



EPISODE 18: Modern Day Monster - The Most Damning Evidence Against Alex Murdaugh

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** Hello and Happy Presidents' Day. Today, we get our first break after a full month of having to see Alex Murdaugh every day. I can't lie. This year is the most excited I've ever been to have a day off to celebrate America's presidents. The timing worked out pretty well. On Friday, the State rested its case against Alex and we got to see the defense's first two witnesses: an old-timey coroner — who estimated the time of Maggie and Paul's deaths by feeling under their armpit, yeah — and the public information officer from the Colleton County Sheriff's Office who explained that on June 8th, 2021, the Sheriff's Office and SLED put out a press release letting the public know that there was no danger to them after the murders of Maggie and Paul. Why did she put out that release? Because there was, in fact, no danger to the public. Alex told investigators that his family was targeted because of the boat crash. The defense, of course, wants the jury to think that Maggie and Paul died later than they did. Therefore, closing the timeline for Alex. And they want the jury to believe that SLED targeted Alex from the very beginning. This week, we expect them to go hard on those two narratives while they try to pick apart the State's timeline in the hopes that the jury will forget the month of lies that they just heard about. So, on Friday night, I sat down with Liz and Eric and we talked about why we think the State's case is strong enough to survive the defense's counterattack. So, cups up, everyone. Let's get into it.

[00:01:45] **Liz Farrell:** So, let me start off, guys. It's Day 20, as Judge Newman said at the beginning of the day. Almost like it's like we're being held captive and we're counting down the days we're imprisoned. But how are you feeling? How are you feeling, Mandy?

[00:02:00] **Mandy Matney:** A lot better at the end of this week than I was. I don't really remember last Friday too well but I feel like this is the first real sense of like a shift in momentum and a like real big change in the last day. And it in the court of public opinion, I have noticed that, you know? My views haven't changed as far as who I think did it and what happened but I'm really glad that the State finished where they did and I'm glad that the shooting evidence got in there or alleged shooting. Yeah. I think that the State's in a really good position right now and I was not impressed with the first two



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witnesses for the defense. I know I'm biased but like God! Coroners in South Carolina it's like everyone knows that it's a joke of a position. I'm sorry. But like a lot of — some are good, of course, but there's a lot of very if not good ones. And that guy was talking about estimating a time of death based on touching armpits and the warmth of armpits like the 1800s.

[00:03:17] **Liz Farrell:** In the south in the summer like in June on June 7th. I mean, come on. It's pathetic. But I'll tell you. Do you know coroners are supposed to — their job like historically is to take care of all your worldly possessions that are on your body? So, that's like literally their job is to if you have rings or a wallet in your pocket, checking time of death is part of it.

[00:03:41] **Mandy Matney:** They have a lot of power though.

[00:03:42] **Eric Bland:** They actually can, Liz, have their own inquest where they can actually do a trial on the cause of death.

[00:03:51] **Liz Farrell:** I've seen that.

[00:03:53] **Eric Bland:** That's been done before so they do have that jurisdiction.

[00:03:56] **Liz Farrell:** And they are if the sheriff something happens to the sheriff, they are next in line to —

[00:04:02] **Eric Bland:** Scary.

[00:04:03] **Liz Farrell:** Take over.

[00:04:03] **Eric Bland:** Scary.

[00:04:04] **Liz Farrell:** It is.

[00:04:05] **Mandy Matney:** That's crazy.

[00:04:07] **Liz Farrell:** But I think Dick and Jim went out and grabbed those two witnesses because they're not on the defense witness list. So, I almost



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think that he wanted to just present two witnesses so that he could start the weekend and 'cause this was definitely cutting into his nap time. Eric, how are you feeling?

[00:04:25] **Eric Bland:** I feel real good, you know? I always believe in a strong start and a strong finish in everything you do in life. Like trials and life, they're basically the same. You want to have that strong start, strong finish. And I think we felt a little uneasy in the middle of the trial when there was this shift to prove the thefts and the 404(b) evidence came in and it kind of derailed the murder evidence. But I think the past three four days with starting with Marian and then coming in with Owen and then with Kenny and now Kelly, I think what we have seen is an amazing amount of strong, circumstantial electronic evidence in addition to Alex's own words being used as a sword to gore himself. I think this case turned from what everybody originally thought would be a blood case, a scientific blood case, or a DNA or a GSR case in into an electronic case where it laid it out to the second of what he did. I don't think we can overlook that an innocent man would not have told the number of material and significant lies that Alex repeated, not only to the police, not only to Ronnie Crosby, not only to his friends, but to his own lawyers because his own lawyers permitted him to sit for three more interviews. The Cory Fleming interview I think turned out to be the most deadly for him. And then, the whole debacle of the roadside shooting. The fact that he would make the State have a sketch artist to sketch the man who purportedly shot him and he knew it was Cousin Eddie, he should be sued for obstruction of justice, for wasting governmental resources. And then, I saw, you know what? That sketch looked an awful lot like you said, Anthony Cook. I mean, was he about to blame Anthony Cook for shooting him?

[00:06:35] **Liz Farrell:** That is one of the most disgusting things I've seen in all of this because Anthony Cook, first of all, has been through a lot. The second thing is that he has been one of the more publicly gracious victims of the boat crash in terms of he forgave Paul. Paul made amends to him in some way, according to the HBO documentary. But also, Anthony did not include Buster. He's the only boat crash victim not to include Buster in his civil case. So, if somebody, you know, he's shown this family great grace is what I'm trying to say. And to find out that Alex, if he was doing that consciously or even subconsciously, a shame on him. One of the most shameful things I've seen in all of this.



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[00:07:20] **Eric Bland:** I want to ask you a question, Mandy. What do you think about the drugs? This and I'm gonna capitalize it with "D" drugs, whether it's, is he a \$50,000 a week addict? We think no. What about Paul's discovery? How does drugs now fit in as either an explanation of why he did what he did or is it become now a defense du jour?

[00:07:48] **Mandy Matney:** Well, I saw somebody on Twitter saying that they changed the motive and I don't think that that's true. Like I think the motive still stays the same, which is Paul was a problem and Alex had a ton of problems that were mounting and about to come out and he does not want a nosy son who also got him involved in this huge lawsuit and made his money problems significantly worse and in risk of being exposed. I think it's very inter — I mean, as soon as Alex said "Paul is a little detective" in that interview, I've really been curious about that. And like it's like he kind of said it in a bitter way and I think we've talked about this but I really do think that Paul was asking a lot of questions and that Alex did not like him asking. And I don't think that he was — everyone knows he wasn't taking that many pills. It's impossible but.

[00:08:53] **Eric Bland:** It's two and a half million dollars a year, Mandy, just so you know.

[00:08:56] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. It's crazy.

[00:08:58] **Eric Bland:** So, let's put it out there right there. That's two and a half million dollars a year of street oxycodone. I don't believe it. I just don't believe it.

[00:09:06] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I don't think anybody believes it. And when the defense tries to say that like he was buying that many pills, the only conclusion that everybody could come that anybody could possibly come up with is okay, so he was a part of dealing, which is another offense. I don't know why they're telling us those numbers like we're supposed to feel sorry for him. Like it's just bizarre. We know he wasn't taking that many pills and we know that like we know that his addiction was — we know he was taking pills but was he like heroin addict? What everybody else thinks when we think of an opioid addiction? No. He was putting on a lawyer outfit and going to work every day.



