



EPISODE 48: Alex Murdaugh's Latest Plot, Get Judge Clifton Newman Removed from His Case

[00:00:03] **Mandy Matney:** Hello and happy Tuesday. Well, things keep getting crazier and crazier in the land of no consequences. Not only is Alex Murdaugh up to his usual trickery, but Cory Fleming, the man who has twice gone up in front of a judge to cry about how remorseful he is and how undeserving he is of mercy is now trying to get out of his state sentence. Last week's Cory was so sorry for what he did, but this week's Cory is like, "Yeah, but I'm not 13 years and 10 months sorry though." On today's episode, we get into Alex's federal plea hearing and how it is just one step in his overall goal, which is to serve out his time in federal prison. There is a big wall standing in the way of him reaching this goal, but Dick and Jim are working hard to dismantle it piece by piece, and their first major mission is to get Judge Newman removed from Alex's cases. Like we keep saying, they are ruthless. On a much happier note, we are dedicating today's episode to one of our listeners and fans Trista from Mount Pleasant, aka Trista the Barista on Instagram. Thank you so much to Trista for spreading so much sunshine. The world needs more people as sweet and kind as you are. This episode is a bit longer because there's so much to cover, and premium members get even more conversations on Judge Gergel and a new documentary that just dropped that you may or may not have seen. So cups up. Let's get into it.

[00:01:47] **Liz Farrell:** Cups up guys.

[00:01:49] **Eric Bland:** Cups up. Happy Friday.

[00:01:50] **Liz Farrell:** Happy Friday. Mandy, I love your shirt. That's so cute. What is it?

[00:01:55] **Mandy Matney:** Okay, so this is Trista's sunshine squad. Eric, you met Trista during the trial. I actually have shirts for both of you that she gave me. I met her outside of the courthouse yesterday. She is the sweetest person and she lives in Charleston. She's got a pretty big social media following, but she has a sunshine company where she makes things for people that spread joy and sunshine. And she gave me a big hug outside of the courthouse yesterday, right before the whole thing started. And...

[00:02:28] **Eric Bland:** Oh, that's so nice.

[00:02:29] **Mandy Matney:** And I didn't want to be there, but then Trista was just so sweet, her mom was so sweet, and her mom had a friend with her, and it was just like a big ball of energy before I entered that stupid courthouse. So Eric, how did you feel?

[00:02:44] **Eric Bland:** Didn't she, didn't she give me the potpourri bag at the trials, Trish? She's such a sweet, sweet person. God, what a smile.

[00:02:53] **Liz Farrell:** I love that she's into this. Pretty cool, yeah.



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[00:02:56] **Eric Bland:** She was waiting for you, Mandy. I saw her and I said hello to her, and it was nice.

[00:03:02] **Mandy Matney:** Her and her mom listen to every single one of our podcasts. Whenever her mom takes her anywhere, they want to listen to our podcast. And that's like their bonding time, which I thought was the sweetest thing.

[00:03:12] **Eric Bland:** Isn't that wonderful.

[00:03:14] **Mandy Matney:** Big week. How's everybody feeling?

[00:03:17] **Eric Bland:** It was, it was a great, great week.

[00:03:19] **Liz Farrell:** Let me just tell you, this is the first time where you guys have gone to a hearing that I wasn't at. So I feel this is going to be interesting because I'm really going to be like the listener who also likely listened at the hearing. So I'm here, I'm so curious to hear what it was like. I read the transcript. It was rather short, and then I did some sleuthing. So I'd like to hear it.

[00:03:42] **Eric Bland:** Yeah. I'll tell you about the courtroom.

[00:03:44] **Liz Farrell:** No, Eric, you were in the main courtroom where Alex was, right? And Mandy, you were in the overflow? Yep. Okay. And there weren't a lot of people in the overflow? It was with Cory?

[00:03:53] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, there weren't a lot of people in the courtroom either. This was a different courtroom. This was Judge Blot's old courtroom. And the ceiling, there was paint peeling off the ceiling. It was very difficult to get into the section where the audience was seating. It's a very, very small courtroom. So if you can imagine, it's half as narrow as the courtroom that Laffitte trial took place. It was probably as narrow as the Cory Fleming courtroom, but there wasn't as much seating room. There was only about five rows of benches, and there was no family from Alex there. The only people that were there were Jan Malinowski showed up with Greg Harris, Ronnie Crosby showed up with Jim May, and there were a couple of government officials on the other side. Dawes Cooke was there because he had to notarize the guilty plea agreement that Alex signed. And so before Judge Gergel came in, he notarized the agreement when Alex came in, Alex was wearing a bright bumblebee jumpsuit, not the orange Sunday-best he was wearing when he was in Beaufort County last week. This was a very yellow, high-crisp new jumpsuit. He came in not with...

[00:05:03] **Liz Farrell:** Did you notice that, were their letters on the back?

[00:05:06] **Eric Bland:** Yes. SCDC.



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[00:05:07] **Liz Farrell:** It said SCDC? Okay.

[00:05:08] **Eric Bland:** He didn't have the leash like he had when we were in Beaufort, but there were the same number of special ops officers, big guys with big vests, there was the SCDC regular police officers and there was some US Marshals. So there was about six or seven people that escorted him in, he was in a very happy mood. He was happy to see Jim as well as Dick. They talked for a while. Judge Gergel came in with three law clerks in the jury box. There was a sketch artist. So this was the first time we've seen that there was a sketch artist who was feverishly sketching Alex and Dick and their side. I didn't see in sketching Emily or Winston Holliday. I saw Ann Emerson there, a couple other journalists, but it was really, I was surprised, because I had called Emily earlier in the morning and said, "Hey, could you save me a seat?" And she said, "Sure," and she thought it was going to be a packed courtroom based on our discussion, and it wasn't. The hearing went very quickly. Like you said when you read the transcript, the surprise to me was Judge Gergel asking him why are you pleading guilty. And he said, "Because I want to. I want to take responsibility. I want to show my son that I can take responsibility. It's the right thing to do. And I want the victims to be able to begin to heal." So that's the reasoning why he gave for his plea agreement. The plea went on eventful, except for when he wanted to carve out from the Satterfield portion of the charges that he still wants to be able to contest the death of Gloria and why insurance fraud was committed. The big takeaway for me was that he said that Russell Laffitte was a co-conspirator, as well as Cory Fleming was a co-conspirator. Now, we also know that when he was under oath and a bond hearing, and when he was under oath at the criminal trial, he said he did this all alone. This was the first time that he said that Cory was a co-conspirator and Russell Laffitte. That, that's relevant for two reasons. One, he should be charged with perjury, because he's now perjured himself under oath at a couple of different time periods. And number two, Russell Laffitte's, probably a good portion of his appeal where he's claiming that he was not involved there was a victim like everybody else, especially when he used the statement that Alex made at his trial when he said Russell had nothing to do with this, that just goes out the window. If Alex is to be believed, Judge Gergel belt-and-suspended every bit of every acknowledgement and acceptance of guilt that Alex made. He asked him, "Are you sure? Pretty sure? Really, really sure?" He made him go through so many different disclaimers to say that, yes, this is my own free will. Yes, I'm doing this. I haven't been promised anything. So that was very important for Judge Gergel because he wanted to make sure that it was on record. Now, the other thing that surprised me is he carved out, while he cannot appeal every issue, what he can appeal is prosecutorial misconduct. But the second thing that was the most important was the ineffective assistance of counsel. So that's something that he's going to raise even though he pled guilty, even though he's doing this under his own free will. And he was so so happy to say that, "I've been clean for 744 days," he said. Well, obviously you're clean because you're in jail, you're in jail, and then in prison. But he said that he's never been more clear in his mind and that he's doing this—obviously, somewhere down the road—he's gonna raise an ineffective assistance of counsel claim. There was one disagreement, he said



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that he was willing to say that 9 million was stolen. Emily said that 10.5 million was stolen by him, and she was going to provide the court with the delta on why it's 10.5 million. The other thing that was really telling and everybody learned in the courtroom is, Emily said he began his theft, his thievery, in 2005. So that was the earliest date that I have ever heard. I had heard 2009, she now says it was 2005. And she also gave some initials of victims that I have not heard about. You know, of course, there was the bigger thefts, the Badgers, the Pinckneys, the Satterfields, but she also started talking about some \$65,000 thefts that he made, and some 75,000, some 95,000. You know, amounts that I was on familiar with. You guys are probably more familiar with those amounts than I am. But those are probably comprised that delta, between the 9 million and the 10.5 million.

[00:09:39] **Mandy Matney:** So a couple things. I was expecting a ton of media there, but I thought it was weird a majority of the media camped out outside the entire time. Did you notice that, Eric? There was a lot of news stations there, but a majority of them did not bother going into the hearing, which I thought was interesting. And a majority of them did not bother taking advantage of the extra courtroom that we had so we could bring our laptops and phones and communicate with our audiences about what was going on live as it was happening. And I think that's kind of sad. And as we're really trying to fight for transparency in the courtroom, and last time lives, and I made a lot of noise when we were not allowed to provide live updates to our audience and to the public as a belief—Cory Fleming's sentencing was going on—I was disappointed to see there wasn't that. I mean, there were local, there were local reporters, and maybe one or two national reporters in the room that I was in, but it was probably like six, seven of us. It wasn't many at all. And yeah, I was disappointed in that, because this is a very important thing.

[00:10:50] **Eric Bland:** Well, it was, it was a monumental day. I mean, it is the first time, yes, he was under oath at the murder trial, but he's standing up willing to accept legal responsibility, not transactional like he did in the murder case. He is accepting legal responsibility for all those charges. It was a monumental day.

[00:11:10] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. But the more that I sit back and realize what happened yesterday, I am just losing faith in the federal government. And yesterday just felt like a sham in a lot of ways to me. I don't know if, Liz, after reading the transcript, if you felt like that? I just think he's admitting guilt, because it's the easiest route that he has, and this is the easiest path that he has. And again, it's a guy that's backed up against the wall. It's the coyote in a trap that keeps biting until he realizes that he has no other option. That's what we're at right now. And yeah the federal, and I feel like the federal court is just kind of giving him that. Do you not agree with that? What do you think, Liz?

