



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Mandy Matney 00:04

Hi Liz, cups up.

Liz Farrell 00:05

Cups up. How are you doing?

Mandy Matney 00:09

Oh, I'm good. How are you?

Liz Farrell 00:10

Good. It's been a whole year since Alex Murdaugh got convicted. So good day for justice I guess. Looking back he almost got out of it.

Mandy Matney 00:22

Oh my gosh, I have been just having a really weird week in that I pretty much every day have checked like the on this day in my phone because I just forgot so much of the things that were going on. At that time, like the week leading up to Alex getting convicted was so stressful and so intense. And it's crazy. Like yesterday, or a couple days ago, I was the Oh, on this day the egg juror was dismissed and like that was so huge.

Liz Farrell 01:02

Little did we know that we'd be hearing about her again. Right?

Mandy Matney 01:08

We had no and then Becky I was really listening to or rewatching myself watching the verdict. And hearing Becky's voice is so surreal, because I didn't even know that's what Becky sounded like at the time, I had never talked to her. And now that's now she's the significant character



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

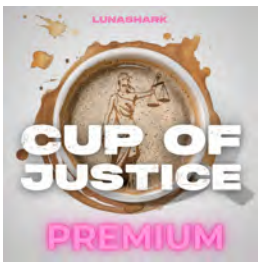
and all of this. And she wasn't at the time at all. And it's just crazy. And then today is the one year anniversary of when we all met in Walterboro. And just like Mark Tensley was there Justin was there you were there. Eric was there. I am sure you took a whole bunch of selfies to like random people coming up to us and taking selfies and it was just a surreal experience. And then right after that, we were interviewed by Katie Couric on that same day.

Liz Farrell 02:08

Were we? That was that same day? That's so crazy to think about because I know that I did not sleep the night after he was convicted. Like I just couldn't go to bed and I had like a 5am radio call with the BBC or something. I can't even remember who it was or NPR or something. And it was just like then that was the day. It was just all you know, another 24 hours of just having to revel in it, I guess. Right?

Mandy Matney 02:34

I have, I literally have to look through my phone every day to realize like, how many things happen each day? Because it's all such a weird blur. And I was like, dang, we did really good in that interview. Considering how chaotic everything leading up to that was. I mean, it was just but I'm glad I remember. Right after we got home from Walterboro and sitting there and being like, I'm really, really tired. I don't think I can do this. Like, I'm gonna make a fool of myself in front of Katie Couric because I don't have words right now. And we just kind of looked at each other. And we're like, I mean, there's no canceling Katie Couric. Like, we have to do this now. And I'm glad we did.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Liz Farrell 03:25

Oh my god. Absolutely. You know, this is like apropos of nothing but a year ago. So like, as the Alex Murdaugh thing was happening this other like major event my life was happening, which was scandal Hall from Vanderpump Rules. So it was the same that Alex was being found guilty that Ariana Madix was finding out that Tom Sandoval had an affair on her. So it was just like this, like, ah, you know, like Vanderpump Rules like Bravo stuff. That's my escape so that I can turn my brain off and just like watch, right? And so we have the biggest thing that's ever happened in our career happened at a time where all I wanted to do was sit in front of the TV. But I couldn't I had to like put that aside, and like, revisit that later and just focus on Alex and it just I don't know that people realize that. You know, and I think some people look at us, and they're like, Oh, you're just so like happy that this person is going to be in prison for life. And it's like, yes, absolutely. We are. But I don't know that everyone realizes just the duress that we were under thinking that if he were found not guilty. It was possible that this man would find a way to get out of the financial crimes or to get a very short prison stint. It would have emboldened the Murdaugh family it would have emboldened Alex it would have been pulled in Russell and Cory, like so much was hinging on that guilty verdict that we were literally scared for what does our life look like? If he the next day after he's found not guilty? What does how does that change our world our safety, our feeling of belonging to the community and what have you. So there was a lot on the line there that it was so much on the line and like, you know, could have gone either way. But thank God it went the way it did.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Mandy Matney 05:11

Right? And I had convinced myself, because of all the media hype, and because of it pretty much everybody saying like, the state hasn't proven it. I don't think they're gonna find them guilty. It's going to be a hung jury. I just had to mentally prepare for that. And I kept telling myself like, you're going to be okay, if it's, if it's a hung jury, it's Hang in there, like, you'll be fine. You did all this work. You came this far, and that's great. But looking back, I mean, that would have been an emotional disaster.

Liz Farrell 05:53

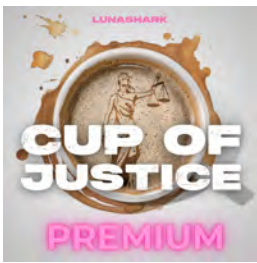
I would have been packing my bags at night.

Mandy Matney 05:56

Yeah, I know. Yeah. And I wouldn't want to like be anywhere near South Carolina or I wouldn't have I probably wouldn't want to do any more of this work.

Liz Farrell 06:08

Well, that was the thing. I remember having a conversation with you before the verdict came in. And it was just it was actually a conversation we were having, like, throughout the whole trial like this had been our lives for for two years almost. And meaning that like we had put so much effort into making sure that any sort of idea that this was going to be swept under the rug would be quickly erased from law enforcement mine from the Murdaughs mine from their helpers mines. So, you know, we've really had to talk to each other through this, like, we've done what we can our credibility doesn't change based on his verdict, you know, our him being found not guilty is not some indication that we're wrong about everything that we've done thus far, in terms of



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

where we thought, you know, we clearly thought it was adding up to his guilt, the things that we're hearing behind the scenes and the things that we're sharing with the public from the investigation. So it just I remember just distinctly having that brief worry, like, what does it say about our credibility? Right. But I think, you know, even you know, obviously, like we say this, when we're like, because we can't believe it ourselves. Sometimes, like, our instincts were right, the things that we were thinking happened happen, the things that it looked like, actually turned out to be the thing it was. So it's just keep that in mind with the Stephen Smith case to you know, that it's, yeah, we're just following our guts, essentially, and write our reporting and seeing where it leads. And, you know, going back to Becky Hill, I think there's people out there that tried to say that, like we were her supporters or something like that. And it's like, no, no, no, we gave her like you said, I never the only time I heard her voice was during the voir, dear when she was choosing the jury.

Mandy Matney 07:52

Yeah, that too. We didn't know Becky.

