister is the one who encouraged Maggie to go and be with her husband. And five:



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investigators tell him about the shirt he is wearing in the Snapchat video. Based on Blanca's testimony, this is obviously very upsetting to Alex and it sends him into a panic. Who wouldn't be panicked by the thought of getting falsely accused, right? But guess what? He never offers to get those clothes to investigators to show them that he's not hiding anything. Instead, he tries to rewrite history and turn his housekeeper into an accomplice after the fact. Instead, Alex's response to that video is to ask the SLED agent what time the video was taken. The SLED agent says dusk, so Alex says, well, he must have changed after the video because of course he did. Now, at the end of the interview, things got real and SLED went for it.

[00:47:31] **David Owen:** I just have a few more questions.

[00:47:35] **Alex Murdaugh:** Okay.

[00:47:36] **David Owen:** Did you kill Maggie?

[00:47:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** Did I kill my wife?

[00:47:39] **David Owen:** Yes.

[00:47:39] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, David.

[00:47:42] **David Owen:** Do you know who did?

[00:47:43] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I do not know who did.

[00:47:47] **David Owen:** Did you kill Paul?

[00:47:48] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I did not kill Paul.

[00:47:50] **David Owen:** Do you know who did?



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[00:47:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, sir. I do not know who did. Do you think I killed Maggie?

[00:47:59] **David Owen:** I have to go where the evidence and the facts take me.

[00:48:05] **Alex Murdaugh:** I understand that. And you think I killed Paul.

[00:48:10] **David Owen:** I have to go where the evidence and the facts take me and I don't have anything that points to anybody else at this time.

[00:48:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, does that mean I am a suspect?

[00:48:23] **David Owen:** You are still in, like I told Cory earlier, you are still in this. With everything that we've talked about with the family guns, the ammunition, nobody else's DNA. I have to put my beliefs aside and go with the facts.

[00:48:57] **Liz Farrell:** Let's also add to this that Alex hasn't shown any concern about his or Buster's safety. He hasn't given any leads to investigators. He never mentions the Cowboys or Curtis Eddie Smith or that he's an alleged \$50,000 a week drug addict. Let's add to it those lies about the alibi. Let's add to it that the data from his car doesn't match his timeline. Let's add to it that despite insisting that he tried to turn Paul over and that he checked the pulses of both Maggie and Paul, who were surrounded by significant amounts of blood and fluids, he had no visible blood on him. Moreover, the only DNA found on his sneakers that night was from him. And let's add to it that Maggie's blood was on the steering wheel of the Suburban and her DNA was on the 12-gauge shotgun of Paul's that SLED can't rule out as the weapon used to kill Paul.

[00:49:57] **Mandy Matney:** So, despite what the critics of the State's case have said, there is a lot there because Alex Murdaugh hired one of the most expensive defense teams money can buy in South Carolina, which is again the same team he hired for his son that he is accused of killing. The State has had to fight fire with fire and therefore, the case has been overwhelming.



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With so much evidence presented and so many threads pulled at, it's hard to find the narrative sometimes. It feels like we've been reading a book whose first few chapters are the footnotes. But now, we're seeing it come together lie after lie after lie. And it's all going to come down to this: how many jumps in logic will the jury need to believe that Alex Murdaugh is the victim of a corrupt justice system? How many lies will they be willing to overlook to make the defense's story fit? How much truth will they be willing to assign to a man who has shown himself to be the least trustworthy person in that courtroom? We don't know if this jury will convict Alex Murdaugh or find him not guilty. We don't know if Alex Murdaugh will take the stand. We don't know if the jury will even be able to reach a verdict here. But in the end, the most important question will be this: will there always be two systems of justice in South Carolina, and what will we do to change it? Stay tuned and stay in the sunlight.

[00:52:04] **Outro:** The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, produced by my husband, David Moses. And Liz Farrell is our executive editor. From Luna Shark Productions.