[00:11:53] **Liz Farrell:** Yes, I absolutely think it's a sham. And a lot of this is based on one, the conversation that you and I had yesterday, Eric, I think this is one step in a multi-step plan to get Alex out of South Carolina Department of Corrections and into the Bureau of Prisons. So



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obviously, we've talked about that a lot. But the second thing is what happened at Cory's sentencing hearing, where he ended up getting sentenced to pay restitution in the Pinckney crime to PMPED and Palmetto State Bank. Which I found to be, you guys found to be, rather unusual, given that he was not charged with that Pinckney crime. So when you look at the difference between Cory's plea deal, Alex's plea deal, one thing that really struck me is that there's a whole bunch of information in there, in Alex's, about forfeiture. That's one part of it. The second part of it is that during the hearing, and I don't know how this went down, if you guys could maybe help me here, but in the transcript, it said that he's asking, you know, the perfunctory questions that you, basically the judge goes through to make sure that Alex knows what this is all about, and one of them he notes that Alex hesitated in his response. And that was the what to do on appeal. Apparently, he's agreeing to a partial plea deal on what he can do in the appeal. And I think, Eric, you talked about that just a little bit ago. But looking at the difference between Cory's plea deal and Alex's, I do think that this Alex seems more geared toward paying back money. And so like we were talking about, and maybe we should let people know just what this could be, I don't know, Eric, if you want to talk about that?

[00:13:27] **Eric Bland:** Yes, you know, there's \$9 million that he is acknowledging that he stole and he owes. But again, the repayment of that is at, you know, such a slow pace that if it was to be fully repaid, it's probably would take 195 years, if he was to pay it on the monthly basis. But I sense that the government is going to go after some assets, and it could be the victims' assets that the receiver has, or if he goes under oath and starts to really say that he may have additional property that the receivers were unaware of. There's a lot up in the air. The confusing part of it is, why is the government going to be the one that gets the money, and how are they going to distribute it? That's what I'm still confused over. How about you, Liz and Mandy?

[00:14:18] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, it's not, it's not clear at all. But I think given Cory's sentencing, we see that the government, the federal government is, in my opinion, I think in Mandy's opinion, too, is helping PMPED and Palmetto State Bank get back money that they had to pay out in the civil cases.

[00:14:34] **Eric Bland:** They're choosing winners and losers.

[00:14:36] **Mandy Matney:** And Eric, what side of the courtroom was Ronnie Crosby on?

[00:14:39] **Eric Bland:** He was on the prosecution side. He sat in the first row in front of me. I was in the second row with my partner, Ronnie and Scott. But the government is choosing winners and losers, and that decision is up to a judge, more a state court judge I believe, because that's really where all these cases, these financial cases, arose. The federal government brought these charges because they had a statute of limitations problem. If they did not bring these charges against Alex and waited for the state to prosecute and decide,



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okay, if there was a loophole, and Alex got out of some of these financial crimes, they were going to sweep in. I spoke to Emily Limehouse and she was very concerned about statute of limitations running on these criminal charges, and that's why she said she brought these charges when she did.

[00:15:28] **Liz Farrell:** Why though? She didn't need to. It's superfluous. You know?

[00:15:32] **Eric Bland:** It is, yeah. He was never going to get out of it on the state level. I think it does fit into Dick's puzzle that he's trying to put together. I don't know if that puzzle will ever be put together, because as we talked about, even if the murder conviction is reversed—and I'm not talking about it being reversed on appeal, based on the 404B stuff, and anything else that Judge Newman may have done, or that he didn't do and should have done, because those will take years. Just so we understand, everybody understands, it goes to the Court of Appeals, there's no time limit when they would accept or make a decision and start over arguments, and whoever loses, they're going to appeal it up to the South Carolina Supreme Court. And whoever loses there will appeal up to the US Supreme Court. So the murder conviction itself could be years, years on appeals. The quickest route to getting this thing reversed was the jury interference issue. And that's why it's going to be interesting to see when they found out about that and have they held it in their hip pocket—because if they can get that reversed, then the only conviction that will stand today is the federal court plea from yesterday. And you're gonna say yourself, “Well, then he goes immediately to federal prison.” No, he doesn't. He becomes a state detainee and he goes back to Alvin S. Glenn jail in Columbia, South Carolina. Remember, there's two bonds still existing. On the murder charge, no bond, and on the financial crime charges, \$7 million dollars. So what is going to have to happen is Dick is going to argue to get Judge Newman out of the box. He's already set that in motion at the press conference. He said Judge Newman's a witness, he's not going to be able to hear the issue on Becky Hill's interference. At the Cory Fleming sentence, at the status conference, He says, “Judge Newman, you're prejudiced. You've made certain prejudicial statements when you sentenced Alex on the murder case.” So he's already setting it up to knock Judge Newman out of the sea. He's hopeful to get a favorable judge so that he'll be able to get a reasonable bond set for the murder case and the financial crimes. And that's why he wants to get these assets back in Alex's hands, so that Alex can make a bond. The minute he makes bond, if it happens, and that's a big if, the minute he gets to that jailhouse door, there'll be federal marshals to pick him up, and then he will go serve his federal time. And that's why, everybody learned their lesson with Cory Fleming, you don't want a light sentence in federal court because you're going to go before a state court judge like Judge Newman and he's going to hammer you. So Dick wants Judge Gergel to load Alex Murdaugh up in four months when that pre-sentence report comes with like a 40-year sentence.

[00:18:17] **Liz Farrell:** So can I just interrupt you right there for a second, because one of the differences between Cory's plea deal and Alex's has to do with a reduction in future sentencing. So there's several lines in Alex's that did not appear in Cory's plea deal, and you



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know, we got so many people saying to us, like you guys don't know what a basic plea deal looks like. Alex was just a boilerplate plea deal. It was not a boilerplate plea deal. So one of the things like, we got criticized for calling out aspects of Alex's plea deal, and it was people, just your typical saying, Liz and Mandy don't know what they're talking about. This is a boilerplate plea deal. This is what everyone gets." But we have set them side by side, we have gone line by line, and they are not the same and there are some very critical areas where they're not the same. And one of them, Eric, is what you're just speaking to, which is that the feds will come pick him up at the jail door if he does get that bond. You know, if, if, if, if, but the section that's in his that is not in Cory's has to do with him seeking a reduction in sentencing. And so, it basically, it looks to me like they're leaving open the possibility for him to contest whatever it is that Gergel gives him. So they have made that point in Alex's plea deal. They're leaving him out. So this speaks further to the federal government just helping Alex along.

[00:19:30] **Eric Bland:** Maybe. By all outward appearances, you may be correct, but I do believe that they are never going to take primacy over the state government. The state was the one who charged first and the one who arrested first and that makes them primary. So all their charges have to be resolved in Alex's favor before the federal government could ever kick in. And I don't see the state not winning the financial crime charges, especially when he pled guilty yesterday. Can you imagine Dick trying to stand up at trial on November 27th and said, you know, "Alex Murdaugh didn't do this." Just like he said, "Alex Murdaugh didn't kill his kids. You got to presume that he didn't kill Maggie and Paul." Well, Creighton is gonna stand on the stand and say, "But he just pled guilty two months ago to these very same crimes." So the November trial can't go forward under any circumstances. Dick is not going to let that trial go forward. It can't because it thwarts the chessboard. That's what we're now dealing with here. What does the chessboard look like? And you guys are raising real good concerns because you're smelling that Dick is gaming the system, that he's manipulating judges, and he's getting what he wants. But don't forget, we got six-foot-three Creighton Waters there who isn't going to let it happen, if he can help it.

[00:20:51] **Mandy Matney:** This is all funny because I was reminded from a source of mine, who's been one of my best sources throughout this entire thing, and he was reminding me of two years ago when I was screaming about the financial crimes and there is no charges, and I was like, where's the FBI? Why aren't the feds involved in this? I was saying that because I had no idea. And I didn't have faith in the state government at the time that they could really dig into these financial crimes and figure out what was going on. And my, my, my, I was dead wrong. The feds are doing nothing at this point, and I tweeted about this yesterday, nothing at this point they have done so far has done it. They have done nothing but provide an easy out for the good 'ol boys, and I have not seen them uncover any shocking information. I've not seen them, and maybe I have seen them just provide a very cushy landing for very, very bad and powerful people, and I'm very angry about that.



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[00:21:58] **Eric Bland:** Oh, they're piggybacking off the work that the state has done. That is an argument that has been made.

[00:22:02] **Mandy Matney:** Not only that, but they're giving them an easier out. And I don't know what's going on with these forfeitures, and it just seems like not only an easier prison sentence for these people, but it seems like they're trying to gobble up, come up with some sort of crazy plan to grab the money and gobble it up, and I don't understand that.

[00:22:26] **Eric Bland:** Why is Judge Gergel, why is Judge Gergel giving Russell Laffitte another week? You made a great point yesterday, Mandy, where you said we're coming up on a one-year anniversary where the man was convicted of six major felonies. Why does he keep getting extension after extension, Liz? What? What's the rationale for that? No other person, no ordinary Joe would still be out of prison not, you know, out 11 months after conviction like that.

[00:22:55] **Liz Farrell:** Judge Gergel reminds me of a professor I had when I was at the American University for a semester, and we used to point out all the time, how he just like looked at the male students in the class like his sons. And it's almost like Gergel has like a paternal regard for Russell, Cory, and Alex, just in his language. Maybe he's like that in every hearing and I'm just not, I don't have enough of experiencing Judge Gergel in action, but to me, it's just the typical thing where it just feels like the judge sort of sees himself in the defendant. Or maybe because the defendant looks a certain way, or because he's able to afford attorneys that aren't public defenders, I don't know. Because it's not fair to Judge Gergel that I'm saying this, of course, but it's the only answer I have. There's no other answer that I can think of as to why, other than privilege. That's it.

[00:23:45] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And I mean, I watched him closely yesterday, Judge Gergel, and like I was just describing to Liz earlier, he was up there like Santa Claus, just talking to his elves. Like he was very jolly, very joyful, very, "Okay. Blah, blah, blah," and he really wasn't like, "I'm ashamed of you." There was no angry tones from that man or anything. I feel like as a judge, you have a few moments to, and maybe he'll do this at sentencing, I don't know, but he did not capture the severity of the crimes that Alex was admitting to, and he did not really hammer home what was going on. And I did not, again, I'm just losing faith in the feds by day and I'm getting angrier and angrier just seeing the underbelly of this system that I used to think was the best of the best. And I used to think the FBI and the federal government will get them, and now I wouldn't call the feds for anything. I am disgusted and I am horrified of what's going on by what I've seen in this case.

