



EPISODE 01: Another Twist? Alex Murdaugh and Cory Fleming Federally Indicted

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know how many more twists and turns Alex Murdaugh can throw at us. But when Alex Murdaugh and Cory Fleming were federally indicted this week, we were reminded of just how far we have come in the past 100 weeks, and yet just how far we still have to go to get answers to the biggest questions in this case. My name is Mandy Matney, and this is True Sunlight — a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. True Sunlight is written with journalist Liz Farrell and produced by David Moses.

[00:01:06] So 100 weeks ago, we created the Murdaugh Murders Podcast with a simple mission: to get the story straight, to expose the truth wherever it leads, and to give voice to the voiceless. We did this at a time when the mission was so crucial. Alex Murdaugh had an entire PR machine behind him, and the narrative surrounding the double homicide was spinning so far out of control, blaming all of the wrong people and hurting the real victims. MMP was created because we wanted people to understand the complexity of this story. We wanted them to understand the power that the Murdaugh family held at the time and the widespread corruption that exists right here in our home state of South Carolina. We didn't know if our little podcast could go up against the system and big media, but we knew that we had to try because it was the right thing to do. Quickly, we found out that there is a lot more crime and corruption connected to this case than we could have ever possibly imagined, and we learned the only way to fight it was with sunlight. And as our audience grew from mostly local to all over the country and the world, we have noticed that the Alex Murdaugh story isn't entirely unique. There are cases where crime meets corruption and the real victims are desperate for true sunlight all over the world. True Sunlight is the antithesis of true crime. True Sunlight values accuracy over access journalism. True Sunlight is shed with empathy, not exploitation. True Sunlight was created as a matter of public service, not just entertainment. We are expanding at Luna Shark Media, and we'll soon unveil a fleet of new member benefits, new contributors, new articles, a new case file delivery system, and more. And we want to again thank all of those listeners for following and supporting MMP, COJ, and this new show, True Sunlight. You are the reason we continue this mission and the reason so many have real hope that we can change these systems near and far. While the name of the podcast has changed, our mission, our values, and our team have not. We are simply expanding our



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horizons while continuing to shine a much-needed bright light on Alex Murdaugh and his web of misdeeds.

[00:03:45] And speaking of old Alex Murdaugh, big news on that front this week. Alex was finally charged federally with a 22-count indictment and his BFF, Cory Fleming, was also charged. But he plans to plead guilty to his one federal charge. That said, we have a lot to unpack on that front. Told ya! We weren't changing that much.

[00:04:14] **Liz Farrell:** So hot Cory summer is upon us once again, you guys. The man did things right, apparently. He has just entered the holy land for white-collar criminals, a place where Alex Murdaugh and Russell Laffitte wish they could be. Cory Fleming has a federal plea deal on the table for a single charge — one charge — which, according to a federal sentencing calculator, could get him as little as 12 to 18 months in prison. Somewhere out there, Cory is relaxing in a cold plunge bath and toasting himself with a champagne flute of Athletic Greens as we speak. We always knew Cory would emerge from all of this looking better than those two buffoons. Not that that's a hard thing to do, but it's still a little annoying.

[00:04:57] So okay. You know how Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin have allegedly been playing legal chess this entire time, which, LOL to that. Really, they're more like those giant word search puzzles your Nana likes to buy in the checkout aisles. I mean, good for Nana and all, but we can see the hidden words from across the room. The strategy is there is no strategy, Dick and Jim.

[00:05:19] Anyway, this whole time, Cory Fleming and his attorney, who is also his and Alex's former classmate in law school, Debbie Barbier, have been playing Boston Marathon. They trained. They hydrated. They had a big spaghetti dinner. They paced themselves. And now, they're ready to take on Heartbreak Hill while barely breaking a sweat — or so it seems from where we're sitting. Maybe this outcome is a testament to the nature of the accusations that have been made against Cory when compared to those that have been made against Alex and Russell. But we're not about to overlook the fact that Debbie is different from most of the other lawyers in this case so far. As we've said before, she is not a foot-stomping toddler in need of a hundred



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diaper changes. Also, she's a woman attorney in South Carolina. She has no choice but to be impeccable and quietly strategic. She can't afford to be bombastic and outrageous and waste the court's time by waving assault rifles at the prosecution and communicating with the judge through sputtering red-faced tantrums. Nonetheless, she was able to pull this thing off, even if, as some sources have speculated, she got help from attorney Mark Moore, Russell's pinch hitter of an attorney who entered the game in extra innings; the guy who had his diaper changed by Judge Newman at the April scheduling hearing while Representative Todd Rutherford, Russell's other pinch hitter of an attorney, name-dropped himself and demanded more time to read Russell's file. Rutherford, whom Russell seemed to have hired moments after it came out that he had helped orchestrate the secret early release of a convicted murderer and gang leader.