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[00:09:53] **Eric Bland:** It's not. It's not possible. I'm not going to denigrate people who have a substance abuse problem and group them and let Alex be grouped with them. There is no evidence whatsoever that he couldn't try a case, that he couldn't meet with clients, that he had auto accidents, that he was falling asleep on the job. Even Chris Wilson said they tried a case that year in 2021. I'm not going there. Yes, maybe he took pills. But he was a functioning pill taker. He was not an addict that he spent every minute of every day looking for pills. I'm not going there and I'm — I just think it's a disservice to people that have real substance abuse problems to now say, "We're gonna just explain it away that Alex had a substance abuse problem." No. Alex had a monster problem. Alex is a modern-day monster. That's what came out in this trial. He deleted tweets. He deleted, excuse me, text messages. He deleted phone calls — phone calls that were from his son or text messages from his son who had died. He told his sister-in-law, "My number one goal is to clear Paul's name," not that my number one goal should be find out who killed my wife and my son. The guy is a modern-day monster. That's who he is. And it's and I know it's hard for us to confront that because we like to see monsters really be, you know, the guy that lives out like Ted Kaczynski in a shed in the middle of the wilderness. No. Monsters live amongst us and he's one of them.

[00:11:38] **Liz Farrell:** I'm just so glad it's coming out now. I think it's gonna be one of the hardest things for him is he has no credibility with that jury, so whatever credibility he might have come in with his defense team knocking down some of the things that the State was having people testify to is completely gone and so are so is the credibility of Jim Griffin and Dick Harpootlian.

[00:12:04] **Eric Bland:** You're right about that. They are they have made some legal errors that led to their client making statements against his interest — of consciousness, of guilt — that I'm not sure a first year law student who became a lawyer whatever led to happen to permit him to talk like he did and then Dick interfering. I believe it was interference with what took place on the Labor Day roadside shooting. I'm very I'm questioning now the real skillset of these lawyers.

[00:12:41] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, really? Welcome.



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[00:12:45] **Mandy Matney:** Welcome to the club.

[00:12:46] **Liz Farrell:** Welcome, Eric. Finally.

[00:12:49] **Eric Bland:** It took me a long time to get there, okay? But I'm here. .

[00:12:53] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. He didn't do his dizzle. So, the jury got to hear Jim Griffin tear apart poor David Owen from SLED who's who had just experienced a loss in the family the day before and I still to the for the life of me cannot understand why the prosecutor John Meadors didn't start off his direct questioning with "I'm so sorry for your loss" to at least let the jury understand where this man was emotionally and to disarm Jim 'cause Jim had a really good cross with him I think. He had a really good visual of "You guys put Alex in a circle and you didn't take him out of that circle." So, I think that credibility was completely destroyed though because then they're listening the very next day to Jim Griffin circa September 2021, sitting in on a phone call where Alex is saying the exact opposite of what Jim was asserting in his cross, which is that SLED never looked into Eddie. They couldn't be bothered with the gang members. They didn't look into the drug stuff. And here you have Alex basically saying Curtis is not a threat, the drugs are not a — like this has not has nothing to do with the murders.

[00:14:07] **Mandy Matney:** No threat to Buster.

[00:14:09] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. No threat to Buster. So, yeah. It's like, Jim, you were privy to that, so why put on that show for the jury? So, I think that personally, I think if as if I were a juror that would stick with me. It's just not only does Alex not have any credibility but I can't trust his lawyers now, especially after Phil Barber's last cross where, again, he's just he's grasping at straws at some of the things he's asking but he's asking so many questions that are inappropriate for that witness. And I understand that's a defense technique but there's a tipping point when I think when you do this stuff that you've asked way too many questions that this guy on the stand, it's not his job. He can't answer it. The jury picks up on that I think, right?

[00:14:56] **Eric Bland:** Oh, absolutely. I think that, again, they're trying to draft a quarter — a tight end to also be a tight end and a quarterback at the same time. He's doing his job. No, it's not just he's saying that's not —, you know, I'm



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done. I'm not gonna do it. But there's a certain order, a certain order how a crime scene takes place and how an investigation unfolds and who takes the lead and then who's subordinate and what person is acquiring this external evidence. I thought David Owen did a wonderful job. He showed that the State didn't just hone in on Alex; that they took buccal swabs of a lot of different people. But it was Alex's own words, which refined the investigation to focus on him. He eliminated suspects. He didn't say, "Hey, go look at Cousin Eddie." He said, "Cousin Eddie didn't do this." He didn't mention the Cowboys by saying, "Hey, I think I'm getting blackmailed" or, you know, "I'm paying twice the price of street drugs because they have information on me." None of that. He didn't offer up his clothes. Look. They asked him. I thought it was a little backwards the way Owen clued him in first that they had the Snapchat video. I would've rather them just ask, "Hey, did you change your clothes?" and see what he said. But he didn't offer up his clothes. He didn't say, "Look, I'll go get those clothes for you."

[00:16:28] **Liz Farrell:** You're talking about the August 11th, 2021 interview and that was the day when Duffie Stone recused himself. He obviously allowed Alex to keep his badge and continue on as a volunteer at the solicitor's office. And if anyone has any doubt over whether Alex saw himself as a prosecutor, he certainly made sure that people at the crime scene knew that. And in September, 2021, his badge was sitting right next to him in the car in Maggie's car, so he had to physically have put that in there. So, who knows what he was using that badge for? But that day was significant and now we know why — because that interview was so that was so dramatic. Like first starting with Cory Fleming, it's almost like —

[00:17:12] **Eric Bland:** Why is Cory there? Let's just address this.

[00:17:15] **Liz Farrell:** But it's just this cast of characters that you're like, of course, Cory was there.

[00:17:20] **Eric Bland:** He's got two lawyers already. He's got Dick and Jim. And we know —

[00:17:24] **Liz Farrell:** And Danny Henderson.



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[00:17:26] **Eric Bland:** And Danny Henderson but you know that Cory Fleming and he knows that Cory Fleming is involved with the Satterfield case and he knows that the Satterfield case is coming to roost because of Mandy's articles and because of his communications with Tony Satterfield. Why would you go to Cory Fleming and bring him in here? I thought you said something that was interesting, Liz, when you said, "I almost could hear Cory's brain turning like, 'Oh my God. Is my best friend a murderer?'" during that interview."

[00:17:59] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I think they were there for recon but there was definitely a moment there where it felt like Cory — Cory came in hot, right? He was like these are the rules. You're not gonna ask him like is he a suspect. You're gonna treat him like a suspect. So then when they started very obviously treating him like a suspect, Cory was like out of the picture. I mean, he was just like sitting back, so that's why I was thinking, I mean, I don't know if Cory —

[00:18:21] **Eric Bland:** Why did they take him and pick him up out of the interview, Mandy? Just say it's over. You have a right to say an interview's over. I'm stunned at the bad lawyering.

[00:18:30] **Liz Farrell:** Door was open.

[00:18:31] **Mandy Matney:** Well, I mean, it again we've seen this many, many times. It's Alex's confidence. It's Alex's arrogance. It's his ability to he thinks he can manipulate everybody. And we've seen that time and time again. So, in a situation where everybody else would walk out the door and say, "Charge me," you know, if you got that something, charge me. Otherwise, I'm not talking, like they do in all the shows, Cory should have — but Alex and Cory are just playing a different ballgame than the rest of us where they were at that point and I think that —

[00:19:10] **Liz Farrell:** Well, cooperation's part of the manipulation. I think that's what — like.