[00:24:57] **Eric Bland:** Look, don't forget, don't forget that Judge Gergel—don't forget, Liz—that Judge Gergel, in a order after Russell Laffitte filed a motion for a second new trial, based on what Alex said in the murder case that Russell had nothing to do with it, he in a written order said Alex Murdaugh is a confirmed liar. So, you know, I was expecting a little bit, like you said,



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Mandy, harsher language from Gergel yesterday, the same harshness that he spoke about Cory Fleming before he gave a sentence that we disagree with. But he had harsh language for Cory Fleming. He had no harsh language yesterday for Alex, which was stunning to me.

[00:25:37] **Liz Farrell:** Right. Well, that's what I was just gonna say to you. And thank you for pointing that out, because I completely forgot that that was Judge Gergel who did that. That's like a different judge gurgle and we're seeing in the courtroom. But in Cory's plea hearing, according to the transcript, Judge Gergel did take a second to talk about I'm not used to having a lawyer in front of me like this, so this is a new one for me. And he made no such note about Alex, other than to say, like, I know you're familiar with the things I'm about to read you, but I'm gonna read them anyway. That's it. That's an acknowledgement that Alex was a lawyer and, you know, had stolen from clients, I guess.

[00:26:12] **Mandy Matney:** Right, and he, and I hated the way that he said that because it was like, I know you're smart too. I know that you're smart and you know what's going on here. And it was like, again, it was like he was talking to a coworker, rather than a defendant that has caused the government, society, numerous people, murdered people, he's victimized the whole frickin' world at this point in one way or another. And he's just talking to this man, like, "Oh, you're a lawyer. So you get the sentence," like, no. You were talking with one of the worst criminals in our state's history. Why aren't you more mad about this? Right. And you're right, Eric, I forgot that Judge Gergel said that too. Because again, this is the the tale of two Judge Gergels, that it's like he's a different man that we're dealing with, which makes you stopped to think like, huh, when did he flip and what's really going on there? Because...

[00:27:11] **Eric Bland:** Maybe he's mad. Maybe he's mad at what Judge Newman did last Thursday.

[00:27:15] **Mandy Matney:** He's been a different Gergel for a while now. I mean, in the, he said in a motion I, that, what what did he say? Alex Murdaugh is the least rely—or least credible witness to ever exist, or something. He just didn't act like that. He did not act like that yesterday..

[00:27:39] **Eric Bland:** He said it in an order, right? He said in an order, not emotion.

[00:27:42] **Mandy Matney:** I just can't. I don't know what's going on, but...

[00:27:46] **Eric Bland:** Maybe he'll unload, maybe he'll unload on him when it's sentencing time. I hope so. Maybe he will. Maybe he'll unload on him.

[00:27:51] **Mandy Matney:** Or that'll be a sham.



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[00:27:52] **Liz Farrell:** Right. Exactly. And if he does, that's the point, right? They want him to unload on him. They want him to give him 40 years or whatever. So it's, it's almost like the point of diminishing returns right now, you know?

[00:28:04] **Mandy Matney:** It's just all very annoying to me, because it's annoying to explain this to people. It's annoying. A lot of people at this point, just think that like, "Oh, whatever Alex says you guys are gonna think that it's a big sham, and you're gonna think that he's..."

[00:28:19] **Liz Farrell:** Proudly, by the way. Proudly. I'm proud to. I'd rather be that person.

[00:28:23] **Mandy Matney:** And he has a track record. Like, we're only, we're only...

[00:28:28] **Eric Bland:** Here's the reality, guys, let me tell you the reality. When you hire smart, good lawyers, you're hiring them to get you a result. You're not necessarily hiring them so that you have to pay a penalty for what you did. If you're a criminal, you're hiring the best defense lawyers who can navigate through the system to get you the best result possible. And that may be through your oratorical skills or your relationships, or your reputation. So Dick and Jim are trying to fashion a remedy and a result for Alex that is the best result for the table that they have in front of them. That's the reality. And they see Judge Gergel in federal court to be the panacea or the antiseptic for what's happening in state court and in front of Judge Newman. They got to get him out. Dick's done everything but say, "Get the hell out of here." He's saying you're retiring December 31st, you're, you're prejudice based on your statements, you're a witness. I mean, he ate the homework. He's trying everything in the world to get rid of Judge Newman so that he can get back to being Dick in front of another judge that may like him.

[00:29:41] **Mandy Matney:** But you know what makes me so angry about that? All of the steps that he's taking, this is not a private matter. This is victimizing South Carolina taxpayers and federal, all taxpayers in the United States government at this point. We are...

[00:29:58] **Eric Bland:** And the Satterfields over and over again. Appealing frivolous motions that they make just so that they can make the Satterfields and me spend more time and anguish and money. It's all about I can screw with you because I can.

[00:30:15] **Liz Farrell:** I thought he wanted you guys to heal. What are you talking about? Thought he wanted that.

[00:30:31] **Mandy Matney:** Heal. Where did he come up with that? Alex Murdaugh learning, using the word, I want them.

[00:30:31] **Liz Farrell:** He must be watching a lot of television in prison on his iPad.



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[00:30:34] **Mandy Matney:** And reading self help books.

[00:30:38] **Eric Bland:** How do you make it heal? How do you stand in front of a federal judge and say, "I want my victims to heal." And the biggest victim of a financial crime is the Satterfields, and yet you're appealing to get out of the judgment that you gave them supposedly in contrition for your theft. I mean, it's just talking out of your ass. Okay? It ain't even talking out of your mouth.

[00:30:57] **Liz Farrell:** The better question is, why is the government allowing it? Why is the government allowing that?

[00:31:02] **Eric Bland:** Because he said I'm gonna, I'm admitting my guilt to the conspiracy I entered in the Cory to commit insurance fraud, but I'm not admitting that Gloria Satterfield was tripped by dogs. You gotta believe me today. I'm telling the truth. She wasn't tripped by dogs. That's what he wants to maintain. And Emily didn't care and neither did Judge Gergel. Did you hear that? Did you read it in the transcript? Judge Gergel said, "That's fine with me."

[00:31:28] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And I feel like another problem with federal court and correct me if I'm wrong here, so those, and I hadn't heard a lot of those amounts, Liz, had you? That they were listening?

[00:31:39] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, some of them through sources. But we've never, I've never been able to, you know, it's sort of here and there. Like you hear about the ones that didn't have lawyers, the victims or didn't have lawyers that were just paid directly from PMPED. So that's what, I think maybe we should take that, that's notable. Because that's never really been made public, so it looks like they're trying to package that in with everything else that's been made public to get paid. So to me, it just speaks further of this being maybe a ploy also, that maybe PMPED is using this in some way, Or maybe Alex is using this in some way to get PMPED back the money that they paid for his crimes.

[00:32:21] **Mandy Matney:** It's just, all of it's just like they're trying to make it look victimless. And I didn't, with just the amounts and they don't have the person or anything about their story. And I don't know, I just feel like it's whitewashing this entire situation. And even if the federal government is finding more crimes and finding out more people were victimized, I don't have faith in them that that will become, that that'll come to light in the right way and more people will be charged. The whole point about other crimes coming out and figuring out where the money went and figuring the entire scheme out, we need more people charged besides Alex, Cory, Russell, and old cousin Eddie. Like, it's ridiculous at this point.

[00:33:09] **Eric Bland:** Oh, you mentioned a new name. We haven't talked about him in a while. I watched him this week on his new Netflix, Part Two. He was an interesting character.



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By the way, Mrs. P was there and Natasha was there too. They came all the way to see and look at Alex, and I'm telling you if looks could kill.

[00:33:27] **Mandy Matney:** I can't wait for them to speak at sentencing, because Mrs. P's words can cut deep. Yeah, she knows what she's doing there. They can cut. Yeah, I know Justin couldn't make it. He was gonna come, but last minute he couldn't. But I'm glad that the Pinckneys came. I wasn't able to see them. I did not want to go on Thursday. Like I've just felt like we've been on federal court all frickin summer with these idiots and I'm tired of it. I just got tired of driving to Charleston. I'm tired.

[00:34:06] **Eric Bland:** And they don't let you in. I mean, you're, you're a taxpayer. You have a right to be there. It should be on camera, the world should see. This is, this is where it is important that this stuff is not done in a closed room, and I shouldn't be the one to have to tell you what happened in that courtroom. That's just not right.

[00:34:28] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And the courtroom that I was in, and again, to be clear, I was in it so I could have my cell phone and my laptop and cover it live, which I think is more impactful than being able—I've done this several times in federal court proceedings where you just have a bunch of notes and you run outside and you try to tweet as much as you can, and it's not the same thing. Right? It's just not the same thing and you miss things—and I was thinking about this last night, like I'm so tired of trying to explain to people what was going on, and like why Judge Gergel seemed a little weird, and people won't believe it. People won't believe anything that I say at this point. Some people just won't, and unless they see it for themselves, and I'm really, and I'm also tired of like, all the other steps that have that we have to take for federal court, when there is a camera in that room. I saw it because the other room that I was in, that, it was streaming live to that room, and that's how I was able to get everything out. There the camera. The technology exists for them to be able to just broadcast this stuff live. There is no reason other than the federal government wants to hide their dirty deals, and that's what makes me so angry.

[00:35:48] **Liz Farrell:** That's not how it should be in this day and age at all. The people shouldn't be gathered outside the courtroom or courthouse like it's the village square waiting for the villager boy to come out with the news. You know, here ye, here ye. This is what just happened. It's not, that's not okay. And it just, all it does is breed more corruption, and then, you know, the second part of that would be, who is, who are they protecting by doing that? I don't believe it's all about just information about witnesses or what have you. I just don't. I think I think there are things that can be public, and it should make those public.

[00:36:20] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, and I mean, we looked this up a couple of weeks ago, and this law that the federal government is basing on is from the 1940s, like right after World War Two. And just pause for a second.



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[00:36:36] **Eric Bland:** No cell phones, there weren't cell phones back then. There wasn't the internet, there wasn't anything. There was Moore, Cronkite and two other channels.

[00:36:46] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And they were just starting to be able to capture things through video at that point, but it was super slow and super, like only super rich people were able to have TVs. It was a different freaking world. And the fact that we, and I think they adjusted the law maybe a little bit in the 70s and a little bit in the 90s, but like, this is what we are based in. The world has changed so much and improved in a lot of ways. And there is just no excuse and no reason whatsoever we cannot have cameras in our federal courthouse. And I'm very angry, again. Being somebody who used to look at the federal government as like, oh, the FBI, that would be the coolest thing. The people in the FBI are like the best of the best. And the people in the federal government and the federal courthouse, that's the best of our justice system. And now it just feels like they're all like the Wizard of Oz, just hiding behind a curtain and when you expose them, they're just tiny little men who aren't doing a whole lot.