[00:06:53] Okay. Before we talk about Cory's federal indictment, let's talk about what kind of best friend he was to Alex. First, you'll remember that he's the guy Alex seemed to call when he needed a stand-in attorney to keep an eye on things. Obviously, Cory was involved in the Satterfield case, representing Gloria Satterfield's estate upon Alex's recommendation to her family. He was also Connor Cook's first attorney. You know, Connor Cook, Paul's friend who was on the boat the night Mallory Beach was killed? The guy the Murdaughs and others in law enforcement allegedly conspired to frame as the driver of the boat? Cory was who Alex recommended to the Cook family to represent Connor. Then, there was the Pinckney case. Cory represented Pamela Pinckney, Hakeem Pinckney's mother who was sued by Alex on behalf of Hakeem, a young deaf man who became a quadriplegic in a 2009 car wreck. It was Pamela's money that was used to fund a private flight for Alex, Cory, Chris Wilson, and their families to fly to Nebraska for the College World Series in 2012. Cory also represented Patrick Wilson, the young man who came forward with information about Stephen Smith's death after the newspaper in Hampton ran a story that all but accused the community of covering up Stephen's death on behalf of the Murdaugh family. Patrick came forward to say that Shawn Connelly, a friend who had provided law enforcement with information in an unrelated case that led them to charge Patrick with three counts of attempted murder in 2015, had killed Stephen by hitting him with his side-view mirror.



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[00:08:23] Those are just some of the cases where both Alex's and Cory's names pop up together and where Alex's interests seem to be better represented than perhaps the interests of Cory's clients. You'll also remember that Alex had reached out to Cory with a drippy and contrite love letter after Alex was arrested in October 2021 and that Alex had tried to publicly absolve Cory of all sins by mentioning him in an 8-minute monologue to Judge Alison Lee at a December 2021 bond hearing. The two were very, very close friends before all this. Cory, as we've told you before, even looks a lot like Alex if Alex ate vegetables and used a treadmill.

[00:09:01] After the murders in August 2021, right when Alex was learning that law enforcement wasn't buying his story, when he was trying to get Blanca to corroborate his version of the facts when it came to what he was wearing that evening, Cory is who Alex brought with him to SLED for an interview. And Cory, who is a defense attorney, came in big. He was actually the first of the attorneys who sat in on Alex's interviews with law enforcement who actually acted like an attorney. Also, because this is a podcast, you can't see what Cory wore to this meeting. But if you close your eyes and listen real carefully, you might hear the sounds of a garish plaid jacket and a woman saying, "You really want me to alter your chinos to be more smug?" We should also note that Cory sounds a lot like Alex, too. So at first, Cory came in and was like, "We're the number one guys here, not you."

[00:09:55] **SLED Agent:** I appreciate you coming in today. I know we've got a lot to talk about. But before we get started with your questions, this has been going on for over two months, and we've done a lot of work.

[00:10:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** I know you have.

[00:10:15] **SLED Agent:** And I've got some more questions.

[00:10:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** Sure.

[00:10:20] **SLED Agent:** Okay. So we'll just — we'll start with that.



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[00:10:23] **Cory Fleming:** Wait a minute. Hold on.

[00:10:27] **SLED Agent:** Yes, sir.

[00:10:28] **Cory Fleming:** Maybe I'm mistaken. I thought we were coming here so you could update him on what's going on.

[00:10:35] **SLED Agent:** And I intend to do that.

[00:10:37] **Cory Fleming:** Okay. Let's do that first.