[00:19:14] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah and, I mean, Cory the Cory's confidence walking in there and just like, "Let me tell you" blah, blah, blah — unbelievable. But I was wondering if Cory was helping out Alex there because they needed to shut down the investigation into Alex because the



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investigation into Alex leads to an investigation into a lot of other people and I was wondering that if that's why Cory was there. We'll be right back.

[00:19:51] **Liz Farrell:** Like the, you know, a lot of people were asking us why Cory didn't — and you just asked that question, too — why Cory didn't get up and walk Alex out of there. But I think what Mandy just said makes it clear that this was a recon mission for them to find out what the State had and what they didn't have, you know? That's — and the cooperation again is part of the manipulation. You can see it when he's giving his little Yelp review of the dispatcher and when he's thanking law enforcement and saying, "I understand. I understand" and literally when the SLED agent said to him it doesn't make — "Your story about this roadside shooting doesn't make sense" and he's like, "I understand." Like it just defies logic and it and I think that's because none of us grew up this way and most people in the universe did not grow up the way Alex Murdaugh did where he just simply did not think he could ever get caught. And so, I think with Cory there, I do think, Mandy, I think you're right. I do think that there is a measure of monitoring to see where the State goes so that if there was a conspiracy, if there was, you know, if it's as large as we think it is, that then they have some warning or some understanding of what needs to be covered up or what have you.

[00:21:07] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I was listening to the questions in that interview and I thought it was really interesting in the way the questions that Cory and Alex both had, it wasn't like — what I was getting from them wasn't like should Buster be concerned? Should my family be concerned? Like what do you know? What can we like —

[00:21:31] **Liz Farrell:** You mean the questions that Cory and Alex were asking?

[00:21:33] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, the question the questions were like, what do you know? Like fishing around for information on the investigation versus an actual concern for safety and an actual concern if you had nothing to do with the murder of your wife to the murders of your wife and son, then you would be in there. I would be like, so what can you tell me? Do I need to leave the country? Do I need to — ? Tell me something, you know?

[00:22:07] **Eric Bland:** Why does an innocent — I keep going back to this — why does an innocent person keep lying? I don't understand that. I get it that



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sometimes the police railroad an individual and they're on that person and they're dogging and bringing the charges against that person. But in this particular case, Liz, you've said it best. There was a tremendous amount of deference given to Alex and the orbit of Alex, meaning they didn't search Alameda. And now, Jim is trying to use that as a weapon by saying it's bad police work that you didn't search Alameda immediately after the murders. But you've said it best that that is a deference. How are they going to justify going to get a search warrant from a Carmen Mullen or a Buckner or somebody else, another judge, to say, "I'm gonna go search Randolph Murdaugh house."

[00:23:05] **Liz Farrell:** That would be the end of that judge's career in that moment. Like knowing what we know now, obviously these judges probably should have — if they were presented with that, then there would've been some cover I guess. But now, I mean, back then, no, that would've been the end of their career. And I think in addition to deference, we're going back to like the defense and their approach and, Mandy, you were saying this, you said this a lot in the last week, which is just, Mandy watched is like super into O. J. Simpson right now, so she's seeing a lot of parallels but they really are true.

[00:23:38] **Mandy Matney:** I am. I talk about it all the time.

[00:23:40] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. But the one that really stood out to me was you said that they have — that the jury goes with the most believable story, the story that they can follow, the story that —

[00:23:49] **Mandy Matney:** Yes. Johnnie Cochran says that.

[00:23:50] **Liz Farrell:** Yes, Johnnie Cochran. And so —

[00:23:51] **Mandy Matney:** He's like a jury a jury buys the best narrative. Like it's a competition between who has the best story and who has a story that speaks to the jurors and that makes the most sense to the juror. So, which side is gonna tell the story the best and which side —? And I believe that. I know that it's beyond a reasonable doubt and I know that the jury is told that blah, blah, blah and innocent until proven guilty and blah, blah, blah. But jurors are also humans and humans take information and they wanna put it



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in a story that makes sense to them. That's just what they do instead of just like — A lot of lawyers and super technical people want to throw all sorts of different, like technical terms and things that just don't mean that much unless you have a cohesive story. And but you said it, Liz, it's chaos and chaos does not equal reasonable doubt like.

[00:24:46] **Liz Farrell:** You know, it could in a normal case. You know, like I've seen defense attorneys that are chaotic and they do muddy things really well and there's a couple in Beaufort County, in fact, that I think are well known for that. But the problem here is that you've hired the highest priced legal team possible and maybe not the highest but close to and they're coming in loaded with a cohesive story that — I mean, that's what you're paying for, right? But their story has been that SLED targeted Alex from the beginning. And then, there's a pivot point where they start to say SLED didn't investigate Alex enough in the beginning. If you suspected him, why didn't you investigate him? Why didn't you go to Alameda? Why didn't you check his car? Why didn't you do this? Why didn't you do that? Why didn't you go in the house? Like why didn't you — they did go in the house — but why didn't you search the house more, go down the drains? Again, you're going back to this is Alex Murdaugh and going back to the justice system we wanna see, there has to be probable cause for that stuff. You can't just say like, oh, you're at your mother's house? Well, then, I'm gonna go to your mother's house. At that point, he did not — his credibility preceded him. He is a prosecutor, so right off the bat there, you know, even if he's a Joe Schmo prosecutor, they're gonna look at him a different way, right? Everyone knows this family. And I do think that they put on a really good front where it was unimaginable to think that Alex would do this if you were friends with Alex. So, yeah. The schizophrenic narrative and I don't know if "schizophrenic" is a good word there actually 'cause it's more.

[00:26:21] **Mandy Matney:** Haphazard, like.

[00:26:23] **Liz Farrell:** Inconsistent.

[00:26:23] **Eric Bland:** Haphazard. Haphazard.

[00:26:25] **Liz Farrell:** And I hope the jury sees that.



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[00:26:27] **Eric Bland:** Without a plan, you know, it's just winging it almost at times. Like yesterday morning, I was on a show with Mark Geragos and both of us agreed that Jim, you know, set the bait that he was he goaded or baited Creighton into the roadside shooting; opened the door intentionally so that Creighton would put on Eddie and that they would have a five-course meal with Eddie on cross-examination. But then later on last night and then watching Jim fight so hard this morning about it, I'm not so sure that Jim just made a mistake. What are your thoughts?

[00:27:08] **Liz Farrell:** That's a big mistake. I mean, I don't know. Mandy, we were talking about this last night, like whether Jim —

[00:27:13] **Eric Bland:** Intentionally did it.

[00:27:16] **Mandy Matney:** I'm sick of everybody. I am sick of everybody giving them the benefit of the doubt. I just wanna say that like if I'm sorry but if a female lawyer made the kind of mistakes that they are making in this trial, the world would not say, "Oh, maybe she did it on purpose 'cause she's got this master plan." No, they would be like —

[00:27:35] **Liz Farrell:** They turned them into wizards, yeah.

[00:27:38] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. He's playing three dimensional chess while everybody else is playing checkers, right?

[00:27:42] **Liz Farrell:** Right.

[00:27:43] **Mandy Matney:** Right. But there's been no — they've made like no moves that have been impressive this entire for the last two and a half years — wherever we are in this godforsaken thing. I don't know the time. But in the last two years, they've done nothing that's like super — they do not have, they're not looking around the corner. They're not like they're definitely not fortune tellers. But the world just gives them all this grace that like, "Oh, maybe they're doing something that we don't understand." No, it's not that. I think they just are making mistakes because I think Jim is I don't know this 'cause I don't know Jim for the life of me but when I see him, I see a man who is internally struggling with the position that he's in and I think he's making a lot of errors because he is thinking in the back of his mind, what if my friend



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really did kill his wife and son and what if I've tanked my entire career trying to defend this super manipulative person? And I think that's why those mistakes are being made because that's a lot to wrestle with.