Liz Farrell 07:57

Becky and then like, but we didn't know Dick and Jim. And we didn't know that they were going to use every tool available to them. It did not matter whose life they ruined. So at the point, we're not just giving Becky the benefit of the doubt, we were saying, we know the tricks, we know what you know, it's more likely when we're looking at the balance of the scale, that Dick and Jim are up to something and it is that this small town clerk, tampered with the jury, and we turned out to be read on that too. She did not tamper with the jury, however, turns out



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Mandy Matney 08:29

Yeah, this entire thing has been validation at your validation of being able to trust her instincts. And I was so well the trial was such a blur. I was really proud. I remember throughout the trial, just getting messages from listeners saying like, none of this is surprised, like you guys already. Let us on the right path, you know, and for anybody who's listened to MMP watching the trial, they actually know what's going on. And it's very clear that people that were watching every other coverage, expected a different outcome and expected all these votes every single time we have led our audience down the correct path. And that's to the truth. And it's been validating and yeah, I do remember that conversation of this is like, it's not on us. We are not, it's not our job to prove to a jury. That's the AGs officers job. And while we were like cheering them on and hoping for the best for them, like there's only so much we could do from our we couldn't do anything that it was on them and it was just such a frustrating thing for six weeks to be like, my credibility kind of depends on this in a lot of ways, but I have nothing to do with this outcome. So I just have to sit tight and hope for the best and think Are the people of Carleton county saw through Alex Murdaugh's crap?

Liz Farrell 10:04

I mean, the amount of challenges that we've been up against this past year though, when you think like, a year ago this time we thought it was over. Right? It was just like this psychological feeling of this man is no longer part of my life. If we will cover the financial crimes, we will look, we're going to find out who killed Stephen, but this man and the trickery and the constant back and forth with the court and the constant games that they were playing. We don't have to think about



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

him this to the same degree that we were anyway. And then the summer.

Mandy Matney 10:43

It's September flashforward. Pulled us right back in right.

Liz Farrell 10:47

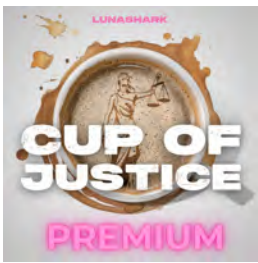
We're starting down a different path with the grant Solomon case. And we're getting excited for the future in terms of how many other people we can help and just what we can bring sunlight to, we changed the name of the podcast.

Mandy Matney 10:58

Yeah, we're ready to move on.

Liz Farrell 11:00

We're ready. We're packed and ready. And yeah, it's just like, so surreal to think that, then we got like, not just, it wasn't honestly, like from September through January was almost more traumatic in some ways than the six weeks at the trial. It was because it just didn't know. It was just chaos. It was constant chaos with the motions and the accusations and just constantly having to beat them back and tell listeners that what you're hearing these, these dots that people are connecting in other ways should not be connected in that exact way. Here's where the dots actually connect. And here's why. Right, like you said, other news agencies, I think lead people down a bad path. And right, one of the good things about what we had going on during the trial was that constant communication with our listeners, the premium subscribers who we got to watch the trial with, and we were there for every



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

question they had. So I think that there's a lot of value in like a relationship like that with your list, like our listeners and our readers.

Mandy Matney 12:05

Yeah, you get into there like when they ask you questions, you get to think like them, and you subconsciously, as we're writing shows, are thinking like, oh, well, that person was wondering that. So should we clear this up? And yeah, I mean, I think the summer in the months following were more traumatic, especially when there was that period of time where Alex got that flimsy financial crimes sentencing. And I was just going to bed every night going through like, what if he gets out? What if? What if the verdict is overturned? What if we don't have that much back there's not that much more to fall back on after the murder charges. And that was just terrifying. And again, like, I think the way to describe it is that we were just like, until the trial, and then after, we were tethered to the story, and there was no freedom to get away from it at all, there was no choice, there's no, and if you do walk away from it, then you feel this enormous amount of guilt, because we had this responsibility that nobody else was covering the grounds that we were and nobody else was, especially when the Becky stuff came out. In those two weeks we didn't do anything on the Becky story because I was in Europe, and we were like, we're not gonna do that. Now. We're not gonna, you know, change all of our plans just because of Dick and Jim's temper tantrums, like we're over that. But within those two weeks, the narrative spawns so far out that it's pretty much guaranteed that Alex is getting a new trial, if it remembers, all those people said, if half of the stuff about true is true about Becky then he has to get a trial. That's just the way and I'm like, what is happening here. And so it's that responsibility that we felt and there was no freedom or wiggle room to



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

get out of it. And it was just frickin exhausting. But that all said, I am happy that we really can finally move on here. There's obviously going to be stuff coming out about the Murdaughs forever, but it's not that dick and Jim putting out this narrative and we have to correct it every five minutes and that's what we're dealing with. And speaking of that, we have an amazing guest today he do who really knows how to cover true crime and under actually gets it and understands it and I absolutely love talking to her about it.

Liz Farrell 14:50

One of the highlights. It's funny that you mentioned Katie Couric earlier because of the connection between Katie and our guests Tamron Hall to Cameron was on The Today Show as well. And they're both just people that we admired in journalism. And it like kind of like when you have a bucket list of people that you want to speak with these two women were on the bucket list. And it was, like you say at the beginning of the interview, it's like, hard not to fan girl. And then when you realize like that they feel the same way about us. It's so surreal that it, I can't even like, there's no words for that feeling of just, wow, you think highly of me. Like that?

Mandy Matney 15:32

We know who I am. Yeah, I know, you know, who I know. And I started off, I felt I never, whenever I interview somebody, especially somebody of Tamron halls level, I never ever want to expect for them to know anything about me, you know, like, I'm not gonna be like, so you know, this, blah, blah, blah. But I but I also knew that she's a very prepared person. She's a responsible journalist. We know how we prepare for interviews, you do your dives, and you look into the people and you

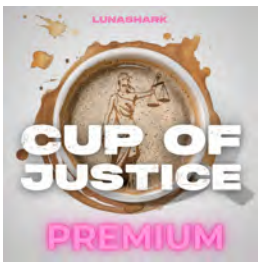


EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

know what you're talking about. And because Tamron is famous, and known, best known as like her as a TV anchor, on the Today Show, I just didn't know if she had time to look into it or anything like that. So at the beginning, I was like, I don't know if you know, our backstory, and she was like, I know your story. Like, I know exactly what you guys did. And that was incredible.

