



EPISODE 10: Was Alex Murdaugh actually shot?

Mandy Matney 00:01

I don't know if anyone shot Alex Murdaugh. I'll repeat that statement. I don't know if anyone shot Alex Murdaugh. But ever since the alleged shooting we've watched the former prominent attorney's reputation unravel in front of us in real time. And again, the more we find out the more disturbing it gets. My name is Mandy Matney, I'm the news director for FITSnews.com. And I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two years now. This is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. Two weeks after Alex Murdaugh appeared injury free at his bond hearing in a suicide for hire scheme. One big question remains in the made for Hollywood Murdaugh murder saga. Was Alex Murdaugh actually shot? The disgraced attorney appeared without a scratch at his Hampton county bond hearing 13 days after the alleged shooting, raising major questions about everything we heard from Murdaugh's attorneys Jim Griffin and Dick Harpootlian this month. Is he actually in rehab? Was he ever shot? Where did all of his money go? Did he really have a drug problem and what are they trying to distract us from? To recap on September 4 2021, which was a Saturday of Labor Day weekend FITSnews first broke the story that Alex Murdaugh was allegedly shot almost immediately. Sources close to the situation told FITSnews that Alex's story was suspicious and not adding up. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, which is the same agency that is investigating nearly all of the alleged crimes associated with the Murdaugh family released a statement the day after the shooting that said that Alex's head wound was superficial. They never called him a victim. They never gave any suspect descriptions of the shooter and they kept their statements simple, which to me was a hint that the story that the Murdaugh camp was feeding the media was false. Around the same time Alex Murdaugh's lawyers Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin started to embark on a week-long spin campaign and an attempt to control the narrative and make Alex appear like the victim. They repeatedly fed the media a story that did not make sense that Alex was changing a tire on the side of a rural Hampton county road when a man drove up to him and shot him. And then things got weirder on Labor Day. That would be two days after the alleged shooting incident. A family spokesperson released a statement saying that Alex Murdaugh was going into rehab and resigning from the law firm built by his family and that would be PMPED. The timing was interesting considering that FITSnews published a story about Murdaugh's opioid addiction and issues at his law firm just hours before that statement was released. And then they issued an apology from Alex which was also very strange considering he was supposed to be the victim of a shooting. In the statement. He said, I am immensely sorry for everyone I've hurt, including my family, friends and colleagues. Then he asked for prayers as he rehabilitates so keep in mind, the Murdaugh camp was really pushing this opioid addict storyline hard right after the alleged shooting, which they'd never done before. On that same day PMPED, the law firm started by Alex's great grandfather in 1910 released a statement to the media claiming that Alex Murdaugh misappropriated millions of dollars from their law firm. They leaked that story



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to the New York Times as if they wanted the whole world to know these allegations obviously raise a lot of questions about the double homicide. And for another recap three months before the shooting Alex Murdaugh's wife and son were found murdered on the family's 1700 acre property in Collington County, South Carolina now that we know that Alex was stealing money from his own law firm, and he had a hearing coming up in the boat crash lawsuit that would force him to reveal his financial situation. It's clear that Alex was facing an immense amount of pressure around the time of the double homicide. The question is whether that pressure has anything to do with the double homicide. And keep in mind Alex Murdaugh is a person of interest in that investigation, and he's been the only one that law enforcement has referred to as a person of interest in the double homicide. Okay, so we're gonna go back to Labor Day weekend on that Monday, which would be two days after the shooting Alex was allegedly released from the hospital and entered an out of state rehab. So in that same week, which would still be days after the labor day shooting, or alleged shooting, shall I say the South Carolina Supreme Court suspended Alex Murdaugh from practicing law due to evidence of misconduct that is under investigation the next day, which would be September 8 2021. A few days after the shooting, my boss Will Folks at FITSnews broke a huge story confirming the first piece of this puzzle that this alleged shooting was basically sketch. Sources close to the situation told us that police recovered the knife that slashed Alex Murdaugh's tires from the alleged shooting scene. And that knife was connected to Alex Murdaugh, Harpootlian and Griffin continued to serve the media spoonfuls of stories that didn't make sense. Harpootlian claimed that Alex had an entry and exit wound and was temporarily blinded in the shooting, while Griffin said that Alex's skull was fractured and his brain hemorrhaged. Murdaugh's attorneys also told reporters that he was released from the hospital two days after the alleged shooting. So which is it? Was it a serious injury or was he released two days later? The injuries certainly were not the only holes poked in the stories coming from the Murdaugh camp this month. They told reporters that Alex was airlifted to MUSC in Charleston, but he was actually flown to a hospital in Savannah. He told reporters that Alex was changing a tire on the side of the road and that the Mercedes Benz SUV had run flat tires that he was driving that day. They told reporters that Alex was on his way to Charleston from Moselle. But the road that he was on was out of the way from that route. FITSnews appeared to be the only media outlet holding the lawyers to account and calling out their lies. Everybody else was just running around acting like it was a normal thing. However, the Murdaugh spin campaign was abruptly thrown off course on September 10, when SLED officials arrested 61 year old Curtis Eddie Smith. Smith was hit with several serious charges including assisted suicide, assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature pointing and presenting a firearm insurance fraud and conspiracy to commit insurance fraud. In the arrest warrants. We learned that Alex Murdaugh admitted to setting up a suicide scheme so his son Buster could collect a \$10 million insurance policy. News of Eddie Smith's arrest broke late at night on September 10, around 11pm. But just hours later Doel Harpootlian appeared on The Today Show the next morning where he continued to push this opioid narrative. Harpootlian claimed that Murdaugh was trying to get off opioids on the morning of