[00:28:45] **Eric Bland:** I think you're a hundred percent right on what you're saying. And I think there's an additional number and that number is I think Jim's tired. I think he's exhausted because he's doing a tremendous amount of research at night on cases and he's writing up cross. A lot of what Dick does is by intuition, which is a, you know, a synonym for by the, you know, pseudonym for by the seat of his pants. Dick is not prepared like Jim is and Jim is tired right now and it's showing. He's crankier, he's shorter. I think they're getting pressure from Alex himself is giving a lot of pressure to them. But I think it's like, oh my goodness. We are now out on the branch here and if this jury comes back with a guilty verdict, what is this gonna do for the rest of my career? Dick doesn't care. He's so hardened and so callous and coarse that he'll just laugh it off. He'll go off and do whatever he does. Go to the Senate or, you know, hang out with Joe Biden. But Jim Griffin's gotta make a living. Maggie Fox has gotta make a living. Those paralegals sitting at the table have to face people every day. And the reality is you may be representing a monster, a real live modern-day monster.

[00:30:12] **Liz Farrell:** Which, you know, he deserves a defense. There's nothing.

[00:30:15] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, I get it.

[00:30:15] **Liz Farrell:** No shame in it. It's just.

[00:30:17] **Eric Bland:** But don't say you're honored to represent that monster.

[00:30:19] **Mandy Matney:** And yeah and don't pull trickery for that monster. Like just give him the defense. Like don't waste this much time. I mean, the things that they've been doing and their tricks in the media for the past couple years, it's just way, way beyond helping, being a defense attorney for somebody who they think is innocent. He's not innocent in any way, shape, or form. And they've said that over and over, like, I can't even count the amount of times that Dick or Jim has said — doesn't even use the word "allegedly" anymore, just stealing from clients. Taking drug money, blah, blah, blah, like.



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[00:31:03] **Eric Bland:** Faking a roadside shooting. I mean, can we —

[00:31:06] **Mandy Matney:** Faking a roadside shooting.

[00:31:08] **Eric Bland:** Why shouldn't Alex be charged financially for all the money they spent on that roadside shooting? It wasn't insurance fraud, okay? He's got no insurance policy. It was clear that it was done to divert the attention away from him in what the police were doing because he knows after August 11th that he's a target, okay? He knows he —

[00:31:31] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, he got the heck out of there, too. He went to — he crossed State lines.

[00:31:35] **Eric Bland:** Oh, yeah.

[00:31:35] **Liz Farrell:** He had his family take him, you know? No one's saying that he didn't do drugs but.

[00:31:40] **Mandy Matney:** He was creeping South. Like I feel like he was slowly like hopping rehab to rehab and I think that SLED arrested him before he could leave the country. I think he was about to leave the country, to be completely honest. That's what I think was going on.

[00:31:55] **Liz Farrell:** Let's talk about that too because that goes hand in hand with — so, Eric, there's a couple of things that you, I mean, that we've all over the place we've seen this where the Murdaughs have gotten that sort of special treatment or that different treatment. Have you ever heard of a lawyer asking in a criminal investigation interview where they know that the jig is up, they know that SLED knows that Alex did not get shot up by a handsome, nice person, like you said, have you ever seen where Dick — Dick is questioning him in the like over the phone with SLED and he's asking the questions and then he's coaching him during the answers when SLED finally gets to ask questions of their own. What is that about?

[00:32:36] **Eric Bland:** I have accompanied clients in that situation and I've been told "Mr. Bland, you can sit here and you can listen. If you're going to interfere with this discussion, it's gonna be over. And you can either leave and



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your client could stay or both of you can leave. But this is our meeting and our interview." I was just aghast at the deference that not only they showed to Alex, but that they showed to Dick Harpootlian. They would not do this with any other defense lawyer, ladies. I'm telling you. You cannot interfere in that 302 setting where they're asking you questions that if you lie to a law enforcement officer, you will be charged the same way that Martha Stewart was charged in that very type of setting.

[00:33:26] **Liz Farrell:** Explain to everyone what a 302 is.

[00:33:29] **Eric Bland:** The 302 is just what the FBI does or what the SLED does when they interview you. They take notes and they give you the opportunity to talk truthfully. But if you give them untruthful information, they will use it against you. Now, I thought it was really ironic how Jim Griffin was like, well, you misled this guy in the interview. Well, yeah. That's what we do as police officers. We goad you into thinking that we have more evidence against you and hopefully, you'll make a confession or you'll blurt something out that'll be detrimental to you. The only problem I had was — and you and I, Liz, traded texts about this last night — I didn't like some of the statements that Owen made to the grand jury that that kind of put a little bit of dull, took the shine off what I thought was pretty powerful testimony. I didn't like him saying, well, I was mistaken or I was, you know, that wasn't truthful. But I thought he was good, too. But these lawyers, they're crying foul. They know the rules when you go in and you talk to a law enforcement officer. They're setting hooks left and right in front of you and seeing if you're gonna bite. You don't catch a fish unless that fish opens a mouth. You don't catch a criminal unless the criminal opens his mouth. That's why you don't let your client talk.

[00:34:55] **Liz Farrell:** That's right. And Mandy, going back to what you said about him creeping South, then we find out that they had SLED had an arrangement with Alex to come back for the hearing in Hampton County — that first one that was like quite the circus where he got off on personal reconnaissance bond. He was supposed to be in the custody of his lawyers and instead, Buster drove him to his mama's house and SLED was smart enough to be there to understand that you — it just that's the kind of stuff that like, once again, you know the Murdaughs are gonna do to the very end. There's never an end point. They're gonna fight and fight and fight to do things their way. They're not going to let you have the steering wheel. They're not gonna let SLED have it. They're not gonna let Dick and Jim have it, frankly.



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Who knows what kind of advice they're getting during the breaks from the family?

[00:35:45] Going back to the text, I wanna talk about this real quick, Mandy, 'cause I think there's been a lot of confusion. I see a lot of people saying that David Owen from SLED lied to the grand jury. But there's two things that are important to note and one is that one of those reports was not available when he testified to the grand jury. So, that was the HemaTrace report. And remember that Alex did not appear to have blood on him. So, when SLED tested that shirt in question, they saturated it in this chemical that has been known occasionally to cause a false negative in the HemaTrace test, which tests for human blood. So, David Owen did not know that about that report. He did not — no one knew about that report. Holly from Dick's office I think, the paralegal, obviously he should give her a big bonus, but she found this in that million pages of documents. She found a reference to this report and they somehow dug it up. I don't know what happened there, so he didn't lie to the grand jury. He simply didn't know. The second thing is on the stand, he said that he is not a hunter. And I think that's important because when you talk about the birdshot and buckshot, the alternating and he used that as trickery with Alex in the questioning. The distinction is that it wasn't birdshot and buckshot but it was two different brands of ammunition, is that what it's called? Or bullets? I'm sorry. I don't know.

[00:37:09] **Eric Bland:** Shells.

[00:37:10] **Liz Farrell:** Shells, so it's — he did misspeak, right? And then the third thing and, Mandy, you might wanna speak a little bit about this but there's a reason why we want one system of justice. We don't want a corrupt system. We don't want SLED agents lying to grand juries. But going back to the things I just told you our belief on that, just how we're looking at it. But then, there's the issue of we don't feel like Alex is being wrongfully targeted here. We don't think that the State is building a case against an innocent person, so I don't know if you wanna talk about a little bit about that, Mandy.