[00:10:38] **SLED Agent:** Okay. Well, the update is I'm doing the investigation. And I have some questions that I need — I would like some answers to. And, I mean, certainly, if, you know, I ask the question, if you don't want to answer it, you don't have to answer it.

[00:10:54] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I'm fine with that.

[00:10:55] **SLED Agent:** I mean, it's more clarifications of the two interviews you've already given me.

[00:10:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** Totally understand.

[00:11:03] **SLED Agent:** Okay.

[00:11:03] **Cory Fleming:** One second.

[00:11:04] **SLED Agent:** Yeah.

[00:11:05] **Cory Fleming:** Wait one second. Alright. I need for you to tell me: are you going to give us information or are we just here for you to ask questions?

[00:11:16] **SLED Agent:** No, I'm going to give you some information.



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[00:11:18] **Cory Fleming:** Why can't you give us information first?

[00:11:20] **SLED Agent:** Some of the information that you're asking about are in my questions. And as we go through, you'll see.

[00:11:29] **Cory Fleming:** Okay.

[00:11:30] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't mind. I don't mind.

[00:11:34] **Cory Fleming:** I know you don't. I know you don't. But I can't. I mean, I'm a friend but I'm also a lawyer, and I'd like to know what we do. I'd like to understand what we're talking about, you know? I need you to answer this question: are you asking him questions to further your investigation, or are you asking him questions because you think that he's a suspect? I need a straight answer.

[00:12:04] **SLED Agent:** I am asking these questions to further my investigation.

[00:12:08] **Cory Fleming:** Does that mean that you're not asking him these questions as a suspect? Because it — because I'm not comfortable with you asking him questions as a suspect when I came here with the thought that you were going to be telling him where you are in the investigation, what it is you've done, seen, uncovered, whatever. That's why we came here.

[00:12:46] **SLED Agent:** Well, let me respond to your question. It may not be a direct answer that you're looking for, and I told Alex this when we first met. Any homicide investigation, you start with the closest person and/or the person who found the deceased. In both cases, that's Alex. Everybody stays in that investigation until we can get them out. And right now, because of the questions that I have that I need explanations for, I cannot get Alex out.

[00:13:19] **Cory Fleming:** Okay. Alright. That's a reasonable statement. I don't have a problem with that statement. That's fine. I don't read it, but everybody in the United States of America has an opinion on this case. And because I



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know everybody, I know it's a bunch of bullshit. I can't imagine that y'all are going to be asking about nonsense on the internet.

[00:13:54] **SLED Agent:** No. No. I mean, just like you, I'm aware of what's out there. I have not read every article. I don't care to read every article because they're not doing the investigation.

[00:14:06] **Cory Fleming:** That's right. That's right. That's right. Alright. Well, you know, Alex, if you're comfortable, you feel okay, then that's fine. But I don't — alright. That's fine.

[00:14:20] **Mandy Matney:** You hear that — that undeserved confidence and demanding presence Cory Fleming has in that interview? As I watched this again, I said to myself, "The audacity of this man!" At that moment, Cory Fleming's name was in the media as Alex Murdaugh's best friend who was involved in the suspicious Satterfield settlement of \$500,000. Really should have been distancing himself from Alex at that time. And — I don't know. Maybe checking his files to make sure everything was right in the Satterfield case. Like, question one: why is the media saying that it was a \$500,000 settlement when it was really over \$4 million? And question two: did my clients get any of that money? Maybe I should check on that. But no. Cory was spending his time fishing for Alex Murdaugh to see what SLED had on him.

[00:15:19] **Cory Fleming:** You don't get any kind of friends involved in anything? Just the range of it.

[00:15:27] **SLED Agent:** I mean, we got plenty of DNA from the scene, but it's Alex's, it's Paul's, it's Maggie's, it's Buster's.

[00:15:36] **Mandy Matney:** Then, Cory did a little PR work for the family by portraying them as on the hunt for the real killer and subtly reminding SLED agents David Owen and Jeff Croft of the family's power locally.



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[00:15:52] **Cory Fleming:** Let me ask you this question. It comes from Randy. You know, they've got a lot of friends in the community, you know, from the upper echelon to the lowest socioeconomic level. They think that they can ask people to keep ears out, you know, loose lips, talking, that kind of stuff. But they don't want to reach out unless —

[00:16:42] **SLED Agent:** Well, I was talking to Randy about this as well. He posed that question to me.