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September 4, and decided to end his life. He called this guy who met him on the side of the road and agreed to shoot him in the head. And this fake car breakdown. 30 minutes later, this guy is shooting him in the head.

Jarett Bouchette 07:58

They met initially, probably about in excess of 30 years or so ago, when Eddie was participating in another community or assault for a church softball league. And Alex was, I think, still in law school at the time, and was maybe home for a summer or was living in the area, something along those lines. And they played, knew each other casually then, and then subsequently didn't have a lot of contact, except maybe seeing each other around town associating that kind of thing until Mr. Murdaugh represented him in a case I believe was a worker's comp case approximately, seven years or so ago. And he was a logger for most of his life. He was in a logging business and got injured with his lower back, which happens, unfortunately, a good bit of time for folks that work in that area, about six or seven years ago. And after that, he does what he can. So he can do some light mechanical light welding type stuff. He had a small shop there in the back of his house, and he would do some work with Murdaugh's and for others, and he would sometimes be for pay and then sometimes it would just be as a favor for people

Mandy Matney 07:58

However, Eddie Smith tells a totally different story about what happened on September 4 2021. So who is Eddie Smith? I spoke with Eddie's attorney, Jarett Bouchette, who told me about his relationship with Alex Murdaugh, and what he was saying he was doing on September 4 2021. So here attorney Jarrett Bouchette is telling me about what his client says happened on September 4 2021.

Jarett Bouchette 09:47

Received a call from Alex Murdaugh that asked if he could go to I believe it was his parents house Mr. Murdaugh's parents house and said to bring the truck which he understood to mean his work truck. And that work truck made him believe that while he was going to do some kind of odd job, they eventually did not think he was in route to the parents house. And then they met there briefly or he may have called him back to redirect him. And they went to Eddie and followed them to another location. And that's where he first encounters Mr. Murdaugh in a suicidal, very agitated state.

Mandy Matney 10:29

And he had a gun, correct is what Eddie is saying and Eddie and Alex possibly threatening to kill himself and which is why Eddie reached for the gun, correct?

Jarett Bouchette 10:42



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That's right. He was at that time requesting that Eddie essentially assist him in shooting at the shoot at that time, which he refused. And the state of Mr. Murdaugh has continued to deteriorate and there was a struggle for the weapon that went off at some point. And, you know, after that very intense session, they that he left the scene and Mr. Murdaugh was still there no visible signs of injury that

Mandy Matney 11:11

According to Eddie Smith. He was not present when Alex Murdaugh called 911. To report that he had been shot on Old Salkehatchie road in Farmville, South Carolina at 1:34pm on Saturday, September 4. What's weird is that Alex was driven away from the crime scene after calling 911 and transported via car by a couple of unknown quote unquote Good Samaritans. It is weird that Alex left the crime scene. And what's even weirder is that after calling helicopter companies for hours, I figured out that a Care Flight helicopter actually was dispatched 12 minutes before the Hampton County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene. Now this timeline is super strange, because the Hampton County Sheriff's Office should have been the lead law enforcement agency on scene that day when for a shooting, they should have been dispatched immediately, which again, also raises the question: was he even shot? And that also raises a question, why was a helicopter called when two weeks later, we don't see any signs of wounds. So when Curtis Smith was arrested in arrest warrants, we learned that Alex Murdaugh admitted to setting up the suicide scheme. So a son, Buster could collect a \$10 million insurance policy. And this storyline just doesn't add up. What kind of a father would want to kill himself so his son who just lost his mother and brother and a horrific double homicide, could collect insurance money, and why did he feel the need that he had a look like somebody was shooting him? And how come we haven't seen any evidence that he was actually shot. Another thing that doesn't add up is that while the PR team said that Eddie Smith was Alex Murdaugh's known drug dealer Bouchette rejects that statement about his client and says, it doesn't even make sense.