Liz Farrell 16:36

Really, it was and the reason we spoke with Tamron Hall was not just to talk about our shared interest in crime and our shared interest, and I say true crime, like true crime journalism, you know, not just true crime as it stands alone. But the journalism part of it. Tamron is an author, and she has written two thrillers that have been optioned for a television series, which is super exciting. And we talked to her about her second book, which is going to be coming out on March 12. That's called a watch where they hide. It follows the life of reporter Jordan Manning, who is a tough as nails journalist in Chicago for a television station. And there's so much similarity. I mean, reading it was very cathartic for Mandy and me, and we constantly were like texting each other when we were reading her books, because we have never seen representation like that before. In quite that same way, you know, not just as a union tamarind as a woman of color. You know, Jordan Manning is black journalist, but she's also a woman and seeing that those experiences are so common, but being able to talk to her about not just like what went into the her decisions to write these books, and what goes into the writing of the book, but I don't know if you notice, like, how often she was able to pull these details from her own career, like her past memory? Oh, yeah. Just like, yeah, and it's like it starts, it's almost like a reflection of yourself that you're seeing, like, loud Tamron Hall has the same experiences as we do



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

when it comes to that connection with the victim. And that sort of how certain moments in your reporting will never leave you, you know, as she described, sort of, like the scene when she got to the scene of a shooting before the police did. Yeah. And just that moment of being there, it's just, you know, those kinds of things stick with you forever. And that happens to all of us in reporting crime anyway.

Mandy Matney 18:34

Yeah. And I mean, I hadn't seen a character quite like Jordan Manning, really ever and television books, anything that I could relate to so much in the fact that it's a investigative journalist who can't let stuff go like she's so in it, and dedicated and it follows her home at night, it follows her thought like her stories always, inside of her, she does not let go of it. And that was just really validating and inspiring, like, we talk about Jordan Manning is a lot more brave than I am. Some scenarios are like, Oh, I wouldn't go there. But it's inspiring to see a character like that. And it's like, really validating and rewarding. And we talked a Tamron about this and how important it is, especially for younger generations to be able to see characters like that and to be able to know like, oh, I can do that too. I can see myself digging into a case and getting to know the people involved and getting sources and the way that Jordan meany and the way that she described sources to unlike a lot of movies and things that have to do with journalism, they source relationships are just so fake and they like just based on Watergate.

Liz Farrell 19:57

Like the Deep Throat in the garage. Yeah, like whispering to each other.



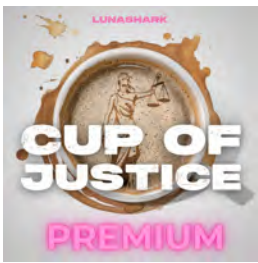
EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Mandy Matney 20:03

Yeah, like some guy comes out of a garage. It's like, that's not really how it works. Like, you get to know these people do this and that. And then they say that they tell you things and you develop a relationship with them. And yeah, we were both impressed and just honored that Tamron wanted to spend some time with us talking and she was beyond inspiring. Yeah, it was kind of surreal. Both her and Katie Couric were very, like surreal. And they're Trailblazers of journalism. You know, there are people that we have looked up to for a long time, and not only are successful in their careers, but I've managed to be good people along the way. And I also really like how Tamron talks about her sister's death, and or sister's murder, and how that has changed the way that she covers a lot of things. And she's really an empathetic reporter at the end of the day. And I think that that's what we relate to.

Liz Farrell 21:06

Yeah, it's talking, it's just thinking about just how serious both women are in the sense that like, these are not hollow Pete, like, these are people with a suitcase just packed full of experience. And I don't know, it just, you can feel the difference in talking to somebody who has that kind of career versus, you know, maybe even just in my own small circle of people, just the difference in how that stuff weighs on them and how mission driven they both are. And I think with Tamron, she not only goes into like the extra scrutiny that women have to deal with in journalism, so it's not just you know about the story, it's not just about doing the good work, it's also about how you look, it's about how you carry yourself, it's right down to whether the outfit you're wearing is more comfortable and you're able to do your job and or versus it has to look a certain way because you know, of whatever the male gaze or



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

whatever it is, that is reason that you have to dress a certain way in the newsroom. It's just yeah, she hits on all of it. And then and then not only that, I was thinking like, we talked about this off camera. But you know, me and Tina, like we're very, very few people of color we have worked with in our careers, like in newsrooms, I can say, I can literally I think name on one hand, the number of black people that I've had in a newsroom, Sam working beside me in a 20 plus year career, and her books make you realize, just like how underrepresented a voice again, how important it is to have a different perspective, advocating for stories that need to be told. And in her first book, you see where race plays a part in just basic things like parking, like her cameraman not wanting to park his car, in a certain neighborhood where she's, you know, covering a story and like she's having to explain it like why is this seem? Why does this situation seem more dangerous to you than any other kid standing on the street? Or, you know, what, what is it about this, and he sort of put on the spot and doesn't know how to answer and it's, it just made a really makes you think and it really makes you realize just how important it is to get other stories out there that are not just the same story all the time the same, gravitating the same story.

Mandy Matney 23:23

So right perspective, and how important that was. That was definitely one thing that I took away from the Jordan main character. It's like the thinking of what news could be if there were a lot more Georgia meanings out there, and a lot more Jordan meetings to remind anchors, not to say things like that, and to just provide a perspective that and I also liked that we talked about with Tamra and how the unbiased journalist does not exist. And that was so validating to hear from her mouth. Because that's something that we've said to each



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

other for a really long time. We are not robots, we all carry with us our past and our experiences. And we see stories through that lens and that there's nothing wrong with that. But we should acknowledge the lens that we are looking at things from versus I think the white male perspective has always been seen as the unbiased lens, when really it's just from their point of view.

Liz Farrell 24:31

I think that's something that we've both experienced, too, is, you know, we get accused of being biased or like wanting there to be a certain outcome, I guess. And that's true. I mean, we do want that certain outcome we want is that we want the guilty person to go to be held accountable for what they've done. That is the outcome we're looking for. But keep that in mind when we're covering the Stephen Smith case. Because you know, we've both gotten to know Sandy over the years it's that's just how it works. You know, you're you're going and it does become personal it does become Um, you do get frustrated on that person's behalf because of how they're being treated by the system and how they're being treated by individuals in the system. So I think when you look at the like the title of tamarins first book as the wicked watch, and even the second title, watch where they hide that they there is really something that is bugged us, not just with the Murdaughs, like you're entitled blood on their hands, like, it's the day it's the people that stand by and sort of let these things happen and don't speak up or don't do what's right in the moment. And I think that that's going to be a core theme. When it comes to us uncovering what went down on the night Stephen was killed, it's the day the the people that know that still refuse to do the right thing. The people that know that remain quiet because of whatever they have to protect in their own lives. And



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

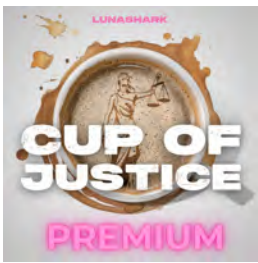
certainly, you saw those themes in tamarins, books. And so it's just it's interesting how these two things are sort of intersecting right now for us, you know, right.