[00:16:46] **Cory Fleming:** Alright.

[00:16:46] **SLED Agent:** I'm not going to ask anybody in the law firm or anybody in the family, "Hey, go out and see what you can find and report back to me."

[00:16:58] **Cory Fleming:** Sure.

[00:16:58] **SLED Agent:** Because then it could be a contributor instead of working as an agent of the state.

[00:17:04] **Cory Fleming:** Sure — you don't have to explain that.

[00:17:12] **Mandy Matney:** These Good Ole Boys tell on themselves all of the time. Cory saying that little comment about the upper echelon? He's making sure those SLED agents know just how much power the family has. He still really believes he has that card to play. I don't think we've ever played these clips before and apologies if we had because honestly, that whole trial was a blur. But this is a good reminder of the person we are dealing with here. This is important because Cory has been quiet since he was charged last year, likely because his lawyer is smart and not a Good Ole Boy. But as we talk about Cory Fleming and his role in all of this, we have to remember who this man was in August 2021 as he was defending his friend who is now a convicted murderer. So after Alex told SLED about a hundred lies about what happened the night Maggie and Paul were murdered, best friend Cory goes back to trying to suss out what evidence SLED has.



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[00:18:18] **Cory Fleming:** And y'all — now, y'all had to send the — because his vehicle's new, you had to send that off?

[00:18:24] **SLED Agent:** Yes, sir.

[00:18:25] **Cory Fleming:** So it's not like when we hire experts, they come in and just download it?

[00:18:30] **SLED Agent:** It's 2021, and they don't have the systems for you. But they're working, you're creating a system, from what I understand.

[00:18:38] **Cory Fleming:** Now, I don't know exactly how the OnStar thing works or how the control module works, but we're — this is something different, right, or is it all contained in the same thing?

[00:18:48] **SLED Agent:** There are two different systems that we took out. One is OnStar, the other one is the telemetry system or infotainment system, and the FBI says there is information there. They just have to be able to extract it and show it in a report.

[00:19:03] **Cory Fleming:** Sure. So you just wait for that.

[00:19:07] **SLED Agent:** I'm waiting on the search warrant from OnStar. See what kind of information they can give me.

[00:19:16] **Alex Murdaugh:** You need to sign something that expedites that? I don't own the car, but whoever you need to will sign whatever authorization you need.

[00:19:36] **Cory Fleming:** So you had said that or maybe Jim told me something about y'all were able to get to Paul's phone just with a search warrant.

[00:19:45] **SLED Agent:** We have a what they call a partial download because we don't have the passcode. We can't do a full extraction.



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[00:19:54] **Cory Fleming:** Do you think — so, you know, my thought was that I don't know who's required to authorize Apple to open it. I know that they — I know there was that big thing where they weren't going to do it because for whatever case. But I thought that if we — I think Maggie on the phone, I think it was in her name, the account was in her name.

[00:20:24] **SLED Agent:** Well, if you — I mean, you have to have your own separate iCloud account for each file. And we've done that for Maggie's, Paul's, and Alex's iCloud accounts to see if there's anything in there. There was nothing in Paul's. I'm still waiting on Maggie's.

[00:20:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** Maggie did back hers up and stuff. I know that so.

[00:20:49] **Cory Fleming:** Does that mean Paul didn't back his up?

[00:20:50] **SLED Agent:** Probably.

[00:20:53] **Cory Fleming:** But what I was — what my thought was and I don't know if this is even possible, but if we get the estate and we get the personal representative who is now the authorized person to authorize it to be open, and I'm, I mean, surrounded by a hundred lawyers. We can get a probate done like that, and I can have the powers of appointment done in two days and we can authorize whatever it is you need to open.

[00:21:21] **SLED Agent:** And that might be beneficial. So I know about that, Randy and I, or somebody and I have talked about that before.

[00:21:28] **Cory Fleming:** Yeah. Well, I, you know, I said I'd do it, any of us.

[00:21:31] **SLED Agent:** Yeah. Who would be the representative? Just somebody at the law firm?

[00:21:38] **Cory Fleming:** Probably one of your brothers, I would think.