[00:37:41] **Mandy Matney:** There's no evidence pointing to anybody else. I can't and I can't explain enough like how much his power, influence, and money has already put him in a way better position than the majority of people in the justice system and like I could go on forever. But with David



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Owen, I wished — it was just really painful to watch him on cross because I knew that he was he had just suffered a loss in his family the day before and.

[00:38:20] **Liz Farrell:** I can't even imagine going on the stand and dealing with that the day my dad died, like the day after my dad died. It wouldn't be possible, not possible at all.

[00:38:29] **Mandy Matney:** I think he was doing a really good job on direct and then I could just see like it's hard to think logically and it's hard to fight back when you're going through that kind of grief. Like I think he was going through the motion and he was able to, you know, repeat information that he knew. He was able to confirm a lot of things and then. But what when it comes to being challenged logically and you're dealing with that kind of grief, I could tell where he was coming from there. I mean, I wish that it was a stronger —

[00:38:58] **Liz Farrell:** Absolutely.

[00:38:59] **Eric Bland:** Do you know that he is in charge of all the evidence in the trial — the 700 or whatever exhibits? He is the one that has kept up with them, kept them in order, provides them to the attorney that's gonna question a particular witness, puts them back in an order after they're admitted. I mean, it is a full-time job just doing the evidence itself. So, you know, I liked him. I liked him as a person.

[00:39:28] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I've heard good things about him, too.

[00:39:30] **Eric Bland:** I could see he was struggling at times. What do you, guys — I want to ask you something and I've been thinking about this. I kind of look at Paul differently a little bit now than I did at the start of the trial. I get it that he was a somewhat of a brat for a young kid and he was abusive. And we don't know if Morgan's gonna testify on —

[00:39:56] **Liz Farrell:** His girlfriend, his ex-girlfriend, Morgan.

[00:39:58] **Eric Bland:** But I do look at him a little bit differently than I did in the start of the trial, you know? He found out some things about Alex. What



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do you think about the, you know, the drugs that he discovered or he clued him in that mom has an idea about this pill box or whatever? What do you what are your thoughts about Paul? Do you look at him the same way? Do you look at him, you know, he wasn't really parented correctly? It's not so much his fault. Yes, an adult has to take responsibility but how much bad parenting caused this?

[00:40:33] **Mandy Matney:** A lot of it. And, I mean, I've said this before but I can say it many times again because I do feel bad. I was very, very hard on Paul in my first couple years of reporting on this story and .

[00:40:46] **Liz Farrell:** Deservedly though. I would say deservedly, I mean. It wasn't —

[00:40:49] **Mandy Matney:** I believe that he, I mean, he was responsible for Mallory Beach's death.

[00:40:53] **Eric Bland:** No question.

[00:40:53] **Mandy Matney:** I believe that a million percent. And he should have been able to be alive to face the responsibility for that.

[00:41:01] **Liz Farrell:** It wasn't an isolated incident. He had been — there was a history of that. But I think you would say this, too, is that there was a point where you and I sort of came to this conclusion and I think it was definitely after the murders. I think it was — I was still working for the sheriff's office at the time. And remember we went out to lunch with a source and I think it hit us after that that Paul was a sort of a victim of abuse in some way obviously, like what you said, Eric, and bad parenting. But also we never really understood him as a child of an addict until you, Mandy, started to learn more about Alex's drug use and Paul's sort of involvement in calling him out on that, which goes beyond what we saw in court today, which was a voicemail from Paul on May 6th saying, "Mom found pills in your computer bag." That's there's a history that goes way farther back there. I don't know if you wanna talk about it a little, Mandy.

[00:41:56] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. The I think what made the most sense the other day, a source called me and was talking about the Murdaughs and how



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their family dynamics work and she said something that like really stuck with me. Buster was exactly like his — Buster was more like his father than Paul was like his father — a lot more. Paul was the outcast of that family. And as John Marvin was the outcast of his generation, well, whatever.

[00:42:29] **Liz Farrell:** An outcast for them is that he's like not a lawyer.

[00:42:32] **Eric Bland:** Right.

[00:42:32] **Liz Farrell:** That's an outcast.

[00:42:33] **Mandy Matney:** Right. But it's like the I think — but think about it though like Buster is like his father in the like he doesn't really question anything. He doesn't. I think Paul, it's against the Murdaugh family values to tell your dad like what are you up to? To question like are you sure you should be doing that? Blah, blah, blah. You're just supposed to put your head down and you're supposed to go along to get along and you're supposed to stay loyal. And I think Paul was different in that.

[00:43:06] **Eric Bland:** I've been the one who's been saying all along for a while that I feel really bad for Buster but I'm looking at Buster in a whole different light. It's amazing how three weeks can change the narrative.

[00:43:19] **Liz Farrell:** How so?

[00:43:20] **Eric Bland:** Because I look at how Buster's behavior in court and I'm looking at some of his body language and, you know, whether he gave somebody the finger. He gave me the —

[00:43:31] **Liz Farrell:** I don't think he gave Mark the finger. I really don't.

[00:43:35] **Mandy Matney:** I think it was purposeful.

[00:43:36] **Eric Bland:** He gave me this stink eye, Liz. I'm just telling you. And I'm looking at him. I think Mandy is spot on. He is a clone of his father.



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[00:43:44] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. Very social, political, like very shake your hand. I can see that with Buster.

[00:43:50] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. He's no just quiet kid. There's a real fire inside of him that I see. So, I'm looking at Paul a little differently and I'm looking at Buster a little differently. I'm just being honest.

[00:44:05] **Liz Farrell:** Let me just say this. I'm not a psychologist again. I feel like I say that all the time. But there's certain personalities that can be susceptible to a narcissist in that they can't speak up or they fall sort of into the — they read by the script that the narcissist wants. And I think kids like Paul, he just doesn't strike me as somebody who — he never struck me as somebody who was as susceptible as Buster. Buster just seems very susceptible to me based on the jailhouse calls and sort of his demeanor in court and what have you. Like maybe, I mean, he's his father's son, like you said, Mandy. But I think that there is abuse there, too. And you agree with that. I know that.

[00:44:48] **Mandy Matney:** I think something to understand about Paul is that he definitely was a complex person with serious problems. And I've known people like this, that turn into a different person when they drink. And I think Paul had a lot of problems that could have been solved with mental health therapy and a lot of other things but his parents didn't believe in that for whatever reason. And he drank a lot of alcohol too and that only made him worse. But people keep asking like why do we keep hearing that Paul was this perfect angel and somebody completely different in trial? And Paul was just multidimensional and had a really, really bad side and he also had a good side and that's how a lot of humans are. So, I just wanted to say that.

[00:45:40] **Liz Farrell:** And also, I think that there's a sort of a you don't speak ill of the dead with family members, especially in a public way. I think that would be kind of crappy for them for people to say stuff but. So, what do you guys think is the most damning evidence you've seen? And I know this is — I'll say this. You know when Creighton says a reasonable doubt, like you have to know it's raining, use your context to see that it's raining when somebody walks in from the rain rather than seeing the rain out the window? I feel like they got there. I feel like it definitely know it's raining outside and I know it's probably pouring outside. So, I understand that this is just there's a hundred



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different pieces to this that make up the whole in terms of us thinking that Alex is guilty. Mandy, for you, what is the biggest piece of evidence so far or the biggest moment during this trial where you realized that that just there's no explaining that, there's no going back from that?