Mandy Matney 25:58

And I was thinking about to the relationship of the with the victim's mother in the book, and how realistic that was, and how she describes just the burden on a relationship like that, and how complicated it gets because you become like their lifeline, and you become the person that they feel they can come to for anything. And it just gets really, really hard. And over the last few years, I mean, I absolutely believe that getting to know Sandy has motivated both of us to find out what happened to Steve in some people will say like, you're too close to her, you're too close to the story. But I think that it has kept us going. And I think that it has inspired us, you see this woman and you just want to scream to the days that people with blood on their hands, so to speak, you can do something to help this woman and you can stop her pain, you can stop, she is almost spent a decade wondering what happened to her son in a decade stuck trying to unravel everything that happened and a decade of being gaslighted into thinking different things have happened to her son, and we know there are people out there that could stop that that could just bring her peace, and you just want to scream out to the rooftops like, Please help this woman. And that's what we're doing. I mean, I I want them all to know that they can ignore us forever.

Liz Farrell 27:52

You know, in Terence book where her relationship with the victim's mother becomes sort of contentious because Jordan Manning, it gets a



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

piece of information that she shares with the mother. And the mother's perspective is like, Thank you, you're sharing this information with me, forgetting that Jordan Manning is a reporter and she is doing her job. And so as such, she's got to tell the public about this information she's found. And the mother doesn't understand that she's very wounded by it. She's very hurt. And it sort of reminded me just like, I think Sandy Smith has taught us to be more empathetic journalists and more thorough journalists so that we're not just I mean, the number of times that we're in the middle of writing an episode. And Mandy's, like, I gotta, I gotta tell Sandy, about this, like, we have to pay her the courtesy of knowing that the information that we've told her is now going to be an episode or that we're putting this, you know, this is these are the connections that we're drawing or the dots that we're connecting, because I think you sort of forget when you're doing your job, like, you can be totally immersed in the world of being empathetic and feeling very personally connected to historian wanting to do wanting to get those answers. And then you get back into your doing the job. And you have to remember that those two things need to exist at once and together. And so I really feel like I've learned a lot, you know, surprising even myself, like how much I didn't think of the victim's family, you know, I thought I did a good job of thinking of a victim's family. I thought I did a great job, and better than most, but I still see things where I'm like, Wow, that's so myopic. I didn't, I should have thought of that. I should have, you know, thought about that through their eyes and in a better way.

Mandy Matney 29:32

So yeah, I've thought about this a lot. And Sandy has helped me a lot to realize stories that cause unnecessary harm to the victim's family. And I



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

think that that is a rule that journalist should always consider is, is my story causing unnecessary harm to innocent victims? Because there are some things that you do have to report because it's impacted written that the public knows these things, but there are some things that are just hurtful. And it's not going to get you any closer to solving the case. It's not gonna it's not going to do anything but get you a hot story. And that's wrong.

Liz Farrell 30:15

I've seen that happen to Sandy so many times, and it's just so many times devastating. Yeah, it's disgusting. I mean, you see it all the time, like with the journalists, the decision that journalists have to make is like, Oh, I've got this juicy piece of information, I can publish it and get clicks, or I can not publish it. All I'm doing the only reason to publish this would be to get clicks, that's not a reason to publish something it just isn't. And maybe when news organizations learn that about how to produce ethical journalism, that's just not for the click not just for the headline that's going to get people into that story. Maybe there'll be better all around because it's, it's just constantly disappointing to me that you just see, like, exactly what you said, it's just like a choice about what to run and what not to run. Is there a greater purpose? Is this does this fulfill the mission of your job? And or is it just does it fulfill the mission of getting these transient clicks from people who are not going to return to your site anyway?

Mandy Matney 31:10

Right? And is it gonna shut your sources down? Like, are you going to print this thing that really hurts people involved in the story, and then they won't talk to you anymore? And then what does that get you?



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

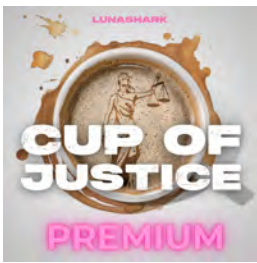
Right? And with that said, we hope y'all enjoyed this interview as much as we did here is Tamron Hall. Cups up, cups up. We really appreciate you for joining as Tamra and oh my gosh, I just want to start out by saying thank you. I'm gonna snot fan girl. But yes, it will fan girl. You're awesome. I watched you on the today's show. I've watched all your shows. You're amazing. And I love your book. Thank you. I am a journalist. And so as Liz, I don't know how much you know about our background, but we have been on the Murdaugh case.

Tamron Hall 32:14

So as a fellow journalist, I've read everything about both of you. So no need to introduce yourselves. I'm very familiar with your work and everything that you've accomplished in the Murdaugh murders and, and the national conversation you started and continue. So it's an honor to talk with both of you.

Mandy Matney 32:32

Oh, my gosh, thank you. Well, I figured you would be prepared. I was like, Yeah, we don't have to go through all that. But Jordan Manning is such an amazing character. And I have to say this. I haven't really I haven't read a book since I wrote my own because I don't know while I was in that process. It was just tough. And it was really hard. Every time I'd pick up a book, I would like compare it to my own and get into my own headspace and I wouldn't enjoy it. But I picked up the first one as the wicked watch. And I could not put it down and neither could Liz. I've never related to a fictional character. And Liz said the exact same thing to the extent of Jordan Manning. I mean, she is amazing. She's braver than me. She is amazing. Like you said, She's the reporter that I mean, I would love to be everybody would want to be. And I just want to start



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

off by saying thank you. This is the book that I've wished that I had 10 years ago. And I'm so glad that so many girls get a look up to somebody like Jordan Banning. So I'm going to start out with that. And Liz...

Liz Farrell 33:45

Well, I just want to say congratulations on the TV series. First of all, because I'm really excited to be able to see Jordan Manning on TV. And I'm excited to see what a wider audience not just the fans of thrillers are going to think of her because I'm just excited for everyone to see what it actually is like to be a reporter. So that must be very exciting for you, I would imagine. Do you want to talk a little bit about the show first and tell us just sort of how that came about and what?

Tamron Hall 34:16

Well, wherever you want to launch it. I'm blown away and deeply humbled by both of your compliments and that you even picked up the book and read the book with so many things coming your way and so many unbelievable and animate unimaginable stories that I'm sure you've been exposed to now that you've entered a whole different version of the world that you've existed in for many years. So first of all, very I thank you so much. I'm willing to start wherever you'd like to start. It's been an incredible journey and one that continues.

Liz Farrell 34:48

Yeah, like to hear about the TV show and just what people can expect and then we can go into talking about the books.