[00:37:47] **Eric Bland:** What'd you think of the letter yesterday, guys? What'd think of the letter from the court of appeals to Dick yesterday that I saw today? Beth Braden sent it to me. What do you guys think about that? I see, I see some white teeth. I see white teeth on you, Liz. Tell me what you think.

[00:38:01] **Liz Farrell:** Thank you for saying that, because I haven't been bleaching my teeth in a while. I think it's, it's hilarious. It's, well, it's also, I don't know if I can take it as a good sign either that they're not like, they're on to them too. Is that normal?

[00:38:16] **Eric Bland:** Yeah there's, so there's been two hiccups so far. The AG pointed out that the initial motion asking for a new trial was defective, because Alex himself should have given an affidavit. And they said, "Look, we'll give you 10 days." The AG said, "We'll give you 10 days to refile." And then the Court of Appeals sent Dick a letter that said, "Look, you're asking the Court of Appeals to stay the appeal that you filed. You actually didn't do it right. You have to follow according to rule 240." And just so you know, in my case, this is a new fact that you guys don't know about, when they appealed Judge Price's denial of the motion to vacate the confession of judgment they didn't file that correctly, and they were told by the court of appeals that they have to do a new filing with the lower court. Because when you file with the appellate court, you've got to provide the same to the lower court. So they're three for three swinging and missing.

[00:39:08] **Liz Farrell:** Are they just not used to appealing things because they always get their way?

[00:39:12] **Eric Bland:** No, they are. They are. Jim, Jim is, Jim is good at that. And Phil Barber. The reason Dick has him is for this, but the fact of matter is it just delays it even more. Moreso



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than Dick wants it to delay because it's just a further delay has to be a new filing. And this may not turn out to be a very fast process to make a hearing on the determination of this juror interference issue, because I think Dick's gonna have to make a motion, even if it is authorized to go before the lower court. I don't think he wants Judge Newman to hear it. So he's going to make a motion to disqualify Judge Newman. That is going to be pure dynamite explosive, ladies, it's going to be explosive. And what happens when Judge Newman, who has the discretion to say, "No, I'm not going to conflict myself out," and then Dick has to do that. So this could be a very long process, even on the issue of the juror interference.

[00:40:12] **Liz Farrell:** Alright guys, want to talk about Cory now? Yeah. I mean, I shouldn't say do you want to, but we should. So, he's appealing his sentence. Eric, how does that work? How can you appeal this sentence when you fell on the sword? Yeah, when you pleaded guilty?

[00:40:33] **Eric Bland:** It's from the state court. He's obviously not appealing Judge Gergel's 46 months, he was very satisfied with that, but He's appealing the 13 years that he got from Judge Newman. And you can't, he did it knowingly, he did it voluntarily, he did it without duress. All the precautionary instructions were given. His own statement said that, you know, he did everything that was charged. He said that it was his fault. He admitted it was more than one act, and that he'll pay for it for the rest of his life. I guess what he's dissatisfied is that Judge Newman took him at his word, took him at his word that he was guilty of all 22 or 24 crimes charged, which he could have gotten 225 years, and sentenced him in 13 years. And now he's appealing it saying it is, I guess, cruel and unusual under the Eighth Amendment and too harsh. But again, he's got a better chance, a better chance of getting his law license back in prison than he does of getting this sentence reversed. It's just not going to happen. But it's going to be interesting if he does it by turning on Debbie. If he says things like, "Debbie spoke to the prosecutor," or "this was worked out in advance," and, you know, "I was forced into it," those are going to be some interesting allegations of the appeal. But if he's going strictly strictly on the harshness of the same since he's going to go nowhere with it.

[00:42:10] **Liz Farrell:** Mandy, you were one of the only ones that I know of that wasn't moved at all by Cory. I felt a little moved by him in the federal hearing when he read his little statement. And I got, you know, I could get kind of emotional at some of the things they were saying about him and I, in my head, you know, even though I think he deserves everything he's getting, there is that little moment of where you're trained to want to forgive somebody almost. But you were from the very beginning saying, no, I don't believe that he feels sorry for what he, for what he did. You were very much on Justin Bamberg's, what did he call it, the coyote who was caught in a coyote trap? So this, you were right. He just doesn't feel as sorry as he came off as.

[00:42:55] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I mean, it's, I've judged him by his actions and his inactions. And the last two years specifically, I, I really judge him from the time period from June 2021



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through November 2021. That was, that was the most crucial time period for me, because that was the time period when, if I was in Cory's shoes, and I had been hiding all of these deep, dark secrets for Alex Murdaugh for all of these years, I would have been the first one to go. I would, that that would have been the time, like it's time to fess up. All of the stuff is gonna come to light, time to go. But he didn't. He fought it. He sat back and watched. I took a lot of stuff from people. Guff. Yeah.

[00:43:52] **Eric Bland:** Personal attacks.

[00:43:55] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah. And meanwhile, Cory was just quiet. And I just think about all that time when Cory, Cory—and same with you, Eric—Cory had all sorts of time to say, “I did it. I messed up. Here's everything I know,” but he did not. And so here we are, again. He got this federal plea, he, and things didn't work out for him in federal court, and what does he do? He starts blaming everybody else again and again. And you go back to the words that he said in court, and it was, “I should be punished for what I did. I want to take responsibility for what I did.” Well, if you want to be punished, and you want to take responsibility, full responsibility, and Liz, like you pointed out yesterday, he had hundreds of years that he could have faced the his sentence. Technically, it wasn't as bad as it could have been. And yet...

[00:44:51] **Liz Farrell:** Not just technically, it was 10%. It was less than 10% of what he could have gotten.

[00:44:56] **Mandy Matney:** Right. And so, I mean, no surprise that Cory is doing this, because of course he is.

[00:45:04] **Eric Bland:** Well, I mean, I'm sure you know, the interesting part is, is Debbie now, is she going to handle that appeal? Or is she in conflict, because depending on the issues that are raised on the appeal, it may be based on her advice. And if he says that he was given bad advice, or he was not given accurate information in order for him to make a knowingly intelligent waiver so that he pled guilty to all crimes again, she may have to get out and the appeal may be after may have to be done by somebody else. You know, and again, we're back to that, who is the idiot who pleads guilty to all crimes charged? It's, it's virtually unheard of, unless you have a pre-cooked deal. Unless you have a pre-cooked deal where the prosecution and the defense agree on a sentence, you don't do it. Because you walk into a court in front of a judge who has no choice but to load you up because you're pleading guilty to 24 serious felony crimes. And, you know, it's, it's going to be interesting to see what happens with Debbie.

[00:46:16] **Liz Farrell:** So you say who would do that, and I think it's very clear the person who would do that is somebody who has been so protected by the system. And Cory only really knows a world, and the 14th circuit, where there's stories of him bragging to people about being able to get people off on murder charges. Isn't that right, Mandy? You had heard that.



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He's beloved, and he is, and not only beloved, like I mean, both hearings, there were a number of attorneys in the room from Beaufort, so it's a crowd of people who, in my opinion, you're endorsing Cory's behavior there. But what really annoys me, is my—sorry if that came through—Mike McCloskey—and I think that was his name, he was the older gentleman attorney. He was known, I believe, either him or her son, I can't remember. Actually, he, he's very close, he was very close to Randolph. I believe that that family was very close to the Murdaughs in general and helped them a lot—what bothers me is his argument to the judge was that Cory through it had thrown himself on the mercy of the court in federal court, and that Cory had said that he doesn't deserve that mercy. A, that wasn't what Cory said, by the way. He didn't say he doesn't deserve the courts mercy, he was talking about the state bar and the justice system in general, I guess. But beyond that, he did not take responsibility in the way that this guy was trying to make the argument. And I think that that a lot of the attorneys in Beaufort are actually fooled by that thinking like, Cory's taking responsibility. That's what a man does. That's what a good person does. That's what a Christian does, whatever. Whatever they wanted to make it. Look, that's what a member of the YMCA does. I don't know what their credo is there, but these people wanted to make it look like this, this guy has fallen, like you said, Eric, on the sword. But the other thing is just that Cory was an attorney who dealt with these deals all the time, right. He dealt with guilty pleas as part of—maybe not, maybe he just got the charges dropped, and maybe that was his specialty—but he should have known better. But he didn't know better because he was in the 14th circuit and he was used to being able to predict judicial behavior.

[00:48:38] **Eric Bland:** The fix. The fix.

[00:48:41] **Liz Farrell:** He was used to the fix. Yeah, so I don't know. I think, you know, what is coming out of this whole thing for me is, again, highlighting just how ridiculous our federal government has been in the situation. And they should, I don't know how they don't look at this as—it's almost like you you loan your car to your friend and you're like, what could what could go wrong? And they end up hitting somebody when they're drunk and killing somebody and don't tell you and now you're driving the criminal vehicle—the feds did a favor for a friend, or a group of friends, and now it's hitting, now it's coming back on them. The car got returned to them and it is beaten up. I don't know how they don't look at that. They got duped. And if they didn't get duped, then they're part of the problem. They're in on the conspiracy, in my opinion.

[00:49:32] **Eric Bland:** What we have to watch, and it's happening by slow accretion, and we need our army to stand up and all of us stand up, everybody is now turning on Judge Newman. When I say everybody, in their camp. Judge Newman is all the sudden now a really bad man. He's vindictive, he's, you know, he's not objective, he's got an axe to grind. Judge Newman is being now pilloried for just doing his job. What do you expect a judge to do when you walk into his courtroom and you plead guilty to 24 felonies, with each one being a 20-25 year felony? Would it be great, I guess, Cory and his camp would love it if Judge Newman



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gave him two years for that. They would love him and say he's the greatest judge in the world, but the rest of the society would say, "Judge, what are you doing?" Judge Newman has done his job. Judge Newman has given his time. Judge Newman lost a son three weeks before this murder trial, and he put on his robe, he did his job, and he did it well. And I think we need to make sure that Judge Newman doesn't become the repository for all the trash that Harpootlian wants to throw on him, and Cory, and then Russell Laffitte, Mark Moore, Todd Rutherford. We need to stand up for Judge Newman. That's what I feel.