[00:46:34] **Mandy Matney:** That's a good question. I will say that there was a — this isn't a piece of evidence but I'm really, really glad that the roadside shooting evidence was allowed in. And I thought that it was gonna overcomplicate things and just make the trial a lot longer and confuse everybody. But I saw a big shift in public opinion after yesterday when they started really telling the jury about everything that went down there because it just took me back to 2021 when like everybody said we were crazy over and over for like even looking at Alex and even being slightly suspicious of him after the murders of his wife and son. And the shooting happened and everyone was — and then we found out that they were lying about it for weeks. And again, whatever. After that, everybody was like what's up with this Alex Murdaugh guy? What else is he capable of? Like a real big shift of how people thought of him. And I think it was very important to also see how deceiving his attorneys are, too. And again, as attorneys are telling the jury a story and the jury — if his attorneys come off as deceiving or lying in any way, it's harder for them to tell that story and for it to hit the jury in the way that they want it to. So, I don't know. I was just — I forgot how important all of that stuff was and how telling it is to Alex's character, like how he threw the knife and it's like, huh. There's another piece of evidence in this case that was thrown on the side of the road.

[00:48:22] **Liz Farrell:** Across the street. He didn't even make an effort. He just threw it. Like and again, yeah, he threw the phone and I heard them today questioning whether he could have put the stashed the evidence at Alameda. And it's like this is a guy who throws stuff. He just throws it. It doesn't — he's not expecting you to actually look behind him. So, and that and I found that interesting. But Eric, what do you think the biggest —

[00:48:49] **Eric Bland:** Very easy for me. Up until today, it was a totality and a combination of the lies about the kennel and the Snapchat video of the dog and the tail and everybody who was close to him: Ronnie Crosby, the two friends of Paul, and then the police officer saying, you know, he lied about being at the kennel. To me, that combination was so powerful. But today, I really felt like I was riding in the car with Alex. When they went in the car and



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used the GM information, I felt like I was with Alex after the murder, going to Alameda, the car slowing down, him throwing the phone, the speeding on a road that had not been paved, the deer and I see deer 'cause I live out in the country, so I know the deer that I see. I can only imagine where it's very plentiful where people are hunting deer and they're always on the move. When he came home and 17 seconds, he calls 911, which would not have given him enough time to have been in shock that you see your wife and son blown to bits. Like Dick says, "butchered" like Dick's favorite word.

[00:50:13] **Liz Farrell:** Right.

[00:50:13] **Eric Bland:** And then to have enough presence of mind to flip them over and check for a pulse. He couldn't have done it, so we know that that's an absolute 100% lie. Now, we have to figure out he probably pulled the phone out before he left for Alameda. After he shot Paul, that's when the phone came out because Dr. Kenny said there was blood inside of Paul's pocket.

[00:50:38] **Liz Farrell:** Right. Agreed.

[00:50:39] **Eric Bland:** So, for me, Mandy and Liz, it was Jesus. This, again, this technological evidence is so powerful, not the blood. I don't get moved by blood and DNA anymore. I get moved by this really neat eye in the sky watching what we're doing through phones through electronic equipment in our cars and in our head in our house. What is yours, Liz? What's yours?

[00:51:05] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, okay. So, this is not I'm not talking about like this single piece of evidence can stand on its own. But when Marian, Maggie's sister, testified that she asked Alex who could have done this and I think, Mandy, you and I are talking about this last night, too, that Marian really normalized the situation because the Murdaughs — the normal reaction should be, we're under attack, somebody is trying to kill us, and we're now worried about the others of us that are surviving. And you just really didn't see that. You haven't seen that anywhere in this trial, any evidence of that. But Marian acted like a normal person in that regard, which is "I'm really worried for my nephew. I'm worried for my brother-in-law. I don't know what's going on." So, she's trying to seek answers. It's very heartening and it's very it just makes you realize that like, oh, that's right. We're not all just robots who are loyal to a name. We actually love each other and there's — but anyway. She



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said that she asked Alex who could have done this and his response was, "Whoever it was had been thinking about it for a very long time." And that moment was — it clicked with something that I've heard other people say behind the scenes about thinking that he had planned this for a very long time, for six months or more. So, I think that was the moment for me.

[00:52:29] **Mandy Matney:** And thought about it.

[00:52:30] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, and thought about it 'cause it's not necessarily like there's so much good, I mean, there's so much good evidence in my opinion. There's so many things that just add up perfectly to me where it's like you can't explain this stuff. I can't forgive you and I can't overlook your lies this many times. One, two misspoke or you're in shock and you say that you weren't there and you were there. Fine. But this is everything you said was a lie. It's just all of it. So, that. But to hear that he answered her that way was such — it was so insightful to what he was thinking and it made me realize like 'cause you and I have gone back and forth or all of us have actually, did he plan it? Was did he lose his mind? Like what happened that night in the minutes after that video? Did he flip out? But the more I think about it and now, after Marian's testimony, I see that this has been on his mind for a long time and he's thought about it and he's fantasized about it and he did it.

[00:53:28] **Eric Bland:** Do you think Paul and Alex struggled that night? Because we're gonna hear that Alex is six feet five and that it would be physically impossible for that upward shot to happen unless Alex was below him.

[00:53:42] **Liz Farrell:** I think he was crouched. I think that he — I think that Paul, he shot Paul once and Paul started to move forward slowly. And I think that Maggie came. This is just me. It's an opinion. She came running, she heard the shot, and he went to go grab the Blackout. So, he was down in a crouched position and Paul surprised him by walking out because the shot, the second shot was outside the door, as Paul was sort of in the doorframe or just outside the doorframe, right?

[00:54:08] **Eric Bland:** So, you don't see a physical struggle have happened?



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[00:54:10] **Liz Farrell:** No. There was no evidence of a physical struggle. The ground wasn't — there's no like dust kicked up or anything like that. I think that he stuck the muzzle, whatever it's called on the shotgun, into the room and shot at him, which is, you know, the way I guess you would do it if you actually did love your son. I can't even make sense of it but no, I don't think they struggled. I think we were told we were under the impression that Maggie ran from him. I changed my mind on that. I do think that she was running toward her son and I think that she got shot and doubled over and that's how she ended up in that position facing toward him and I think he circled her from what the testimony said that he circled her and shot her and yeah. We'll be right back.

[00:55:09] **Eric Bland:** So, let me ask you, Mandy. So, do you think like — I look at everything like a baseball game, so we're probably in the seventh, eighth inning, right? Seventh or eighth inning. And I think the prosecution's winning like nine-five, and they have to be up by four runs because I think Dick will, during the course of this week, score some blood. Something's gonna happen to make the jury go or us to go "Ooh." Are they up enough to because, you know, primacy is so important and they're gonna forget what happened three weeks ago. Maybe one or two will remember it when they get in the jury room and they start deliberating. Are they up enough is what I'm saying?

[00:55:55] **Mandy Matney:** The prosecution is up. Yeah, I would say that's fair.

[00:55:58] **Eric Bland:** Are they up enough?

[00:56:00] **Mandy Matney:** I just keep going back to this and this is just how I think of things. I'm just not hearing a cohesive story that makes any sense from the defense. I'm not hearing anything that's like believable that I can — like in the O. J. trial, I could see how those jurors see the super racist cop planting evidence and then all the evidence goes out the window. That makes sense. But targeting Alex Murdaugh unfairly when we've seen interview after interview where SLED agents by their body language, by their questions, everything, you can tell that they do not want it to be Alex Murdaugh. They want it to be somebody else but Alex is giving them nothing besides look at me. And he just is way too cocky about it and he's way too confident. And he tells on himself in various different ways like what he did



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with Marian. I think that he dropped all these little clues all the time that was just telling on himself.