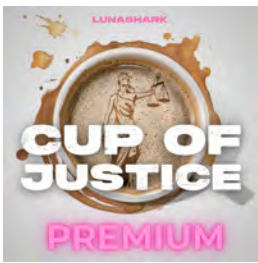
EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Tamron Hall 34:54

And right now well with the TV show. We were able to option it with with CBS and the NAACP, and they have a partnership to bring, hopefully different characters to your point than we've seen. And right now, for me, the priority is creating and continuing to write the series so that Jordan Manning is not a one off. When I originally pitched this character and this series, I was told that there was not a black female protagonist written by a black female solving crime, that this character does not exist in our landscape. And yet, I am Jordan, Manning, and many women that I've worked with for years in this space, women of color. Women in general are often invisible. When it comes to investigative reporting. We're the victims. And we know that because we are in real life and even in the fictional world, we are the victims or the villains, but the storyteller and the person who solves the crime, I'm 53. So my North Star was Angie Dickinson as police lady, which I don't even think many people remember. So for me the series and how this will translate from the book that is placed behind me and you thank you very much, Liz is still wide open, we're scripting. CBS does a great job with their NCI series and their point of view of who solves the crime. And she's very different. So I actually see Jordan, probably on streaming, I see her as a 10 series arc, I've been obsessed with True Detective and how they're laying out that storyline. But we're still in the process of trying to figure out the best option for her to live. She's very different. The series is very different. And it's very different, honestly, from the characters, and the shows that CBS has right now. So I'm working with a great team. They are very enthusiastic, they were thrilled that I was able to finish this second book so quickly. And the reason that I am able to give content for a TV series and for the next book in this collection in this series, is these are all based on real stories that I've personally

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

covered. I've been a journalist for 30 years, just like the two of you many years in this, but nothing prepared me for the incident that happened. For example, when I was a reporter, I think it was like 23 years old, I was doing the overnight shift, I had to arrive around 11 o'clock at night. My cameraman Chris Mathis was my best friend. Because when you're in the trenches like that, just as you see with Jordan, your allies become very interesting people, the folks who back in the day used to, you know, listen to the scanners or the freelance photographers who were the first at the scene who worked overnight. I was with Chris Mathis, who was in a local news station in Dallas Fort Worth, and we got a call of a shooting at a barber shop in an area that was high crime area. We jump into the car head to the scene. And there was a body just inches from where I was standing. I'd never seen blood pool I you know, you hear and there's this dark red, and it is thicker than the blood when you go to somehow get your you know your shot or vaccine or when you fall in or your kids fall and it's this deep burgundy pool of blood surrounding this man. We realize that we'd arrive before the police before the emergency EMTs were there first. Again, this is a high crime area where it takes a little longer for first responders in some cases to arrive where they are and where it got even more ominous for me again, I'm in my early 20s I see a Lexus sedan pull up and I'll never forget this the song Tony Breck and I couldn't listen to the software for a long time. Unbreak My Heart was blaring from and I could hear the DJ talking the song it was a woman got out of the car screaming it was his wife. So there I am a journalist in my early 20s with my camera guys in his 20s. And we are now the first responder. We're the counselor. We are the bearer of unimaginable news. And I'm a reporter who went to Temple University, the most complex thing I'd studied at that point was law and ethics in journalism. But that's the introduction to covering



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

crime on the scene. And that's what I really tried to exercise in some ways for my mind and my energy and my spirit with Jordan Manning. And that's why I believe it will translate in an easy way to I hope a series that people enjoy.

Mandy Matney 39:53

I just love it because there are so few fictional lives and I talked about this all the time, fictional TV shows or even books that really understand what it's like to cover true crime and really get into I also really loved that you talked about how much it affected her as a person and how much. She's always she's an empathetic reporter, as Liz and I both relate to and you carry those stories with you forever. And you can't just go home at the end of the night and turn off your job. Your job is at fault. These stories follow you everywhere, right?

Tamron Hall 40:35

Yeah. When the reality is, what would it say about us if we could just walk away? Right, right. What does that say about you? You know, the first case, in as the wicked watch was inspired by a story that I covered in Chicago. In the same year in 1997, I went from being a reporter in Dallas Fort Worth to Chicago, and I covered the murders of 211 year old girls, one happened to be white in rural Texas one happened to be black and Chicago. I could never shake those stories. In the case in Chicago, two young boys were charged with the murder at the time, they were the youngest to ever be charged with murder in the country. Except for they didn't do it, which created a butterfly effect in their lives. DNA sat in a room in Chicago untested. And when they finally tested, there was semen in the underwear of the child who was murdered. Two kids under the age of nine don't produce that type of DNA. And so their



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

parents were traumatized. They were held by themselves, you know, the stories, you've covered them the unimaginable. One, the family later settled with one child, like in the butterfly effect life and turmoil his entire life. So, you know, you don't you're not supposed to walk away from that I feel and so for me, when I when I created Jordan Mani, it was, as I said, you know, earlier, an opportunity to deal with some of these things that people don't realize, occur right in front of the reporter who within two seconds is in front of the camera, answering the local anchors question and wondering, are you kidding me just asking you this, because behind me, this is going down, or the vigils seen in the first book, where you're, you're weaving through this vigil, and you're looking around with Jordan, she is, as you point out, she's way more ballsy than I am as a person, certainly, than I was at that age as a reporter. So she has not only shown this side of compassion, she's pulled in this desire to want to do more than report the facts. She wants to be a part of finding the people or persons responsible. And in with this new book, watch her they Hi, Jordan is now pulled in by the sister of a potential victim. And to hear the plea of a family member, you know, you're a reporter, but they believe we are everything, you know, we have a straight line to the cops, we have a straight line to the prosecutor with a straight line to so many things we are their advocate, especially when you're looking at a family wants to find out what happened to a loved one. And so with this new story, you see the advocacy that families want from us, when they're asking who did this to my loved one. All of those things are born from real spaces that I've experienced, that I've witnessed, whether it's deadline crime, which was a more hands off, and a more interview style show, so I didn't see the crime as it happened. I was exposed to it after. Prior to that I was there the minute



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

the crime happened, and in many cases, follow it through to its end and trial.

Liz Farrell 44:06

So it's interesting, because I feel like with Jordan Manning, and like you said earlier, there's sort of an experience that all women have in newsrooms, but specifically women of color. It's almost like you should say, Jordan, it's almost like Jordan has to do everything. So she not only has to report this story in a way that gets the public's attention so that the pressures put on police. She's got to do the police work, too, because the police are not doing it. On top of that she's got to train this newsroom to see stories about people of color as worthy of covering. So it's I don't know if that's something that you set out to do necessarily intentionally if it just came a rose from your actual experience.