[00:21:42] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, for Maggie and Paul's estate?



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[00:21:44] **Cory Fleming:** Yeah.

[00:21:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** Probably be me or one of my brothers. But whoever it is, it doesn't matter. Whoever it is will do whatever y'all need to do to, you know? It won't be anybody that'll be uncooperative.

[00:21:58] **SLED Agent:** Okay. Well, I mean, if y'all would go ahead and start working on that, then we'll reach out to Apple and figure out how we get that accomplished.

[00:22:08] **Cory Fleming:** Alright. Because gotta be something to hear. Gotta be something. I mean, have y'all had to track down all the wackos on the internet, or just only the ones that you think seem a little more — not the opportunity and the inclination, you know?

[00:22:37] **SLED Agent:** There's been a few. There's been a few that I'm looking at. But some of the information is just so far-fetched.

[00:22:45] **Mandy Matney:** Re-listening to this now, I have to ask: how much did Cory know in August 2021 exactly? It's telling to me that Cory asked about the cell phone and car data, two of the most damning pieces of evidence against Alex Murdaugh in the double homicide. On one hand, Cory was a seasoned defense attorney at the time, and it would be natural for him to poke around and see if there is anything that could exonerate his friend Alex. But on the other hand, I gotta wonder if Cory was fishing for information more for himself. Did Cory know at the time that if Alex falls, he falls, too? Was he acting so defensive, not as a defense attorney, but as someone who was ultimately protecting himself? It was also very telling when Cory tried to show SLED that they're on SLED's side. This is another classic Good Ole Boy move.

[00:23:49] **Cory Fleming:** Well, I mean, you know, y'all been taking a lickin' in the press about not disclosing stuff, but Jesus Christ, man.

[00:23:54] **SLED Agent:** I don't have anything to disclose.



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[00:23:56] **Cory Fleming:** Well, and, you know, why you gonna tell the bad guy what you got?

[00:24:00] **SLED Agent:** Thank you.

[00:24:01] **Cory Fleming:** You know? I mean, I just don't understand it. I mean, look.

[00:24:04] **Mandy Matney:** Wow. He said, "Why tell the bad guy what you got?" while the bad guy or guys are sitting right there. And you know what else? Cory didn't want Alex answering questions about the boat crash lawsuit, which ultimately played a big role in the state's theory on Alex's motive at trial.

[00:24:25] **SLED Agent:** Still trying to figure this out. I cannot exclude the boat incident. I know that y'all are currently going through the civil portion. How far has that progressed? I mean, were y'all in the talks? Was it breaking down?

[00:24:50] **Cory Fleming:** Can I say something real quick? I know nothing about any of that stuff, and he's represented by lawyers in that case. I don't think he — I personally believe he shouldn't be talking about that unless the lawyers he's represented by participate. I don't think it's — I mean, I'm sure that they're happy to do that, but I don't think that — I don't think the person should be talking about a pending action like that without the lawyers knowing about it and what — because I just don't I know nothing about it. I'm just completely separated from it.

[00:25:39] **Mandy Matney:** Completely separated from it? Cory, you represented Connor Cook, remember? It's interesting that Cory doesn't want Alex to talk about the boat crash. On one hand, is that just good legal advice, or is it because of the pending obstruction of justice investigation that Alex was under at the time of the murders? Now, remember how aggressive Cory was at the beginning of this interview, about what kind of interview this was and what kind of interview it wasn't? Listen to him here.



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[00:26:14] **SLED Agent:** A few more questions.

[00:26:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** Sure.

[00:26:16] **SLED Agent:** Did you kill Maggie?

[00:26:19] **Alex Murdaugh:** Did I kill my wife?

[00:26:20] **SLED Agent:** Yes.

[00:26:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I didn't.

[00:26:23] **SLED Agent:** Do you know who did?

[00:26:24] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I do not know who did.

[00:26:28] **SLED Agent:** Did you kill Paul?

[00:26:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I did not kill Paul.

[00:26:31] **SLED Agent:** Do you know who did?

[00:26:32] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, sir. I do not know who did. Do you think I killed Maggie?

[00:26:43] **SLED Agent:** I have to go where the evidence and the facts take me.