[00:50:58] **Mandy Matney:** Here, here. Yeah, I agree. Here, here. Quick little Judge Newman story. A couple of months ago, or maybe it was a month ago, whenever he was in Kingstree, which is his hometown court, and he had a really kind of a tired old, very used judges chair, and we all noticed it on the stream. And a lot of people reached out and said, "Can we get Judge Newman a new chair?" And I reached out and was like, we all want to buy Judge Newman a new chair, can we can we do that. And she responded with like, the list of rules as to like, if the chairs over this much money, blah, blah, blah, he can accept that. So you can, they are the most like by the book people that we could ever imagine, and we need that in the law. Everything that they do is, it's by the book. Judge Newman knows the law, probably better than most people in the state of South Carolina. And he not only knows the law, but he, unlike Dick and Jim's world where everything is blurry, and they accept weird gifts, and like, they probably don't even know the rules, they just do it because they know that they could get away with it, Judge Newman actually cares. And gosh, we need more of that. We need people like him that are just able to say, these are the rules, and I do not, and I lead by example with them. What a breath of fresh air Judge Newman is. And gosh, it makes me so mad that people are trying to just completely destroy him. And for what? For the sake of Alex Murdaugh, the worst person in our state? No, absolutely not.

[00:52:42] **Eric Bland:** I get it that, I get it that everybody's entitled to their rights to appeal, and I'm certainly an advocate of that. But sooner or later, judges like Newman, judges like Judge Price, judges like Gergel—and Judge Hall, they're going to appeal him soon on the 1.8 million of money that the receivers did—sooner or later, these judges are going to say, hey, you know what, I'm really getting sick of Harpootlian, and, and, and their lawyers, whether it's Debbie or anybody else, or Mark Moore, coming into my courtroom, smiling and being all accommodating and then saying, "Yes, he knows he's waived his rights and done all this." And the minute they walk out of the court, they appeal these judges like the judges have done something wrong. All the judges are doing are accepting the guilty plea that you decided to walk in and give me the discretion to sentence you on.

I have another Cory issue that I want to talk about too, which is, I didn't realize that, that he was sitting there when Alex gave the August 10th interview. And all of a sudden the question, the questions change, and David asks him, "Did you kill your wife? Did you kill your son? Is Cory Fleming a lawyer, because any lawyer I know worth their weight in salt would have said, 'Interview over.'"



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[00:54:10] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's the weird thing, Eric. So at the beginning of the interview, Cory comes in with his like guns out and he's just like, I'm going to tell you what this is going to be. This is not going to be this. It's going to be this. We're here for just information. We're not here for, you know. And so he came in strong, even though he was wearing this jacket that made him look like he sells vacuum cleaners door to door. He came in cocky and with confidence. But then slowly during the interview, you can see him sort of, it's almost like there was a moment, I mean, maybe we're making this up and putting this on him, but there really did seem to be a moment where Cory started to like realize like, oh my God, my friend might have done this. So he's not as, it's almost like he's stunned.

[00:54:51] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, and he wasn't lawyering at that point. It looked like he stopped lawyering.

[00:54:55] **Liz Farrell:** No, absolutely. Absolutely.

[00:54:59] **Mandy Matney:** I think what was going on there is, not only my friend killed him, but he didn't get away with it, and now all of my, all of my dirty deeds are gonna come out to light. I think that that's what was going through his head, and that's why he was acting like that.

[00:55:12] **Eric Bland:** Because he was stymied. He got stymied, you know?

[00:55:15] **Mandy Matney:** And everybody thinks for themselves in a situation like that, like if the walls are, if the walls are coming down, you're probably not going to be a lawyer in that situation. You're probably going to, your criminal mind's gonna flip on and like, I gotta protect all my dirty deeds. Oh, shit, Alex might not get out of this giant mess, finally. And I think that that's what happened. I think, and again, that video, I've watched that video way too many times at this point. But it's again, it's a video that shows the real Cory Fleming, not the Cory Fleming that's presented in a nice little package in front of the YMCA and in front of his church-going buddies and all those guys. That is the real Cory Fleming and that is, again, why I have a hard time feeling sorry for him. I have thought about this a lot. If I was in his position, a best buddy of mine is in Alex Murdaugh's position, which they wouldn't be, but just trying to think of it, and the way that he was acting toward the cops, it was just so, it was beyond like, I'm being a good lawyer for my friend. It was I am, I have so much attitude, I'm better than you. Who do you guys think you are trying to come in here and look at Alex Murdaugh like this? It's a, it's again, it's a big part of their problem, a little book plug. But like, the title of my book is called Blood on Their Hands, and it's because of a scene with Cory in it. Cory has blood on his hands he has had this entire time. We cannot, the Murdaugh saga would not have gone on as long as it did without helpers like Cory Fleming, and Cory Fleming has played such a huge role. And we all have to understand that and we all have to just be able to



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take, and I know it's hard, I was sitting in that courtroom to like, with all the sniffing women around me like it was a funeral...

[00:57:25] **Liz Farrell:** Women is the key word there, by the way. Cory is quite the catch, ladies. I don't understand. I mean, it's, it's bizarre.

[00:57:34] **Mandy Matney:** It's all these sniffing single women. And I was like, what is going on here? Why are we getting married? Yes, and married, but not with their husbands.

[00:57:45] **Eric Bland:** Getting back to what we were talking about, I have seen things throughout this case that you never see. They will never teach you this in law school, or if you were in the CLE for criminal law, they would never teach you. Like, don't let your client sit down with the police three different times when you know or should know he's going to be the number one suspect. Don't walk your clients into a straight up guilty plea without any preconceived agreement. And the only answer I have is it's not that they have bad lawyers, it's that they just thought they're dealing with Alex Murdaugh, and the system, it's going to all work out at the fix, whatever you want to call it. But you're seeing decisions over and over again that you never see. You never would see somebody sit down with the police like Alex did. And he's going to walk, you know, your client's gonna walk himself into a murder charge. And it happens every day when you talk.

[00:58:45] **Liz Farrell:** Not Alex Murdaugh though, that's the thing. Not him. And I keep thinking back to what you said, Mandy, a while ago, or maybe it was just a week ago, I don't even remember. But when you likened, you know, Judge Newman made the comment that I have sentenced people for stealing cars, and you were like, well, how many cars could Alex and Cory have bought with the money they stole, and I think we have to keep returning to that point. Because I don't think, when people are excusing Cory's behavior, and even Alex to a certain extent, like, oh well, he feels bad about his mistake, it was money, you know, as if it's not damaging and all that, and we talk about that all the time. But when you look at it in terms of a single car being stolen and the ramifications for that versus an entire car lot being stolen, why is that not, like why are we apologizing for these people? And I get it. You know a person under a certain context, you're going to only think of them in that context and it's very difficult for you to imagine them doing terrible things. But I also don't think that they really do look at that as a terrible thing. I honestly don't. I don't think the people that came and spoke for Cory even see that as as bad as it is.

[00:59:55] **Mandy Matney:** Right, and like, when we think of cars being stolen, and you look at a lot of those crimes, a lot of people literally steal cars because they need the money. David's looking. I mean, I'm not saying it's an excuse for anything, but I'm saying that like a lot of crimes are done because people are so desperate in very, very desperate situations, they were not born into the privilege and power that Cory and Alex were. And that's what makes these crimes so different. It is not, it was stealing for fun. It was like, whatever, whatever the big



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scheme of their crime doesn't really matter. At the end of the day, they did not have, they did not have to do this, and we all know that. And they had, those guys had a million different routes in life that they could have chosen that would have been much better and a lot cushier than most of the rest of us even have the option, even can think of having a life like that, but they still chose this. So again, zero sympathy for Cory. And back to your point, Eric, when we talk about like all of the different, all of the "Oh, my God, what kind of lawyering is this," I think it's just summed up in the audacity of these guys. They still think that they can do all of these things. They still think that they're gonna get the deals, they still think that they can outsmart the police, they still think that they can get out of all these messes, messes. Alex Murdaugh thought that he could kill his wife and sons so he could get out of financial crimes and financial problems. Like that's also crazy. The audacity. And it all comes with privilege. It's crazy.

[01:01:37] **Eric Bland:** Well said.

[01:01:38] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, it really, it's beyond crazy. And I do want to point out though, we talked about this on the show. We knew Cory was going to do this. We knew he was going to appeal his sentence, even though it's a plea deal. And that said, I mean, we talk about it like they still think that they can get away with this Mandy, but the truth is, they might still get away with it. And I want to be clear that this is not over because Cory's filing this appeal, this is? years down the road when he is deep into his federal sentence and perhaps even past it, right I mean, this could, this appeal could take up to six years. Isn't that right, Eric?

[01:02:13] **Eric Bland:** Sure. I mean, he hasn't even started serving as federal time. He's still in Charleston, he hasn't even reported to federal time yet. And an appeal, there's no, you, the Court of Appeals has to take it, they have to act on it, there's no time period for them to do that. I just had a very important monumental decision rendered in favor of one of my clients, and the Court of Appeals took two and a half years to write their opinion after the oral arguments. And again, whoever wins, there's a loser. The loser will appeal. If it goes up and then changes, then that person will keep appealing. So these are, these are going to trail on in Cory's sentence for the next 6, 7, 8 years. And they're worthless appeals.

[01:02:59] **Liz Farrell:** Well, that's maybe. Maybe, because here's the thing, do you think can you see yourself, Eric, in eight years sitting here paying attention to Cory Fleming? I mean, we're going to have to, but the truth of the matter is, is that there, they just have to wait us out. They have to wait out the public.

[01:03:16] **Eric Bland:** Right. Once it gets dark, the devil works in the dark, Liz. The devil works in the dark. devil works

[01:03:22] **Liz Farrell:** Devil works in the dark. So let's not pretend that that Cory's, first of all, I mean, it's not going to serve anywhere near 13 years and 10 months, let's be totally honest



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about that. But even 10 years, let's say it goes down to eight years, no one's paying attention when Cory Fleming—I mean, we're gonna get we're both gonna get emails like, "I saw Cory at the Y today." And you know, then we're going to find out I guess, but it's just not. It's the same, like look at what Russell keeps doing.

[01:03:51] **Eric Bland:** Guys, if we're here in eight years talking like we are now, then we have knocked it out of the park. We've done something amazing.

[01:04:00] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know about that. I see myself with babies in eight years, in a nice park in Vermont making jam.

[01:04:15] **Eric Bland:** Guys, you're keeping me young. You can't abandon me.