[00:56:58] **Eric Bland:** Is their defense at this point "You don't have enough to implicate Alex?" Or are they gonna say it's third-party guilt? That it's two shooters or, you know, poor Mr. Rowe. He seemed to be the assailant du jour. He became the assailant du jour for a while but then he's cleared. But then, you know, Maggie has black brown hair in her hand and she has certain DNA under her fingernails.

[00:57:30] **Liz Farrell:** No, she does not. She has an unidentified male profile under her fingernails.

[00:57:35] **Eric Bland:** I got it. But what I'm saying. What is their defense, liz?

[00:57:38] **Mandy Matney:** But wait. Liz should explain this though because the DNA thing is confusing people and the hair is throwing people off.

[00:57:46] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. I don't know how much I can say on the hair because I didn't understand that.

[00:57:50] **Mandy Matney:** I think the hair was just by her hand.

[00:57:52] **Liz Farrell:** The DNA that was under her nail, she came from this nail salon and she got a pedicure. We've never heard that she had a manicure. I know that Phil Barber tried to insinuate that her hands would be impeccably clean because of that manicure. You can pick up touch DNA very easily from other people and this DNA was an unidentified male who was unrelated to her. They compared it with DNA from C. B. Rowe, who was their groundskeeper and there were three what's called alleles that matched his. It is so insignificant of a number that you cannot say that that was C. B. Rowe. Those three alleles, anyone in that courtroom could have had as well. I think it's just easier for the defense to insinuate that or to seize upon that information and to exploit it because that's what they do, right? But Eric, I wanna ask you. You say the score is nine to five and I do think that that is fair but I'm actually not sure that I could answer this question. What are the five runs that you think that the defense has gotten? Like how do you think that they're up, they're down with?



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[00:58:57] **Eric Bland:** Well, I think they I think some of the search warrant stuff was bad. I don't think taking blood evidence from the drain and testing the drains was good. I think that Jim did a real good job on his cross-examination of the GSR; that some could be on the stand from the fact that people were handling the jackets. I think the whole blue jacket tarp thing got too confusing and I'm still confused on it. I gotta tell you. I'm just gonna be honest.

[00:59:29] **Liz Farrell:** What are you confused about?

[00:59:30] **Eric Bland:** There's no blood on the inside of it. You would think that there would be something that would've rubbed off from the guns if he did tote the guns or he toted some clothes. There should be something on the inside. I'm a little confused, so I think that they've done a nice job at confusing what actually happened at Alameda, you know? Did he go back to the smokehouse 'cause I think you told me he took Mr. Randolph's truck and drove it back to the back of the house.

[01:00:00] **Liz Farrell:** I think that we can just go back to we know that he had that raincoat in his arms. We know that Shelley saw it and I will say she's a credible witness because now that we've seen the GMC data, we can see that he was there 19 minutes and some change. So, she estimated it correctly. That was not known as well as we knew it today. Yeah. So, I think that —

[01:00:23] **Eric Bland:** It's not five home runs. It's more of singles being hit in or a walk. It's not — nobody hit these tape measure home runs but.

[01:00:33] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I get it.

[01:00:35] **Eric Bland:** I believe that Jim Griffin has had more effective cross-examinations in this trial than Dick Harpootlian has. I can't remember.

[01:00:43] **Liz Farrell:** Well, I think preparing is important, isn't it? Doing your homework is important.

[01:00:47] **Eric Bland:** I cannot remember a memorable cross by Dick but I can remember some effective, not memorable but effective cross-examinations



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by Jim. So, whether it's nine-four, I think the State is up and are they up enough that they can afford to lose a little bit and get a couple more runs scored against them and survive?

[01:01:09] **Liz Farrell:** That said, where do you think the defense is gonna go? Where do you think their main strategy is going to be in presenting their case of why he didn't do this?

[01:01:19] **Eric Bland:** Mandy?

[01:01:20] **Mandy Matney:** Well, like Jim has hinted a couple times. Cowboy Town is where Jim has wanted to take us several times. He really wants to go to Cowboy Town, so and I don't think there's anything to that. But there could be I think a plausible explanation and I was worried about like the roadside shooting evidence and what Marian said because she kind of left the jury with not having a lot of clarity as to what happened with the roadside shooting and she was saying I was really afraid for our family, blah, blah, blah. And I'm saying all that to say that the jury might be able to buy that Alex was caught up in a serious gun or a serious gang drug gang and they snuck onto Moselle and murdered his wife and son. But Alex kind of messed that up.

[01:02:20] **Eric Bland:** So, they magically went in the house and got the guns while he was not in the house, then he went back in the house and he cleaned up a little bit of food and Maggie's pajama pants or whatever. He didn't hear any of the gunshot when he was in the house. And oh, by the way, he actually was at the kennel about a minute before five minutes before the shootings took place, didn't smell gunpowder when he came out of the house, was supposed to go see his dad, and as far as we know, he saw his mother twice before he ever went to see his dad who was dying and was the love of his life. So, help me here, please, Mandy.

[01:03:01] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I mean.

[01:03:03] **Liz Farrell:** She's going with the best that they've got.

[01:03:06] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I'm saying that's the best. Well, 'cause I was, I mean, again and going back to the best evidence that the prosecution has put up so far, the cell phone evidence and Alex's voice is super damning and



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the — I mean, the timeline that they put together today is very, very hard to give a reasonable explanation because, and I said this on Twitter like, what person — the story that they're telling is insane. A person wakes up from a nap. And I don't know about you guys, but when I wake up from a nap at nine o'clock at night on my couch, I go to my bed because it is time to go to bed at that point. I don't wake up and say, you know, I wanna go see my mom and then walk very quickly, maybe jog a lot of steps and then the, he reached speeds of 75 miles per hour going to see his mom on the way and that was seemed very weird to me. The other just crazy, crazy piece of evidence that I can't get past: that the route that he took during this time that really looks like he was building an alibi is also where Maggie's phone was found the next day. Like that's crazy to me and, again, if there were some random killers out there, they would, that's just — like they wouldn't take her phone and then throw it. That shows a crime of passion.

[01:04:48] **Liz Farrell:** Her phone and then leave Paul's. That just doesn't make any sense.

[01:04:53] **Mandy Matney:** And leave Paul's. It shows that there's whoever, like wasn't thinking and they were panicking. And it is also like a it's a thing that you do in a crime that you're very close to and involved with, right? Like.

[01:05:06] **Liz Farrell:** I think he took her phone 'cause I think he was trying to see if she called 911 on him, what she did.

[01:05:18] **Mandy Matney:** Switching gears, Judge Newman — I said this on Twitter today but I really would like his next career to be like teaching calmness and peace of mind. I would like to take a master class from him because he stays so incredibly calm, cool, and collected, zen and smart. And on top of it and like man, it's crazy that him and Dick Harpootlian are just a few years apart in age 'cause they seem centuries apart in my eyes like.

[01:05:51] **Eric Bland:** So, let me clear up for the listeners. The motion for a directed verdict is perfunctory. It must be done in every case after the State completes their direct case, their first part of the case. It's always made by the defense. It has to be made to preserve appellate rights. And we've heard a lot about Dick talking about, "I apologize, Your Honor. Is this an exception? I make my exception. I wanna reiterate. We're not gonna object because we



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already have the exception." The directive verdict is a very low standard and what that standard says is has the State produced enough evidence that a jury could reasonably determine the guilt of the defendant, and that the evidence is viewed in the light most favorable to the State? So, Judge Newman said there is ample evidence that has been garnered. If the jury believes that they could find guilt, I therefore deny the motion for directive verdict. So, I know a couple people had their holding their breath. It's done in every case and a judge never grants it. I will say the line of for me of the trial by Judge Newman was if you're going to make the decision to dance through fire, how dare you think that you're not gonna be burned or scarred? I thought that was just amazing. What do you think, Liz?