[00:26:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** I understand that. And you think I killed Paul.

[00:26:50] **SLED Agent:** I have to go where the evidence and the facts take me and I don't have anything that points to anybody else at this time.

[00:27:01] **Alex Murdaugh:** So does that mean that I am a suspect?



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[00:27:04] **SLED Agent:** You were still in — like I told Cory earlier, you were still in this with everything that we've talked about, with the family guns, the ammunition, nobody else's DNA. I had to put my beliefs aside and go with the facts.

[00:27:29] **Mandy Matney:** Crickets. No Cory. When the question was asked, he barely seemed to move. Is this when Cory understood that Alex wasn't telling the truth, or did he already know? Did he find out later, or does he still think that Alex is innocent? Obviously, we don't know the answers to that, but we believe that Alex needs Cory to stay silent more than Cory needs Alex, which is why this federal indictment could get really spicy.

[00:28:11] **Liz Farrell:** Okay. The federal indictment. There are a few interesting things in there. The first is that it refers to Cory as a former personal injury and criminal defense attorney. That is interesting because Cory has not been disbarred. And from what we've seen, lawyers are very specific and very deferential when it comes to how they refer to their fallen comrades. For instance, Alex was a, quote, suspended attorney until he was disbarred, even though the writing was on the wall for him. The writing is on the wall for Cory, too. But it's not clear if this is just an oversight on the government's part or if they know something that we don't about what the Supreme Court is planning for Cory. We checked the latest disciplinary orders issued by the court, and there are no new ones for Cory. A few weeks ago, we also checked in on the status of Cory's suspended license to practice law in Georgia, and it seems like they may be waiting for South Carolina to make its first move.

[00:29:05] The next interesting thing is that the government makes the point of saying that Cory had no knowledge of the fake Forge accounts or Alex's scheme to steal his clients money through the accounts. So we all know the bigger picture of the Satterfield caper. It's interesting to see how the government breaks down Cory's role in it though. Cory, according to the indictment, submitted a fraudulent disbursement sheet to the circuit court, i.e., Judge Carmen Mullen, in January 2019, outlining \$11,500 in, quote, prosecution expenses. However, there were no legitimate prosecution expenses attached to the case. Remember back in the day when Eric Bland would come on MMP and rant and rave about these fake expenses and how



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the rounded-off dollar figures alone should have been a red flag to Judge Mullen? I want to quote Eric from our group text thread on Wednesday after these indictments came out.

[00:29:58] **Eric Bland:** I am absolutely loving this.

[00:30:01] **Liz Farrell:** Now is a good time to remind you that Judge Mullen also graduated law school with Alex and Cory and, according to testimony from Chad Westendorf, readily agreed to allow Alex and Cory to hold off on filing the disbursement sheets in this case until after the boat crash case was over. Reminder: the boat crash case still isn't over. So wonder what Cory had to say about her to the Feds?

[00:30:24] Back to the indictment. It also noted that in May 2019, Cory submitted another fraudulent disbursement sheet to the circuit court, i.e., Judge Carmen Mullen. This time, he fraudulently outlined the disbursement of \$1.435 million in attorney's fees when he only collected around \$673,000 in fees — less than half of what he told Judge Mullen he would receive. This disbursement sheet also outlined illegitimate prosecution expenses, this time for \$105,000. The indictment says that Cory and Alex, quote, intended to use this money for their own personal enrichment. The indictment also notes that Cory, in three separate transactions of \$26,200, took money belonging to Gloria Satterfield's estate and fraudulently transferred it to his personal account, fraudulently claiming the money was for valid expenses related to the case. Cory is also admitting to holding back another \$150,000 in fake prosecution expenses for him and Alex to have at their disposal. For all of that, Cory is charged with one single count of wire fraud. One single count — his ticket into the federal system and perhaps out of the state system. Cory is admitting to knowingly conspiring with Alex to commit wire fraud, meaning he's admitting that they worked together to steal some money, which means Alex lied again by saying Cory didn't know. To us, this seems like Cory was aware that he was committing crime B, but unknowingly helped Alex commit crime A, and we think that could be true of a lot of people, including ole Russell Lafitte. As part of the plea, Cory will be agreeing to making full restitution to the victims.