Tamron Hall 44:48

I think it was arose from my actual experience. You know, when when I, for example, started out in this business in the early 90s. There was a news director Who was just he's not in the business anymore. And thankfully, I'm just gonna say I won't name names, but I'm happy. He's not brief example of why say that. I'm in Texas, it's 110 degrees outside, we're covering a heatwave, I had a jacket on, I took my jacket off and had a collared polo style, you know, this is the 90s Polo style short sleeve sleeves, just you know, regular polo shirt golfer, he said, You need to put your jacket back on, they're not going to take you seriously unless you have a jacket on. Because my seriousness as a woman, in his mind, was equal to me wearing a men's style jacket and 100. And I thought to myself, they're not going to take me seriously because I'm gonna be dead on right on side of this heat way. That's what they're not going to



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

take seriously that I'm frying an egg on the car, you know, the little old, and I'm standing out here to black blazer as if you know that I don't recognize that. But I vividly remember, there was a robbery suspect that was on the run. And we ran the typical at the time, you know, black male, five, seven, you know, gray t shirt. And I was a part of a young crop of, you know, journalists had been part of the NAB J necessary. So you're being more vocal, and I said, Hey, that could be my brother, that could be any one, five, a black guy, you know, we're much more rabble rousing in that newsroom. And I'll never forget, you know, you said, Well, that's what the cops gave us. And what I didn't know at the time when you later attend conferences, and you realize that there are other journalists of Color Horse fighting that same stigma in the newsroom. Now it's unheard of, they would never do that. But it was the standard and the norm of the day when I started out that it was acceptable to say, you know, dark skinned Latino, you know, we were just watching the series on the Boston Stewart case, that's when I was cutting my teeth in this business. And it divided an already volatile Boston as it related to race and the ramifications of that still, to this day linger on. And so I put those scenes in both books, from the point of view of Jordan not to alienate any reader, because I'm so so honored many did you say I saw myself because I was very deliberate in this second story, to have Jordan take on the case of a woman who happened to be white happens to be a mom who happens to be living that, you know, ideal white picket fence life. Because when I first did the the first case, and I was motivated by the case, and all books, I'm motivated by the case, motivated by the murder of Brian Harris and in the first series, but I remember logging on and Amazon had me at the top of Black Books. And I was like, book, this is a thriller, inspired by a character that I've created, and I happen to be black. But crime is crime. This is a straight



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

line. You know, there's socio economic things, of course, we can talk into and we know the judicial system, even the Murdaugh case, if he was black, he would have been in jail that day. And we know these things are true. But this is a thriller, from the point of view of a journalist. And when I go into the newsroom, back then I couldn't say out cover the black kid. It's the story of the day, the big story of the day, if you are the a one reporter, which I refer to in the book. So a lot of the the point of view and the perspective of race from Jordan is not meant to divide this book as a book about a black woman. It's a point of view from this journalist who's experiencing the change of the newsroom, which coincides with the change in the judicial system, and how and who is prosecuted and who also gets to be the lead when they go missing as was the case in the first book.

Liz Farrell 49:01

I saw one reviewer call it thriller with a conscience. And I thought that was a really apt phrase for it. Because, you know, I think that people go into thrillers. I'm a big fan of thrillers, sort of looking for the whodunit more, you know, the readers there with you sort of solving the crime as you go. Yeah. And it's just had more layers to it wasn't just about guessing who did it. It was about experiencing it the way it happens in real life, honestly, where it's it can be deeply unsatisfying, and can go slow. You know, these investigations just don't happen overnight. And so it was nice to see, you know, Jordan Manning, sort of satisfying that frustration I think Mandy and I often have in what we do is that you want to sort of pick up and do the job for the police because you're like, why is this sitting on the shelf? Why? Why aren't you making this phone call to this person? Why do I know more than you about about the story so very satisfying. Specifically, though, what I really liked about

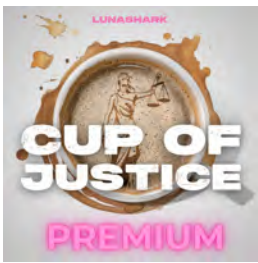


EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

The Jordan main character and I think what any reporter of anyone wants to know what it's like to be a woman in the newsroom is sort of this idea of the ritualistic disrobing that she does, which is, I just found that so delightful, because there's the work you and then there's the home, you and then you're constantly having to do these mental calculations with your relationships. How do I handle this source? In one scene, in the first book, Jordan Manning upsets the mother of the murder victim, because she goes on air with information that she had shared with the mother. The mother wasn't expecting that because she has this narrative sort of that she wants to stick to when it comes to the story told about her daughter. In your career, you have done such an amazing job of respecting people's humanity, while also challenging them and meeting them where they are, but challenging them in terms of not, you know, holding their feet to the fire a little bit, I guess, not shying away from saying the more difficult parts. So how are you able to do that? I think as advice for younger journalists, how are you able to tell these great stories, while managing those relationships and not having that burden on your soul where you really have to do everything for the people?

Tamron Hall 51:13

You know, I'll tell you, I just had a write with my talk show I write every script with my team we have we actually call them table reads a little bit because I want them to hear how it sounds coming out. And we're doing a show on love, like how to rebound and love. And one of our guests happens to be a young woman whose husband died of cancer, what is our longtime partner, they were practically married, he died of cancer. And it was two years ago, and she is ready to date. A big thing to admit, as you can imagine, because everyone is saying wait a minute is



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

a two. So they were getting many, many, many years. And the and this is not to call out my team. So if they're listening, I love you. And this is not meant to call you out. This is a given example. And so the T's basically said, you know, coming up, an expert is going to give her advice. And I said, Where's the heart guys, I suggest that she has lost the man she loves. She's coming on national TV, to say I am proceeding with my life. I'm a young woman, I'm 30 years old, or whatever it is. And I went I said, Put yourself in her. Imagine you're sitting across from Tamron Hall, your heart is heavy. And I say I'm not gonna get expert advice when I said so I I'm always thinking, what if I'm sitting on the other side of those words, with the scene that you talk about with Marla's mother. Part of the reason I've been open that my sister's death is an unsolved case. And part of the reason I was so hesitant in addition to the domestic violence that existed in her life, and that she endured, being a complicated conversation for my family, my sister also struggled in the early part of her life with substance abuse. And I did not want people to then start digging around in her past to try to understand why this happened to her. It wasn't relevant to what happened to her. And the angel. She was a prostitute. And that's how she died story. Right? And I am very sensitive to that. Because you don't know if you're on the receiving end, you don't know. God forbid something happens to a loved one of yours. Do you want the reporter and they all say well, you know, they said she did it. You know, it goes back to the trials. What did she wear when there's a sexual assault? What was she wearing? And I try to keep those things front of mine. Because if we talk about the haunting that happens with what we do I don't want to leave this journey feeling as if I have caused more pain to someone who's has experienced the absolute unimaginable when I was doing deadline crime, there was a case in Minnesota young girl decided



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

to end her own life except for when the investigation into you know her state of mind started it was uncovered that there was a man who posed online as a nurse and he would convince people to kill themselves he pretty he was a data suburban data has big case in Minnesota. In fact, it became it went to the Supreme Court of the state because when are you responsible for someone's actions that was at the core of it but he would go online pretended to be a nurse and coerce people into it turns out he may have done it around the world. It's unbelievable case. And when deadline cried her father was phenomenal soul walked in, and he locked eyes with me and And there was a common thread of family pain of loss that I saw in him. But more important, he's, he knew I was going to take care of his story and his child as a big responsibility. So going back to the core of your question, I'm very long winded, which is why I talked about, you have to look at it as hard as it is you have, you must put yourself on the other side. You have to?