[01:04:19] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, no. Eric, honestly, like the idea that we're still going to be having a talk about these people in eight years is really, leaves a pit in my stomach.

[01:04:31] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, I mean, well with this entire thing, and with my reaction yesterday when I saw that he was appealing, it reminds me of that meme with Ben Affleck—and I'm not a cigarette smoker—but you guys know when he's like taking that long drag, and he's like, if you know what I'm talking about?

[01:05:53] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, I know exactly what you're talking about.

[01:04:54] **Mandy Matney:** It's just like that phase, just like so, just over it. That's how I felt yesterday. It was just like God, not again. Like, here we go. And it's it's all expected, but it's also very frustrating.

[01:05:17] **Liz Farrell:** Can you just talk a little bit about CrimeCon, because that's the thing that's happening right in the moment. And I were to start with that one, but...

[01:05:27] **Mandy Matney:** Okay, so there's like breakout sessions with different podcasters, prosecutors, people in true crime. There's about, I think they sell about 6000 tickets. It's in a pretty big—5000 tickets—it's in a pretty big complex in Orlando, Florida this year. I think last year it was in Vegas, or maybe two years ago it was in Vegas. It is, a lot of our fans are there. I mean, I've been getting texts and messages all weekend from people singing, spotting Dick Harpootlian, Jim Griffin, Joe McCulloch. This is important, Creighton Waters, Creighton Waters was the opening act. He was the, him and his band played like the welcoming party, and he absolutely shredded it on his guitar. I've been getting those videos all weekend. That has been fun. It's just, it's a thing for true crime fanatics. And we were invited earlier this year, but like we had a lot going on this September, and honestly, I've been thinking about it this weekend, and I have had a nice, very chill, relaxed weekend, and I'm really glad that we didn't do that this year, especially with all of the like, kind of drama that's going on.



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[01:06:55] **Eric Bland:** It would have been uncomfortable for all three of us to be there and walk into a room. We wouldn't have appeared on the same panel as other people and it just would have been awkward, so.

[01:07:05] **Liz Farrell:** It would not have. Those people do not deserve that. I would not feel awkward at all with Jim and Dick. They should feel awkward.

[01:07:13] **Eric Bland:** Right, but I'm just saying, it just would have been, it would have been tense and not, not fun. And I think, Mandy, you made a good decision for all of us. That's my opinion.

[01:07:22] **Liz Farrell:** I'm just not a true crime fan. So for me, it's, and I don't know if this is probably shocking to people, but I'm not a true crime fan. I'm a fan of getting justice for people, I'm a fan of pointing out corruption, and I'm a fan of making it difficult for people when they want to do corruption. I want them to think about their corruption in terms of, what if a podcast was made of me and everybody found out. So that's my, my whole thing. I just can't, I don't know. It's never been for me. I have too much frickin' trauma from covering crime for so long, so.

[01:07:54] **Eric Bland:** I'm just a hothead. And I know that if Dick made a smart aleck comment to me that I probably do something that would get me, get me reported to the bar, or I'd start a fight. And it's just, it was...

[01:08:07] **Mandy Matney:** Fight at CrimeCon.

[01:08:10] **Eric Bland:** It was the best, you made the decision that we don't go, Mandy, so I'm happy.

[01:08:15] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, but a couple things from CrimeCon. I saw some guy was saying that he interviewed Dick Harpootlian for his new book. I guess he's got a book about Pee Wee Gaskins coming out, which is really funny considering how much he's shaming other people for having books right now. But anyways, this man said, Dick Harpootlian is a genuinely nice guy, and I had a problem with that. And I don't know, there's not a lot of pictures of people like fanning all over Dick or anything, but the few that I've seen are like, "Oh, he's a lot nicer in person than," and it's like, is he? Or is he just being nice to you because...

[01:09:04] **Eric Bland:** He's not. Nobody ever said Dick's nice. He's a good friend to his friends. But, and, you know, I'm not cutting him down, but that's never a comment that I've ever heard, that he's really a nice guy that would go out of his way to help you. That's not who Dick is. He's, he's, you know, he's a serious, intentionally selfish guy who has a small orbit of friends



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And he's very good friends to those friends in his orbit, but attributing him being nice is not something that I've ever heard anybody say, honestly.

[01:09:35] **Liz Farrell:** If he were nice, he would have chosen a different nickname. There's a lot of them for Richard, he didn't have to go with that one.

[01:09:44] **Mandy Matney:** But yeah, I'm excited. There was a little bit of like, fighting and chatter on Twitter about, I guess, about the size of Jim Griffin and Sarah, whatever her name is. They had a panel and I guess they claimed that it was, they had a crowd larger than Nancy Grace, and then people were showing pictures that like, no, Nancy Grace had way more than you guys did. Yeah, it's just a, I'm disappointed that they had them, but I'm not surprised. Because it's, you know, it's, if it bleeds it leads, or whatever.

[01:10:20] **Eric Bland:** Was it only really a Murdaugh CrimeCon or was it broader than that?

[01:10:25] **Mandy Matney:** No, I want to say Gabby Petito's family was there. There was a, a bunch of people that I know. This, this woman who I met a couple of weeks ago, Tara Newell, she was there like, there was a lot of really good people over there. But I think they focus a lot on Murdaugh because it was the biggest crime event of the year. So with Murdaugh, they had Creighton Waters, Kenny Kinsey, Jim, Dick...

[01:10:55] **Eric Bland:** He must of been fun. He's fun to listen to, because I talk to him all the time and he's a stitch on the phone. I mean, he has me in stitches, so I can only imagine. Kenny, he's so, he's so fun to listen to.

[01:11:08] **Liz Farrell:** Oh, I thought you meant Creighton. I was like, "What?"

[01:11:11] **Eric Bland:** Creighton's getting a little bit looser, but that's who he is. He's a, he's a serious guy.

[01:11:15] **Mandy Matney:** Nancy Grace said that he was tight lipped about the case. I was like, "Yeah, that's Creighton." And he's very, but he's, he's like Judge Newman, he's very by the books. A lot of people assumed that like we were talking to Creighton, Liz and I were talking to Creighton throughout the trial and stuff, and we were like, no, literally, the first time that we had ever communicated him, with him, was after the trial.

[01:11:37] **Liz Farrell:** No, during the trial for me. I've met him in the courtroom. Yeah, he was like, "I should probably introduce myself, huh?" And I was like, "Yeah!" And I said to him, I said my name and he's like, "Oh, I know who you are." And so it felt like I was meeting a really famous person to be honest with you, but also, at the end of the day, it's so nice to see heroes get their come up. Because, you know, I don't think that people might understand just how much Creighton, how much guff, as we were saying earlier, Creighton has gotten from not



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just people in the state of South Carolina, but people in his own office. You know, wasn't always kind. There was a lot of backstabbing and all of that too. People see Creighton as being, like you said, like tightly wound and controlling or micromanaging or what have you. And hey, look, it works. Whatever, whatever Creighton is and was, it works. So, and, and I think it's done with integrity, so that's the other, the other thing.

[01:12:41] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, right. And I think I was just really happy to see, I mean, I'll send you guys a couple of videos that I've seen from over the weekend, but he was having the time of his life playing the guitar, and I guess they introduced him as the man who put that POS Alex Murdaugh away. And the crowd went, "Woo!" And he was just like, he was a rock star with his band. And I mean, for Creighton, a guy, right? He deserves that minute. He and I, I loved also the there's young lawyers across the country looking at Creighton Waters and being like, "Man, I'll be a prosecutor like that guy and I'll take the bad guys down."

[01:13:25] **Eric Bland:** That's right. We need, we need people to say, you know what, I'll sacrifice my money or financial well being for a couple years or five years. I'm gonna go work for the man. You know, not everybody aspires to work for the man and it's a pretty cool thing when you see Creighton do his dizzle. I mean, it's really impressive. That's why I say he's six foot three right now.

[01:13:48] **Mandy Matney:** Right? I mean, if he was six, you should see him on the concert stage. He is like seven foot. He was like, on top of the world.

[01:13:57] **Eric Bland:** He does Pete Townsend. He does his Pete Townsend kicks. He does Pete Townsend kicks when he's going across the stage. It's so cool.

[01:14:04] **Liz Farrell:** He does kicks when he is playing a guitar?

[01:14:08] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, but yeah, I mean good. So good and bad things from CrimeCon. Like I'm really glad to see Kenny Kinsey and Creighton be celebrated, and I can't wait to see more about, I heard the Q&A went off the rails with Dick and Jim, and somebody asked, how do you sleep at night?

[01:14:28] **Eric Bland:** Yikes. Yikes.

[01:14:30] **Mandy Matney:** So you know, maybe it all, I think it all worked out and I think everything worked in our favor. We all had a nice relaxing weekend. CrimeCon sounded like Creighton and Kenny Kinsey got their time in the spotlight and that's great. Excellent. And I heard that Creighton Waters had like the biggest crowd of pretty much anyone there, so that's awesome.



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[01:14:53] **Liz Farrell:** I do want to take issue though, the state newspaper obviously sent a reporter down there and they wrote about it, and he described the crime of killing Maggie and Paul as the still mysterious murders of Maggie and Paul. And I don't know how that is allowed.

[01:15:10] **Eric Bland:** Well, jurors didn't think so. 12 jurors didn't think it was mysterious.

[01:15:14] **Liz Farrell:** He's been adjudicated. Yeah, he's been adjudicated, I don't understand. Still mysterious? What's, I guess the mystery of why, but I mean, we know why, it just didn't work out that way for him. But anyway, I just, I wish reporters would think before they write that stuff, because that really bothered me.

[01:15:29] **Mandy Matney:** I mean, I just want to say this, like, all along reporters have been really, trying really hard to make the murders of Maggie, Maggie and Paul, like this giant whodunnit. And it was never that for us and telling the story. For us, it was like, obviously, it's within the family and it's something to do with Alex, the question is, why? And will he get away with it? Those were our questions and our way of, and because we knew so much more about what was going on, but all of these national and local reporters this entire time, just made that the biggest mystery in South Carolina. You know what's a bigger mystery? Stephen Smith, Gloria Satterfield's death, I'll even throw in Hakeem Pinckney. That's still a mystery. Let's talk about those mysteries.

[01:16:18] **Eric Bland:** Ellen Greenberg in Philadelphia, right? Ellen Greenberg, that's who. I mean, 33 stabs with a 12 inch knife, and she did suicide? Come on. I mean, that's the mystery to me.