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[00:32:07] Okay. Now for the part that has everyone talking: Cory is cooperating, and this is serious. This isn't a, yeah, yeah, I'll tell you some things scenario. And Cory can't be like, so there's this guy, Alex Murdaugh, and I know for a fact he killed his wife and son. No. He has to give the government information it did not have before. That's why we keep saying the first to come forward is so important in the Stephen Smith case. The first person to tell law enforcement the truth about what happened to him is the one who gets the deal. Cory has to be honest and tell the government everything he knows about all criminal activities about which he has knowledge, and he has to testify to that knowledge if called upon. If Cory keeps something to himself and it comes out later that he knew about it, well, then, he's in big trouble. In fact, the federal government showed us how serious they are about proffers when it came to Russell Lafitte, who they said lied to him. Lying didn't work out well for ole Ankles Lafitte, did it? The question on everyone's mind is who might go down next as a result of Cory's information. It's not clear whether Cory's cooperation has already netted the government information it has already used. It's also not clear what will happen at the hearing scheduled for 2 PM Thursday in Charleston. It doesn't appear that Cory has waived his pre-sentence investigation report, so it could be a while before he is sentenced, giving the government time to lean on him hard.

[00:33:28] Considering the wording of the plea agreement, it seems like Cory's cooperation is future tense, which brings us to this: as part of the plea deal, Cory will agree to future polygraph exams, which, hey, Emily Limehouse, let us know if you want any help brainstorming those questions. For instance, ask him if he knows what happened to the Calverts since he was Dennis Gerwing's attorney? If you don't know what the Calvert case is, Google it for now. We'll cover it in future episodes. It's just another case that makes South Carolina's Lowcountry a crazy, crazy place to live. So for its part, the government is agreeing to advocate for a sentence reduction. The wire fraud charge usually carries up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines. The online calculator for estimating federal sentences puts Cory's sentence at around a year to a year and a half when factoring in his cooperation and other merits, and it puts his fine at between \$3,000 and \$30,000.

[00:34:25] Now, for the humdinger — the thing that makes this the holy land for white-collar criminals. Cory faces almost two dozen state charges in this



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case. His trial is set for September. We reached out to the Attorney General's Office on Wednesday to ask whether the state plans to follow through with Cory's case. We reached out to the Attorney General's Office on Wednesday to ask whether the state plans to follow through with Cory's case. Why? Because if Cory cooperates, the federal government is going to recommend that Cory not serve any time in the South Carolina prison system. The AG's Office did not get back to us, but that's a tough question. Because is it fair? Is it fair that people who steal money from others can afford high-priced, powerful attorneys to elevate their prison experience? Again, we're always pro upgrade, but just not at the expense of justice. That's the question here. If Cory gets a tidy little sentence, then we hope to God it's because he delivered the goods on some bad guys. We hope he doesn't hold back. There's no doubt in our minds that Cory wants this softer outcome, not only because who wants to go to prison, but because of his family, his wife, and his two kids. The cost of that alone should be the absolute most, and Cory should be held to it because unlike Alex, we think Cory might have a soul.

[00:35:49] **Mandy Matney:** And speaking of Alex, even from McCormick Prison, he's adding to his collection of charges. Like Cory, he is now a federally indicted man. On Wednesday, May 24th, the government indicted Alex on 22 counts. Most of the counts were for money laundering, and much of the indictment is familiar to anyone who has been following the case. However, there were a few new fun facts. One is that we now know the reason why Alex had two fake Forge accounts. The first was opened in 2015, around when Palmetto State Bank was taking over the Allendale Bank and had federal regulators looking at their books. The second Forge account was opened in 2018. The second account was always curious to us. Turns out, Bank of America closed his first account because — get this — of how much he had been overdrawing his account. Obviously, Bank of America is not run by a bunch of Russell's cousins. Alex opened the second account after the first one was closed, right in time to use Gloria Satterfield's death as a way to steal money from an insurance company.