Mandy Matney 55:27

Yeah, I think that that's something that makes Jordan character so unique and refreshing is, in journalism, at least when I was in journalism school, we were always taught like, stay out of the story. And keep a distance. And I liked that Jordan gets into the complicated parts of that, which is the scene where bases mom is trying to call her. And she just can't answer the phone, because she's like, I cannot deal with that. I just, I can't I don't have any more in me to in this. This happens all the time. And it's something that a lot of journalists don't talk about enough I feel like is, like you said, for these victims of crime, in they attach themselves to a journalist, and then the journalist becomes everything for them, including a shoulder to cry on. And that becomes so hard. We are at the point where we want to look in and we're starting



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

to look into other cases. But I'm honestly a little hesitant because I'm like, how many parents can I juggle at once? You know, like, how many grieving parents?

Tamron Hall 56:43

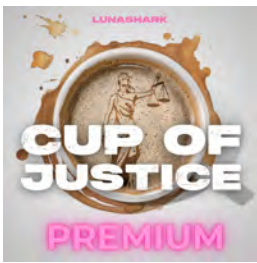
No, I That's exactly. That's exactly what I I put into the Jordan Manning series, the same feelings that I know we all have. Right. And I truly wish that the unbiased journalists are what I really wish more people would be honest and say that that doesn't exist. It doesn't thank you. It absolutely does not exist. It does not there's no such thing. There's no thank you.

Liz Farrell 57:09

Thank you.

Tamron Hall 57:12

We are not robots. We're not robots. I covered a case. In Ohio, a woman and her husband adopted a child. And they left him in the closet taped up across his mouth and everything that child that horrible death. She later claimed that, you know, she was coerced, you know, but there was overwhelming evidence that she was aware that she knew she participated and she left the child to die in a hot closet all along a little baby like two years or two, three years old. So they sent me to the prison to interview her, which doesn't happen often anymore. As you know, this like kibosh, but when I remember witnessed the execution in Texas, I mean, back then you can go in and talk to anybody now, that's a different thing. But um, I went to interview her in prison. And as I was leaving, first of all, I didn't believe a word. She said she was convicted, I believe what she said. And she reached to touch my shoulder. And



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

before I knew it, I said, Don't touch me. And I caught myself because I do want to have a level of professionalism, of course, but I the idea that her hands could touch my skin, even at this moment. I am physically under this sleeve just yet. Yeah, I'm a human. And I don't I and now that I've dovetail I guess into this world of talk show, I'm able to be more unapologetic about the truth. And I am not apologizing for the fact that I've gone on to things I like you are lying. You're not telling the truth. I am happy you're behind bars, and be okay with that. I am a human being. I'm a mom. Now. I wasn't a mom then. But I'm a human all the time. And this woman was rightfully convicted of a just despicable thing. And so for me, you know, I with Jordan can say that a little bit more in this character with this case that she's following now with the disappearance of the mom and in this case, she is with Marla. You know, she's crossing lines. You know, she's she's moving up the ladder as a journalist, and she's now potentially about to fill in anchor which is a big deal in her career, you know, because you're moving up the ladder, but she's pulled into this case, where she's no longer within the confines of Chicago. She's willing to go out and follow this case in Indiana, compromising purpose. professionalism, compromising her job, and also making her question more than ever before something that I feel we're all talking about, because I don't want to do this. Right. I mean, it's, there's a reward in it. But there are many I, I can do other than this, because this is hard. And there's a certain guilt to saying that it's hard because after all, you're talking about someone whose life was taken. And you don't want to make it about yourself. But you go home, say, I'm gonna drink this extra wine to wash down I used to have a My, by when I did like crime, people would say to me, how do you reset, I was like, I would leave and I would have the biggest steak. And I'd have biggest glass of red wine. And I was like, Oh, wow. Because I just I'm trying to

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

COPYRIGHT © 2024 LUNA SHARK PRODUCTIONS, LLC - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

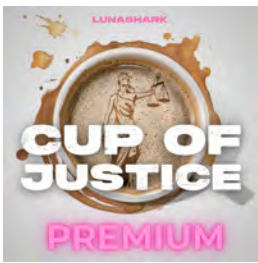


EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

just deal with it. It was like a binge. And I would literally just eat the steak. And I felt like, like a Louis the eighth, I don't know, I'm like carving the meat, which is, the bigger the steak, the better in front of me. Because it just somehow made me feel better. I don't know why I'm sure I'll talk about my therapist. But you know, you have these moments. But there's a guilt to it. Because we get to wake up, we get to hug a loved one, we get another birthday, we get another holiday, and those that we're reporting on. Don't happen. So you're pulled in these emotional, it's like you feel like a puppet some days. But everyone thinks you're in control, because you have the power to tell the story. And sometimes you're spiraling more than anyone could ever imagine.

Liz Farrell 1:01:47

That's why the point you made in the afterword in the first book, about it should be mandatory for journalism students to take a class in psychology or to sort of recognize the impact that's going to be had on your life. If you if you choose this career path, I thought that was a really good point to make. Because I do everything you've just said, including mistake I relate to it is there's no worse feeling than exposing to a source who's gone through the worst trauma imaginable that you get to turn it off that this is that you are in the middle of how you know their fault. And especially now that you there's social media, and there's just so much more access to all the details of your life, a source that needs to talk to you just because they've no one else, like you said, reporters are the direct line to this information that they're simply not getting from law enforcement. So what they see your you know, on Instagram, that you're out having fun and drinking with your friends, and you know, and just that's always been something that's just difficult for me to contend with, I guess. Yeah.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Tamron Hall 1:02:55

What even in your you think about it. I mean, I tell people again, I love what I do. And if this was not my career, I'd be I guess a blackjack dealer in Vegas. And I don't even know how to play blackjack. I just didn't. That's as far thing that I could have. That's all I know. of, you know, you've been as I have with Jordan, you go out with your friends. Everyone wants to know, what's the latest on that? What happened? What what really went on, you know, and you become the focal point of dinner parties. You become the focal point when you go around your family. And they're like, are you serious? Did that really happen? And you don't want to talk about and and so I was very intentional in both books to tap into that. You know, Jordan is like, I don't want to talk about this everywhere I go till she does.

Liz Farrell 1:03:40

That's the funny thing. Because there are moments where she's like, wait a minute, what did you just say? Talk more about that. I really like that.