[01:16:31] **Mandy Matney:** Right. That's a mystery. That's a whodunnit. Maggie and Paul is not a whodunnit. It is Alex did it, he was convicted of doing it. So shame on reporters, and I think that's a good segue to Netflix, because I thought Netflix kind of like ended on this, "Oh, this is a big mystery. And could it be the Cartel," and I think that that's just a cheap way of presenting this story.

[01:16:55] **Eric Bland:** Mandy, what you're seeing is reporters, and these new stations, and these documentaries, are starting to plant the seed. Yes, Alex was there, Alex may have orchestrated, but there was a second shooter. Who's he protecting? And so we're starting to water down the conviction, not me and you, but I'm seeing the conviction getting watered down to, well, was there somebody else? Who's he protecting? It's all of a sudden starting to swing, swing in Alex's benefit and favor. Are you guys seeing that, or is that just me?

[01:17:32] **Liz Farrell:** I just feel like it's attempts that we're seeing. I don't know that we're actually seeing people believe that. I think we're seeing people who want to stay relevant in this context, who want to maybe play that up a little bit more than it should be.



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[01:17:45] **Mandy Matney:** But I think the media is playing into it. Absolutely. I think that when you really dissect all of the moves from the defense in the last month, starting with the Fox News documentary, we've seen just move after move by the defense and headline after headline just going in their favor and planting that seed of it's a big mystery, and what if he didn't do it? And what if the whole trial was a sham? And what if they were all out after? I mean, I don't think we can underestimate that, and also just underestimate the headlines. Having my background on news and working in news as long as I did, I really pay attention to how journalists and news companies present to, present stories. And you also have to consider that a lot of people, especially on new sites with paywalls, don't read stories. They just read headlines. And that game has been won by the defense throughout this entire case. If you look, if you look at all, if you look at all the headlines they are so in favor the defense and so legitimizing just the absurdity that the defense does. If I was a newspaper writer at this point, my headlines would say things like, "Defense with no credibility. Claim this."

[01:19:15] **Eric Bland:** Where does Cory Fleming get off filing an appeal so quickly? Did he have buyer's remorse within seven days? Where did that statement of contrition go? How quickly did he rip it up and say, "Screw this?" You know what I'm saying? When is somebody going to say how ridiculous his appeal is?

[01:19:34] **Liz Farrell:** What bothers me is that they act like they're being objective and their approach and it's like, you're not being objective, because objective would mean that you're looking at it from the point of no opinion, and your opinion is that these people deserve equal credit or equal billing or something like that. So the objectivity is just, it's, and I'm not objective, to be clear. I'm not saying that I am. It's just, and I've never pretended to be, but...

[01:20:00] **Eric Bland:** What'd you think of the Netflix special, guys? What'd you think of it?

[01:20:04] **Liz Farrell:** I don't even know. It was fine. It was interesting to watch some of the people on there. I want to say, you know, I was delighted by seeing Blanca with her pistol on her hip. Thought that was a nice touch.

[01:20:20] **Eric Bland:** She looked good. She came, she came across well. She, Miss Shelley came over well.

[01:20:26] **Liz Farrell:** Miss Shelley looked great. Yeah, it was, I think there was some, so there's some more insight there that we should probably talk about.

[01:20:31] **Eric Bland:** Do you think that them focusing on Becky Hill was intentional, that they knew that this was in the works? Like, so she was like front and center, and now with their motion, it almost makes it look like wow, she really is somebody who was taking on too much of a role. What were your thoughts about that?



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[01:20:50] **Mandy Matney:** So David made a really good point as we were watching it, and it is very funny. There is, there is a Tiktok that was like, just started to watch the Netflix documentary and look who's front and center at the very ,at the first two seconds, it's Becky Hill and her dog. And it's like, oh, that does not look good for Becky Hill. But David made a really good point in the fact that like most of it focused on the trial and trial coverage and what came out of the trial, right? But it was very weird that they skipped over the whole juror being ejected at the very end. They didn't talk about any of that, and that was like one of the most crucial moments of the trial. And now it's absolutely one of the most crucial moments and the most relevant moments of the trial right now. And I think that that just kind of speaks to how documentaries just don't do things quickly and they don't really adapt. And I think the whole Becky Hill thing was just like, just happened. They happened to have Becky Hill footage and they put that at the beginning. I think that that was funny. But they, I wish that they would have focused a little bit more on like what was going on with the egg juror and all that other stuff, because that's a lot more relevant now, because we're six months out from the trial. And my biggest criticism from it was, and I read this online, was just they, they didn't really focus on the corruption and the real issues that could have, that they could have used their platform to do good with. Which is focusing on the corruption, focusing on the judges who are involved, focusing on just all of the other stuff. There's a million crazy spider webs with the story that have been exposed, and spending so much time on, did Alex really do it, is just very exhausting and frustrating to me. And...

[01:22:43] **Eric Bland:** If anybody's going to romanticize the Muddaugh's, that, that was bone chilling when Miss Maggie talked about Randolph doing an obituary for his wife, when she said that she was going to leave him. If anybody wants to romanticize these people and say they're really good people and, you know, they're getting a railroad, that tells you the character of that, of that, of those people. This is the tree that Randolph, you know, made. He made his children and they watched him act in a certain way. If my dad put an obituary in a newspaper about my mother and she was alive, I would cut his head off. End of story. It's not a joke. It's not funny. It's deadly serious, and almost a crime. How do you like that?

[01:23:35] **Mandy Matney:** But do you know what else is a crime though? When you look, and I've spent a lot of time looking at how the Murdaugh's were covered in South Carolina newspapers, and what's a crime is how they glorified Randolph Murdaugh as just this legend, legal legend. Like every time he was mentioned, they mentioned like the great and powerful Randolph Murdaugh. They added like all of these, they never were critical toward him ever. And again, I knew about that obituary very early on in my Murdaugh reporting. I want to say in 2021 a couple people mentioned it to me. It's scary, yeah. But I mean, it doesn't, that's how they treated women in their family. That's how they treat people who are not helping them and are not doing what they should be doing for the family. That, it's of zero shock to me.

[01:24:33] **Eric Bland:** Liz? Not a shock to you?



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[01:24:35] **Liz Farrell:** No, it's not a shock. That story was known. People in Hampton county knew about that. We've reported on it. Yeah, every, I mean every, and it's also not clear that it was Randolph who did it. The other thread is that it was Buster, Big Buster, who had done it because he had gotten wind that Miss Libby was going to leave Randolph for another man or was having an affair with another man or something like that. But no, it's not shocking at all. And as to the coverage, the coverage was very laudatory. But again, like you look at most of the coverage in South Carolina, it's always abhorrent. Like, the farther you go back in history, it does not look good for women and people of color, honestly. But they, it was, you look at the names of the reporters and they're writing about people who look like them and who act like them and they're, they're impressed by them. In Beaufort County...

[01:25:23] **Mandy Matney:** And probably treat their wives like that too. Yeah, that was just my point that I wanted to make really quick the, um, it's not surprising how they glorified Randolph in that way, but it's just, it's just very sad to me that you know that the same reporters who talked about Randolph like the big legal legend and everything, you know that they have heard those same stories about how he treated Libby, and how he cheated on her and all these other. You know that they've heard all the same background that we have, and yet they chose to glorify him in that way, and they chose to put him up on that pedestal in that way. And I think that that's just sick and shows of how they treated women, people of color, people without money, etc, etc.

[01:26:08] **Liz Farrell:** People found Randolph to be hilarious. But also, you know, you're in a courtroom, and you see him do his dizzle, and he was really good at it when he was good. But what he was also good at is who he didn't bring into the courtroom. And that was frustrating to people too, but I think they just get, you just get so overwhelmed by the power and it becomes so normalized that I think maybe it just didn't, maybe it didn't scare people just because of that, because it was so normalized. But one thing I just want to make clear, though, when we're talking about the Netflix documentary, and this whole idea of people talking that you know, maybe Alex had help, or what, whatnot, that a lot of that might be resting on the fact that Blanca did not want to answer that question. And of course, that looks like she knows something. And maybe she does, but the truth is that fear that you saw there, and that hesitation, that's what kept them and keeps them in check and power, right? So she didn't want to answer that question. She looked terrified. The truth is, the rumors that, when you say these people help them, it's not—and I don't know if this is what Blanca was referring to—but it's not that people in the 14th think that Alex had somebody there shooting Maggie and Paul with him, it's that they believe that people helped him clean it up afterward. And that they helped hide the weapons, they did some driving around, that kind of thing. So it's not clear what she was answering, and I think that Netflix was probably irresponsible in how they used that, but I'm sure it was just too good to not use it.



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[01:27:44] **Eric Bland:** What I got from Blanca was she was almost an equal in that family with Maggie and Alex. She, yes, she worked for them, but she was not subordinate. And she was a true confidant of Maggie. The fact that Maggie would call her late at night, and you know, 12:30 in the morning on that one phone call, told me that Maggie was so alone. I got the feeling that Maggie was so alone, and that Blanca was all she had. Blanca knows family secrets. There's no question about it. I thought Miss Gloria knew them, but Blanca knows, I think much, much more than Miss Gloria knew.

[01:28:26] **Liz Farrell:** I want to be clear, she was a subordinate. And I know that she might not have felt that way, she might have felt like a part of the family, but that's how they made you feel. That is not how they think, though. So in their mind, Blanca is a paid employee that has to keep their secrets, and it is a power differential that maybe Blanca wouldn't, isn't, you know, maybe people in that position don't necessarily see it. But there were moments during her interview where I saw it, where it was very clear that power differential. Maggie can tell her her secrets because she's that secure in knowing that to talk about the Murdaughs out of turn is not going to end well for you. So that's where that trust comes into play.

[01:29:05] **Mandy Matney:** And I know, I know a lot of, I've known a lot of rich women who talk to their employees in that way—and they are extremely lonely—because they know that their employees have to talk to them. And they know that their employees feel obligated to answer the phone when they call and they also know the the employees are obligated to keep their secrets in the way that other rich ladies they don't trust, and other rich ladies they really aren't close with, and probably won't answer the phone with them for nights.

[01:29:39] **Eric Bland:** I didn't grow up with a house, with a, you know, a housekeeper or a cook or a maid or anything like that. You know, we had to cook, we had to clean, we just didn't have the money for that kind of lifestyle. So it's so foreign to me. I don't have it now. You know, I don't understand that lifestyle.