Jarett Bouchette 13:11

What we can tell and what we know about what's been put into the public sphere already, is that something doesn't add up with this case. And the first thing is just the narrative that's been put out there that Eddie was Mr. Murdaugh's longtime drug dealer, a drug dealer that apparently benefited to the tune of around \$10 million. Because I believe the statement was that the majority of the \$10 million, which had been misappropriated from the law firm, had been used to pay for this opioid addiction. And, by consequence, went to Eddie, Eddie has little to no criminal record at all over the last 20 years, nothing drug related. And so what that tells me is one of two things either Eddie is just the most, one of the most successful drug dealers I've ever seen in terms of evading law enforcement, or, you know, he's not a drug dealer, and certainly not a drug dealer that would have been able to supply and benefit from the quantities that have been stated in that \$10 million range. So when we start with that, we know that that doesn't make any sense to say anything is that he doesn't have any criminal



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record nothing to suggest that he would be complicit in a scheme and not just complicit would be active in a scheme which would require him to shoot a fella in the head presumably killing for what doesn't appear to be any personal gain. The allegations as best I can tell, only allege that the supposed insurance proceeds would have gone to benefit Mr. Murdaugh's son, there doesn't appear to be any real allegation that there was an arrangement whereby Eddie would get some percentage of it. I mean, it just seemed that he'd have any benefit from doing that. Then we look at the fact that the majority of the allegations or the substance of the allegations seem to come from Mr. Murdaugh who was undisputedly in a serious opioid withdrawal or relapse or OBO episode of some kind. And so it's very concerning that they've placed so much credibility in his version of events, which don't seem to add up just because, you know, within a few days of this incident, he has no visible signs of either an injury or of operation to his head. And we think even a superficial gunshot wound to the head, that's even such a thing would at least show where there had been some type of stitching or bandaging, or hair shaved to access the area. Now, that seems to be the case. So it's not even clear at this point that actually suffered a wound to the head and if that's not established, then the entire scheme, the entire basis for the arrest are still to crumble and fall away.

Mandy Matney 16:32

According to probable cause affidavits, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division appeared to rely a lot on Alex Murdaugh's narrative for Smith's arrest considering the fact that Murdaugh is an admitted drug addict on a downward spiral who was also shown no physical signs of ever being shot, questions should be raised about Smith charges to now two days after Smith was charged Alex was also charged with three felonies in this alleged suicide for hire scheme. In Hampton county court that week, we watched two systems of justice play out in live action, one for people like Alex Murdaugh, and one for people like Eddie Smith. So, first of all, Alex Murdaugh showed up without a single scratch on his head at his bond hearing in Hampton County, South Carolina, which would be his home court where his great grandfather, grandfather and father all ruled as solicitor for nearly 100 years Alex didn't even bother to slap on a bandaid. His closely cropped hair provided no cover for the presence of a head wound nor was any part of his scalp shaved, which is what we would expect in this circumstance. And this bond hearing was less than two weeks after the alleged shooting Oh, and several hours before Alex Bond Hearing. It appeared like his Bond had already been set for him online in the Public Index, which showed a \$20,000 PR bond, which means that he wouldn't have to pay for it. Now during the bond hearing Creighton Waters a prosecutor at the South Carolina Attorney General's Office argued that the bond should be much higher \$100,000 surety, which means he would actually have to pay for it or some of it, and he argued that Alex should be considered a danger to the community.

Creighton Waters 18:31



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Your Honor, at this time, we would request \$100,000 surety as well as GPS, your honor the reason for that he has no prior record. However, while the charges here under the law are not violent, the underlying facts are violent, and they indicated allegedly an intent to harm oneself and that makes that person a danger to themselves and a danger to people. They also see and that means working with others activities that answer the Hampton community.