[01:07:25] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, but it was off of his thing of you went a bridge, you know, the introducing the suicide, the roadside incident, we'll call it, introducing that evidence would be a bridge too far and he reiterated to Jim because after that ruling, Jim went again and reopened the door. And so, he made the point that, you know, I told you a bridge too far.

[01:07:45] **Eric Bland:** What do you mean by reopening the door? Explain that to me.

[01:07:47] **Liz Farrell:** Well, by asking the witness a question.

[01:07:50] **Eric Bland:** I know what it means.

[01:07:51] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. I guess I'm, I mean, I don't technically know what it means, I guess, but it's he asked the witness a question that warrant that garnered an answer that spoke to the evidence that he didn't want admitted, right? Is that the way to say it?

[01:08:05] **Eric Bland:** Correct. Exactly.

[01:08:06] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, so.

[01:08:07] **Eric Bland:** Self-inflicted.

[01:08:08] **Liz Farrell:** Self-inflicted. And he did that a couple times.



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[01:08:10] **Mandy Matney:** My other favorite Newman quote was, if you that's why your question shouldn't lead into things that are inflammatory.

[01:08:19] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, I didn't — I missed that one.

[01:08:21] **Mandy Matney:** He said that to Jim. That's why your questions shouldn't lead into things. Because Jim was like, "That's inflammatory" and then he goes, "Well, your questions shouldn't lead into things that are inflammatory." But yeah, he's been funny. I love him. He's great.

[01:08:38] **Liz Farrell:** What do you think the biggest issue right now is for the jury to overcome for a guilty verdict? Do you think that there is something that they're gonna have? Is there any sort of leap of logic or cognitive dissonance that they're gonna have to have in their mind based on what the State has presented so far?

[01:08:55] **Eric Bland:** I don't think they need to get into motive anymore. I don't think that they have to find this pre-packaged beautiful ribboned up motive. We're not gonna find it because Alex is a sick man. So, whatever motive that he had in his head isn't gonna make sense to 12 jurors. I think what they're gonna get back to is the technical lies that he told that and they're going to common sense is gonna prevail in that jury room and say innocent people don't tell these kind of lies to the police and to the people closest to them. They just don't do it. And I think it's a common sense. Remember we talked about the God-given common sense — 24 ears and 24 eyes. These jurors are seeing stuff and they're hearing stuff and I think motive is not gonna be a big an issue as people think it has to be. That's my opinion.

[01:09:55] **Liz Farrell:** Mandy, what do you think?

[01:09:56] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. I don't think that it's ever gonna make perfect sense I think. But the roadside shooting showed us that Alex's way of thinking does not make any sense. It shows that when the walls are —

[01:10:09] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, his problem-solving skills suck.



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[01:10:10] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, and when the walls are crumbling around him, which they never have before in his entire life, he chooses violence and he chooses something that is so chaotic and crazy that the rest of the world can't even wrap their heads around it. Yeah. I mean, I think that the State just needs to stick with the big picture, the story that makes sense, and that is what's gonna stick with the jury. What the defense I think the defense is probably gonna be like lack of evidence, blah, blah, blah. But we're talking about a prosecutor who knows how to get away with murder, so the lack of evidence doesn't really bother me like it would in other cases, if it was somebody that —

[01:10:57] **Liz Farrell:** You mean the lack of forensic evidence?

[01:10:59] **Mandy Matney:** Forensic, yes. I think that there and that there's plenty of evidence. Whether that's circumstantial or not, it's enough to be damning in my eyes. And I hope that the State didn't — I think the other thing that was just troublesome and I don't know how they could have gotten around this but like just we were so bogged down by so many different witnesses and so much information that was hard to make sense of. It got confusing for a while but I think they had a beautiful, beautiful decision to end on SLED agent Peter —

[01:11:41] **Liz Farrell:** Rudofski.

[01:11:43] **Mandy Matney:** The timeline guy.

[01:11:43] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, he was great.

[01:11:44] **Mandy Matney:** It was amazing. And he just he told a story that made sense and when he was when Phil crossed him and said something like, don't you think this is normal? What was that part?

[01:11:59] **Liz Farrell:** Alex was searching on Google for a restaurant at 10:40 that night. So, like 25 minutes after he got off the phone with 911, he is like checking this —

[01:12:08] **Eric Bland:** No way.



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[01:12:08] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah.

[01:12:09] **Eric Bland:** No way.

[01:12:09] **Liz Farrell:** I swear to God, yeah.

[01:12:10] **Eric Bland:** No way. No way. Are you serious?

[01:12:14] **Liz Farrell:** Yes.

[01:12:14] **Mandy Matney:** Whaley's restaurant.

[01:12:17] **Eric Bland:** I would have my arms wrapped around my wife and my son and the jaws of life couldn't pull my arms apart.

[01:12:25] **Mandy Matney:** Oh and he was looking at a bikini picture.

[01:12:27] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. He was looking at a bikini text. Yeah, and then he's telling C. B. Rowe, could you come by tomorrow? Could you come by at eight or something? Come take care of these sunflowers.

[01:12:38] **Eric Bland:** There's no way. I missed that. Are you serious?

[01:12:42] **Liz Farrell:** Dead serious.

[01:12:42] **Eric Bland:** That's enough right there. That's enough right there. Guilty right there.

[01:12:46] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's what Mandy's saying is that that witness was like I would think.

[01:12:50] **Mandy Matney:** He's like, as an investigator, I know that I wouldn't be doing that.



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[01:12:53] **Liz Farrell:** And he's like, oh, you wouldn't call family and friends? Yeah, I'd call family and friends. That's not checking a restaurant, looking up texts that have nothing to do with murder.

[01:13:01] **Eric Bland:** Oh my God.

[01:13:02] **Mandy Matney:** He was telling C. B. Rowe like we're gonna have a lot of people on the property, so we gotta make it look nice. Like why are you worried about that?

[01:13:11] **Liz Farrell:** And we've seen that funeral picture, by the way. And it is a party. It was a party.

[01:13:17] **Mandy Matney:** I wonder if Whaley's catered the funeral. I wonder.

[01:13:22] **Liz Farrell:** Oh my God, Mandy. Oh my God.

[01:13:26] **Mandy Matney:** Like he was ready to plan a party.

[01:13:29] **Eric Bland:** And on that note, guys, we should end it with that kind of insanity, okay?

[01:13:34] **Liz Farrell:** I guess so.

[01:13:34] **Eric Bland:** We should end with that kind of insanity.

[01:13:37] **Liz Farrell:** I wanna say though one thing. I think the only thing that the jury has to overcome right now is the name Murdaugh and that's it. So, that's all I'll say and I will put my cup down for that. Have a wonderful Presidents' Day and don't forget to rate and review us and we will talk to you again next week.

[01:13:56] **Eric Bland:** Cups down. Guys.

[01:13:57] **Mandy Matney:** Cups down.



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[01:14:03] **Outro:** This Cup of Justice bonus episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, with co-host Liz Farrell, our executive editor, and Eric Bland, attorney-at-law, AKA The Jackhammer of Justice. From Luna Shark Productions.

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