[01:29:55] **Mandy Matney:** And I mean, it also seemed very just respectful. Just a few of the things that we've heard about the Murdaughs and how they operated like, the fact that they would leave all the food on the table every single night. Blanca said that during the trial, and so they would, they would eat dinner and then just leave everything and wait until the morning for Blanca to calm and clean everything up. They wouldn't put leftovers away. They wouldn't.

[01:30:27] **Eric Bland:** That's so gross.

[01:30:28] **Liz Farrell:** It is gross, but also they're paying for it. That's what they're paying for. I mean, that didn't shock me. I mean...



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[01:30:35] **Eric Bland:** But the fact that you sleep with, with a pot of baked beans on your, you know, cold beans on your stove.

[01:30:40] **Liz Farrell:** I wouldn't do that, no.

[01:30:43] **Eric Bland:** What would your mother have done, Mandy? What would your mother have...

[01:30:44] **Mandy Matney:** Well, my mother was, my mom was horrified when she watched the whole trial. And there is only a few texts from my mom that was like, she was extremely outraged and angry. And that was one moment that was like, they leave their food out all night? And for, how dare them. That is disgusting. And my mom was just very upset by that.

[01:31:09] **Liz Farrell:** But can we also talk about how it shows that they obviously couldn't afford full time help. Not trying to be mean, but like, obviously they couldn't afford to have somebody get like a nightshift. You know, but their lifestyle, they never really were in one place, so.

[01:31:24] **Mandy Matney:** But if you can't afford that, just like, it doesn't kill you to just pick up, just put some food in the refrigerator, and just at least make it not gross. Like that is gross. That is a gross mess to leave. And when like you leave stuff all night long, it gets all, way worse to deal with.

[01:31:45] **Eric Bland:** Yeah, how do you clean the pan? Oh, she'll clean it, she'll clean it. It's no big deal.

[01:31:48] **Liz Farrell:** Let's talk about another big, another big mess that the Netflix documentary sort of ended on was Curtis Eddie Smith and the insinuation that he killed Maggie and Paul with Alex or helped him in some way. I obviously don't believe we're getting the full story from that guy, but I don't know what he has to lose at this point, either. Maybe I'm mistaken or naive to believe that since Alex is behind bars, he shouldn't worry so much.

[01:32:23] **Eric Bland:** Well, he should. He's got, he's got criminal charges against him. He's supposedly cooperating, but we don't know if they're happy with his cooperation. Again, that's bad lawyering. If your clients got those kinds of criminal charges, you do not let him sit down and do a television interview. Because guys, there was a lot of outtakes that we didn't see, and they're going to subpoena for all these statements. I mean, you still have to be a lawyer. I get it, this is sensationalism, but there has to be lawyering going on here.

[01:32:52] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah. And, but the thing I wanted to point out, though, is that what we saw was another pattern emerging, which we knew existed, but we remember how he, Alex, mentioned to Miss Shelley that, you know, you like your job at the school, and now we're



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hearing from Eddie Smith that that tactic was used against him too. Obviously it's hard to know if this is something he picked up during trial and is now using for his own benefit or if that is actually something that happened, but that entrapment or that, I guess not using it in the legal sense, but like being feeling trapped by the Murdaughs, the thing that struck me the most was when Eddie said, "He never outright threatened me, but I knew what he meant." Right? That is the psychological thin little hair line between, and where Alex has existed his entire adult life. He never says the thing, you know? But it's always implied and it's known exactly and understood exactly what he means.

[01:33:56] **Eric Bland:** It's like the mafia who says, You know, I'm really getting tired of Jimmy down there running his mouth on the street corner. You know, Jerry? I'm really getting tired of Jimmy." That's all I have to say.

[01:34:07] **Mandy Matney:** Eddie said this. Also, he said that Alex kind of threatened his daughter's job at MUSC. She worked at the hospital in Charleston. And the way that he said it reminded me of so many other things that we have caught Alex in and how he threatens people. It's not, I'm going to kill your daughter. It's huh. Your daughter works down at MUSC, right? And huh, I got some buddies down there. And it's not, and it's the way that they all do business, not just Alex. Dick Harpootlian too. And...

[01:34:40] **Eric Bland:** They did it with Miss Shelley. They said, "Don't you want to raise? Isn't your daughter getting married?" You remember that at trial?

[01:34:47] **Mandy Matney:** And you work at the school district and your other job. And yeah, and that's exactly what we've heard time and time again. And so like, that part from Eddie, I totally believed him. I think he's in trouble and I also think this is interesting, and I need to make some calls on this next week, Eddie hasn't been a part of like the schedule, the Murdaugh scheduling hearings recently, and so I wonder, his case is a mess. It's very, very messy for both sides. It's messy for the state because a lot of the initial charges had to do with Alex Murdaugh, with what Alex Murdaugh had to say, and we all know that he's not credible by any means. But on the other sense, Eddie could, Eddie obviously did some very wrong things for the Murdaughs and including checks and everything. I'm just interested in the roadside shooting incident if we're ever going to find out, did he slip on rocks and cut his head or was, did a gun actually go off? And I don't know if we'll ever find that out. Before we have to go. Another thing I wanted to talk about today, which is another crazy thing that came out is the, what are we calling it? The egg juror video? The video of Dick Harpootlian trying to get an affidavit from a woman in Colleton County. And I think that that is another example of how Dick Harpootlian operates. It's not a horrifying video of him picking up somebody against the wall and saying, "Sign this affidavit or we're coming to get you." He's very, very slick about what he does. He's very choosy about his words. And I don't think that video is a bombshell by any means, but I think it just shows exactly how he operates and how he was getting those affidavits. What did you guys think?



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[01:36:36] **Eric Bland:** I think it, I think it shows that it had nothing to do with the Facebook, maybe that Judge Newman made a decision, that she was chattering it up with a lot of different people about the trial and he was uncomfortable about that. And I think you're gonna see the state's gonna argue that Newman made his decision separate, apart from any Facebook post, did it exist, did it not exist. And you know, how did that video get released? Was that attached to the motion?

[01:37:06] **Liz Farrell:** No, sure wasn't.

[01:37:08] **Mandy Matney:** It was leaked somehow.

[01:37:10] **Liz Farrell:** It was leaked, but we don't know from who? I think there were only—how do I say it—there's only a few people who had that video. So we were one of them, and we didn't do anything with it, because we didn't think that would help. Meaning we, it's not our, we care more about the case. And we just didn't, we didn't publish it, because it didn't seem like it was anything new. We knew that. We already knew that the Facebook wasn't, the Facebook post wasn't the reason for this jurors dismissal. He doesn't seem to force this woman to sign an affidavit. He looks, you know, just like Dick. I mean, his tactics aren't exactly, they're very slick. And one of the things he did in it was he asked the woman, “Did the egg juror say he was not guilty, or did she say not proven?” That the state had not proven its case. So he was trying to like, come up with the wording and put it in her head maybe a little bit. My main thing though with all of this, let's just say that it was leaked from team Murdaugh, and the reason would be is because people get very easily diverted by certain things. And one of them is that they asked this woman if Judge Newman contacted her, if Becky Hill contacted her, if Becky Hill told her to do it, if SLED came and interviewed her. Now I see chatter online talking, his answer to those overall, no. So then it becomes, oh my god, SLED didn't. Look at SLED not doing their job again. They just made this decision haphazardly and didn't even check it out. This woman isn't the one who heard that egg juror say anything, so she's not a witness to the act. SLED went to the people who witnessed the act, not the person who heard about it. So it would have been useless anyway for SLED to have interviewed her, but we knew. I mean, I knew when I watched that video. I was like this is, the public is going to think immediately that this is this, oh, look at SLED not doing its job. And that must mean that this is a conspiracy and blah, blah blah. This woman did not hear the egg juror say anything. That's not what she was doing. She heard a coworker talking about how the egg juror was saying the Alex wasn't guilty and she did the right thing by talking to Judge Newman, or emailing him. So I just, the whole video frustrates me for that reason. It's just another, yes, I see that reporters are saying like, “Good. Oh, it shows that the Facebook thing wasn't the only thing,” and it's like, we knew that. In the hearing, Judge Newman said, “I'm not dismissing you because of that, I'm dismissing you because of these three individuals that you spoke with, and two of them we have affidavits saying that you said this stuff.” So that's why he dismissed her, and he had no choice. He said, “I told you guys every single day



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several times a day not to speak about this case outside the courtroom. And because you violated that order, I have to let you go. You seemed like you were a good juror, you were very engaged," you know, "Sorry to let you go. But I have to do it, because I told you. I warned you every day." Was I fired up? I'm sorry.

[01:40:16] **Mandy Matney:** Right. I liked it. But I saw like a lot of the same talking heads who pretend to be objective saying that on Twitter. Saying like, "Oh, look at that slip. Very interesting. SLED didn't talk to her," and it's like, obviously, none of you are good reporters. Because if you're a good reporter, you would know how this works. When you hear that, you hear that something happens, you don't go to the person who said that it happened, you go to the two people who were actually there, and you figure out how that happened. And that's what SLED did. Instead of going to the woman who said that she heard something, like you go straight to the source, you don't go to the secondary sources. Secondary source is a waste of your time.

[01:40:55] **Liz Farrell:** Right, and like, unless those sources, if they went, the people that they went and got the affidavits from, if those people had denied saying it, that's when they go back to the original woman who sent the email to be like, "What exactly did you hear?" Right. They didn't have to do that. Because the people that they went to were like, "Yeah, I did. I heard that."

[01:41:11] **Mandy Matney:** Exactly. But the other thing that I get from that video, and apparently a lot of people on the other side didn't pick up on this, but just how scared she was. This woman was really really scared and they are scared of Dick Harpootlian and Colleton County. It is like the devil that they defeated coming back to haunt them, going down their dirt roads in his Mercedes. In his Mercedes. I would not want Dick Harpootlian at my door. I would, I would not answer it, first of all, but like she felt like she had to answer and she felt like he had to answer his questions because of the way that he was being, and I think that that just shows how he operates out of intimidation and just scaring people. And them saying, "Yeah, I'll sign your affidavit." Should we do cups down?

[01:41:57] **Eric Bland:** That's a lot.

[01:41:58] **Mandy Matney:** Yeah, we did a lot. So on that note, cups down everybody.

[01:42:02] **Liz Farrell:** Yeah, cups down.

[01:42:04] **Eric Bland:** Cups down.

[01:42:10] **Mandy Matney:** This *Cup of Justice* episode 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 Lunashark Productions.