Mandy Matney 19:02

However, Dick Harpootlian who was Murdaugh's high price attorney argued that his client is not a danger to the community, but only a danger to himself. He painted Alex Murdaugh as a desperate broke drug addict while failing to mention how this desperate broke drug addict could afford him as an attorney. But anyways, he asked for a low bond and argued that his client didn't have any money. And guess what the judge said Alex Murdaugh's bond at \$20,000 The exact amount that was online several hours before the bond hearing, which is not how it's supposed to work. Was there a fix before the bond hearing? And while the prosecutor asked for a GPS monitor, the judge denied that request also. So while Alex Murdaugh's bond was set at \$20,000, Smith, on the other hand, was set at \$55,000 cash and there's one more thing I want to mention about the bond hearing before I put it to rest, and I'm only mentioning this because it was in the media today again and I just have to say something on my podcast that what happened with Dick Harpootlian at the bond hearing and his comment about me was not okay. For those of you who don't know state senator Dick Harpootlian, Alex Murdaugh's lawyer checked the room at the Bond Hearing and looked for me he was caught on camera doing this so when I wasn't there for personal reasons that I will disclose in a book some day he made an incredibly rude sexist comment about me again while national cameras were rolling

Dick Harpootlian 20:44

Mandy Matney (Mumbling) Mandy Matney couldn't make it? Does she really exist?, Will Folk's alter sexual ego.

Mandy Matney 21:20

So what you're hearing there is the media who wouldn't know the half of the story if it wasn't for me laughing with him. The media has been gobbling up Dick Harpootlian's spin campaign and failing to hold him accountable for months. So it's not surprising to see this, but it's jarring to see across the board corruption from media to politics on full display. I have no idea what Dick meant by the statement that I am my boss's alter sexual ego, but I am never want to hear my name. Come out of Dick Harpootlian's mouth along with the word sexual and my boss's name that is disgusting and wrong. And to me the statement implies that me, a woman, can't possibly be my own human separate from my boss, Will Folks and it also shows me that while Dick Harpootlian should have been preparing for his client, he is thinking about me and who is going to hold him accountable in that room. Remember also Dick Harpootlian is a Democrat state senator. He's an elected official who has a lot of power in



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South Carolina, including his influence that the media often ignores his role in selection of judges in our state. He has not apologized to me for his sexist comments and appears like he thinks he doesn't have to. He has not earned the grace that the media constantly is giving him in this case, but he's highly quotable and entertaining to some of the media who would rather share a laugh with him than hold his feet to fire as they should be doing. It is no wonder our state is in shambles when we have reporters who will not hold the most powerful people in our state to account. I totally understand that I am not the victim in the story. I speak with the actual victims in the saga almost daily. And if any person in that crowd knew the victims like I did, and knew their pain, they would not be laughing with Dick Harpootlian, but this good old boy behavior must be called out otherwise they're just gonna keep good old boy-ing. I made a big deal about the media covering this case because it's our job to expose those contributing to the system that is failing so many people but yet this Sunday, October 3, the state newspaper one of the largest newspapers in South Carolina, published a fanboy puff piece about the two quote unquote "bulldog attorneys", Jim Griffin and Dick Harpootlian. The piece was written by an old school journalist named John Monk, and it basically praises the two attorneys while briefly mentioning this awkward comment, and not mentioning that it's sexist and wrong. While they will do pet pieces like that, I will continue to expose the truth in this case, wherever it leads. And while Alex might have gotten off easy in court this month, his battle with the law is far from over in the criminal and civil side of court. There are six criminal investigations related to the Murdaugh family right now. My boss Will Folks at FITSnews.com and I will not rest until we get answers for each of them. So stay tuned to FITSnews.com for the latest updates in the story that's f i t s news.com. A special thank you to the Surge Restaurant Group for their gift certificate to Nectar Farm kitchen following the story is hard but being able to enjoy the most amazing meal at Nectar Farm kitchen on Hilton Head Island was simply divine. I can't wait for Nectar Farm kitchen to open in Bluffton this winter, check out nectarfarmkitchen.com To learn more, stay tuned to the Murdaugh Murders Podcasts. And as always check out FITSnews.com. That's f i t s news.com for the latest updates in this insane saga.

DAVID MOSES 25:16

There's so much to unpack in this case and Mandy works tirelessly to expose the truth, but the truth is she works hard and she does get tired. If you believe like I do that Mandy is the best in the business and I'm a little biased, visit murdaughmurderspodcast.com and click the support the show link to learn how you can help leave a five star review to offset the haters refer an advertiser and get a finder's fee or advertise your company product or service we can geo target across the globe and find the right audience to suit your needs. Help us get Luna some treats so she doesn't interrupt the show as much. And absolutely subscribe to fitsnews.com Mandy and Will are revolutionizing journalism and your subscriptions are invaluable to that mission. Plus you get awesome content every day.



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Mandy Matney 26:03

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