Tamron Hall 1:03:53

And that's I mean, that's the end. That's what this character represented. I grew up like I said, Nancy Drew the they were under my bed, the box set. And oh my gosh, I wanted to create this character that you could follow with different cases. And you see the different layers and levels of this industry. You know, she's working her way up professionally. We have a saying that the reporters are the real, you know, racehorses, the anchors are just reading a question that somebody else wrote for them. Right? And so we're seeing her now go from the grit to she want to be the quote prima donna in the in the



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

newsroom not to say that to my anchor friends out there. I was an anchor for many years but the perception of it, you know and also is she cut out to do this. And you see that reframe through people in her life. Is this what you really want to do? Because you are crossing so many lines to find the truth. At the end of the day what we do, you You are more than compassionate. You are people as crime journalist you are trying to If we're all being honest, right wrongs, those are the stories you gravitate to the most. Those provide the most storytelling. Those are the most validating. On my gravestone. I said to my husband, I just want it to say she wrote it for everybody. That is a version of writing wrong. You are you are they they're great stories because someone was wronged. And as when someone is wrong, society is wrong. And that's a big thing to put on your business card. What do you do I try to right or wrong. But that's the that's the thrill of it. That's the pain of it. That's what makes it interesting. That's what makes people into what we do a crime junkies Yeah, we had an AI ID con ones and I thought no one's gonna show up. But Id con is is a weird like, Don't Comic Con or whatever. I'm like, Wouldn't no one's going to show up at ID con. With like a standing room only there were like 7000 people on the waitlist to ask about our jobs. It was so crazy, not in a judgmental way I just never imagined. But it's a fascinating thing that we do as humans to be able to have this intimate line and to these very complex, but very real things that happen across all races across all genders across all socio economic lines. And, tada, here we all are the three of us.

Mandy Matney 1:06:31

I just loved everything that you said. This is like therapy.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Tamron Hall 1:06:37

That's what the book like is for me. It's it really is like therapy. I'm sorry.

Mandy Matney 1:06:41

Oh no, I was actually that was a question I was going to ask because my book writing about my life. And my actual journey throughout uncovering the Murdaugh story was it was traumatic, like, I did not enjoy writing my book, I'm completely honest about it. Because it was it was like digging into the hard truth. So yourself and just exposing it for the world. But when I read your book, I was like, I should have done fiction man. That would be so much better.

Tamron Hall 1:07:12

It is I. I commend you, I like I bow down to it. I actually ended deadline crime after one of the cases that inspired watch where they hide. I was pregnant. And I was reading the script for that episode. And in the case that I was covering, the woman was stabbed like 29 times she was pregnant, it was just one of the most horrific things ever. And, and I was in the audio booth. And I just kept thinking beep here. Like, I might like, am I supposed to be doing this like, and you because everyone else is listening to Einstein baby. And I'm reading this murder case. And I was like, I gotta tap out for a second I need to take a break. And when when the shutdown happened, I was at home and as much as I love my husband, I was like, bored by his stories of youth. Am I consistent? This can't be it. And I benched everything. I mean, just no more content available. I was like, Alright, great. Let me think about what the next, you know, part of like, comfort is right, it's strange enough that this would be under the category of comfort for me, my son was almost a year old. And people had approached me in the past to write memoirs



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

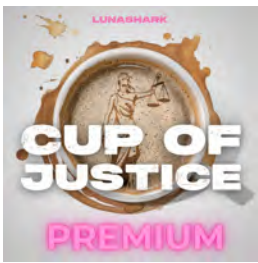
and beauty books. And none of those things move the needle for me at the time. But I did want to deal with in a fictionalized way, some of these real things to your point, I wasn't ready to write the memoir of what it was really like. And there are many other things that I'll touch on in this new book. And I've already started the third book, but I wasn't. And so I commend you, I am not fully ready to go down the line of particularly for me, because your investigative work is brilliant, both of you mine, my work was less investigative and more truly just sitting there and having the honor to be trusted enough to absorb these things. And what that's like, in the process of watching the cases be solved.

Liz Farrell 1:09:25

So one last thing I wanted to just tell our listeners and I don't know if you've realized this, but at the end of your first book, I'm not gonna give it away but one of the main characters His name is Brent, but his actual first name is Alexander and his somebody important in his life calls him Alex. And I don't know how much you know about the Murdaugh story itself. But that's been something that we've dealt because Alex is not his first name. It's Richard and he his middle name is Alexander and he goes by Alex and I just got such a kick out of that but you wrote that before anyone knew who he was, and I love the conversation where they're like, Why are they calling him out?

Tamron Hall 1:10:12

Like you know what I probably? That is so crazy. I'll tell you this even with this, this is somebody's mind blowing things. I guess I I feel good. First of all, I'm in the zoom. So I feel very, you know, Miss Cleo, like I'm going to clairvoyant over here, but I'll tell you, when I wrote the book,



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

The Gabby Potito case hadn't happened. And so as we are getting ready to and I thought people were going to say you wrote that book, because as you know, when Gabby went missing, it was all Why does she get to be the headline, there are all these black and brown children music, and I didn't want people to believe that I was somehow trying to capitalize off of this story. It had been written a year before the Gabby Petit okays the watch where they hide? completely done. And the case in Georgia where the woman faked her disappearance, and there's an there is in this story, a part of the investigation involves Is this a hoax a year before that case happened. And tragically, it touches upon a husband being a suspect that I couldn't avoid, because it's in the news every day. So I thought if someone thinks I'm stealing that story, good luck, because it's in the news every day. But since this book was complete, I think by my count, loosely, there have been about nine national cases of spouses, men suspected of murdering are involved in the disappearance of their significant other wives. So it is it's interesting how these things happen. But yeah, it's it was completed. Well before I promise.

Liz Farrell 1:11:48

Oh I know. That sounds like she was gonna happen.

Tamron Hall 1:11:55

Oh, boy, oh, maybe I might have made him follow that part of my career after all. But yeah, it is so wonderful to have the book received by two people I admire and please know that my heart is with you. Because in the bright spotlight of the success of what you've done, I recognize that when you are alone in your home, there's a heaviness that comes with that as well. And I just appreciate that you read my book.



EPISODE 71: 'The Unbiased Journalist Doesn't Exist' Tamron Hall Talks True Crime Reporting, Her New Book

Liz Farrell 1:12:26

We appreciate you. Thank you so much.

Mandy Matney 1:12:30

Well Tamron, this has been amazing. Thank you so much. I'm gonna carry those words with me because I really appreciate that. And with that, Cups down.

Liz Farrell 1:12:40

Cups down.

Mandy Matney 1:12:52

Cup of Justice is a Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalists Liz Farrell and attorney Eric Bland. Learn more about our mission and membership at lunasharkmedia.com. Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.