[00:37:10] The other new element contained in this indictment is that it's finally on the record that Alex had been stealing from PMPED since at least 2005 — 2005, when his father was still the solicitor. Several attorneys connected to this case have always said that Alex has been stealing for his



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entire career. Alex became an attorney in 1994. He started working for PMPED in December 1998 after he worked with Cory Fleming at Moss & Kuhn in Beaufort for a few years. Now, we really gotta ask: did he spend those first dozen or so years on the straight and narrow, or is this when he was learning to steal? Regardless, from at least 2005, he was without proper disclosure or approval taking money from client trust accounts to satisfy fake liens on client settlements; taking attorney's fees on fake or nonexisting annuities; creating fraudulent expenses that were never incurred and taking money for fake medical expenses, fake construction expenses, fake airline expenses; intercepting insurance proceeds and depositing them into his own account and directing other — note the plural on this one, guys — attorneys to disperse attorney's fees directly to him instead of to the law firm. Remember what he did to Chris Wilson? The \$792,000 that he had Chris give him instead of to the firm? The thing that represented the final straw for him with PMPED? Well, Chris Wilson isn't two people, right, unless we're missing something. If that plural is to be believed, it sounds like Alex did that same thing to one or more other attorneys. So for 16 years, Alex Murdaugh was stealing from clients and the law firm through fake fees and expenses. I know that we've talked about PMPED being asleep at the wheel, but this? This is like being asleep at the helm of the Titanic. It will be very telling to see who survives this one.

[00:39:48] Now, Dick and Jim put out a statement on Wednesday that WCBD News 2 reporter Riley Benson posted on Twitter. And here is David with that Dick and Jim statement.

[00:40:01] **David Moses (reading Dick and Jim's statement):** Alex has been cooperating with the United States Attorney's Office and federal agencies in their investigation of a broad range of activities. We anticipate that the charges brought today will be quickly resolved without trial.

[00:40:18] **Mandy Matney:** Okay. So first, who among us believes that Alex is now cooperating? I mean, come on. Does the government actually want his cooperation at this point, and what exactly would that cooperation look like? This is a man who allowed a sketch artist to come to a hospital so that they could draw a picture of a very fake — but according to Alex — handsome and



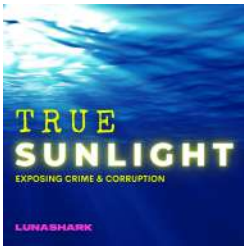
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nice fellow who allegedly shot him in the head. Unless he's ready to sit under a bare lightbulb and tell the government what all of this has been about, let's just call that line in Dick and Jim's statement what it is: more nonsense from Team Murdaugh.

[00:41:05] Now, second, and this is serious, they actually anticipate that this will be resolved quickly and without a trial. Okay. So plea deal, right? Wait, plea deal? Could this mean that Alex might end up transferring to federal prison? The short answer is yeah, he could, according to a bunch of lawyers that we asked today, depending on what information he has to offer and what hot nonsense the government agrees to.

[00:41:37] And here we are again. The big questions right now are why, and why now? What are Dick and Jim really up to? The federal indictment is largely an exercise in redundancy to state charges. Is the state going to hand over the financial element of this case to the federal government? We don't know the answer to that right now because we didn't hear back from the AG's Office today. But something is up, and if it is what it looks like, that Alex and team are gearing up for a kinder, gentler prison stay on the federal level, then God help those who make that deal because unless the information he trades is absolutely epic, then it's just another example of him using and abusing the system for his own gain and people helping him do it.

[00:42:35] But the good news is that if anyone decides to cut Alex Murdaugh any slack in the federal system, we will be right here to drag those vampires into the sunlight where they belong. Truthfully, we had another episode planned out today related to the Jeroid Price case and a whole lot of other nonsense. But we felt that it was important to cover the latest developments in this case as a reminder that we might have changed our name, but we are still here — still watching and still armed with information and sources to sort through all of Team Murdaugh's shenanigans. If Cory and Alex truly cooperate with the Feds and the Feds don't play along with their Good Ole Boy games, then maybe — just maybe — we will start getting answers to the questions that we have been asking for the past 100 weeks. Like, where did the money go? How many people helped Alex with his crimes? And how many people



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will go down for this? We will be back with new episodes every Thursday. Stay tuned, stay pesky, and stay in the sunlight.

[00:43:50] **Outro:** True sunlight is created by me, Mandy Matney, co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell, and produced by my husband, David Moses. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production. Right, Luna?

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