



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

Mandy Matney 0:02

I don't know where Cory Fleming is right now, seriously, at the time we're publishing this, there has been no record of his detention since September 22 when he was released from the Charleston County Detention Center. And that is just weird. I also don't know if the elaborate plan to convince the public of Alex Murdaugh's innocence has any chance of getting Team Murdaugh to their goal. But after closely looking at every move they've made in the past six months, I have to admit that their plan finally seems to be gaining steam. My name is Mandy Matney. This is True Sunlight, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark Production, written with journalist Liz Farrell.

DAVID MOSES 1:20

I hope you'll pardon this interruption because we wanted to say thank you to the Luna Shark Premium members who have joined our effort to launch Mandy's new book, Blood on Their Hands. Blood on Their Hands release is November 14, but you can preorder your copy at bloodontheirhandsbook.com or click the link in the description. For those that buy the book, we're adding a ton of content for Soak Up the Sun Premium members that matches each chapter. Our team is working hard to ensure that the narrative is accompanied by video, audio and other content you won't find anywhere else. Learn more at bloodontheirhandsbook.com With that shameless plug out of the way, here's a selfless one. We are proud to share that Sandy Smith announced the formation of the Stephen Nicholas Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund and while eagerly awaiting word from SLED on developments in the case, she created this new fund to provide annual scholarship support for qualified students with a preference for the field of nursing. Click the link in the description to hear from Sandy herself or donate at StephenSmitmScholarship.com.

Mandy Matney 2:27

So, in the past few months, I have come to realize that I have an unfortunate superpower, my social media feed, DMS, text etc. essentially detect the pulse of the Murdaugh story. It is a blessing and a curse. On the bright side, I don't have to spend much time trying to figure out the latest in the case and see how exactly the public is react. It all seems to come to me whether I like it or not like. This summer when I was minding my own business in Denver getting ready for the Taylor Swift concert and my phone was literally on fire was shirtless Alex Murdaugh pics and questions



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

like is Alex Murdaugh really on Only Fans. There are a lot of “Mandy, just making sure you saw this” followed by a link was probably one of the grossest things I could ever imagine, photos of shirtless Alex Murdaugh logging into his iPad from prison. And before you yell at me for body shaming Alex let me be clear here that Alex Murdaugh could have Ryan Gosling's abs and I would still find a sight of him to be repulsive. So the shirtless Alex story was a huge one in the last few months. That was back in simpler times when it felt like a vast majority of the internet agreed that Alex Murdaugh was guilty of murder and he definitely deserves to be in prison for the rest of his life. That was before Dick and Jim and whatever PR machine Team Murdaugh has working for them started making things really complicated on their apparent crusade to get Alex's assets and either get him into federal prison or get him out entirely. As we said in this episode, this is a complex plan. It involves not only one but many Hail Marys to complete. However, if I've learned anything about the South Carolina justice system, it's that two mediocre male attorneys can get away with a lot more than we thought that they could with just a little bit of power in the darkness. Like see the Gerard price case, for example. So now the pulse of the Murdaugh story feels different, opinions about the murder case are more fractured than they've ever felt. And let's be clear here, difference in opinion is one thing but using trickery, propaganda, and social media's inability to fact check to sway public opinion is just wrong. Just about every day now, I can't cruise social media without seeing a comment like “the law is the law and the clerk of court needs to pay for what she did,” or “Alex Murdaugh deserves a fair trial like everyone else,” or my favorite, “it's clear Mandy, you hate Alex so much that you cannot see that he's innocent in the murders.” People actually say these things to me all of the time when I don't ask them to, again, a blessing and a curse. So in the last few weeks, especially since the latest season of the Murdaugh Netflix documentary came out, posts that are like “Alex didn't kill his wife and son” have started to really concern me, especially the sudden rise in the cartel theories floating around the internet. And girl, don't even get me started about the pro Murdaugh TikToks racking up an absurd amount of views. Well, I don't believe that the Murdaugh dock was an intentional part of the Murdaugh PR strategy because there was no evidence of their participation. It definitely seemed to align with a defensive strategy, sensationalism sells, and producers chose to question the validity of the verdict. Instead of investigating all of the corruption and crime involved in these cases, they seem to carefully edit interviews that actually left viewers wondering if a drug cartel killed Maggie and Paul. One of the pillars of our mission here at Luna Shark is to get the story straight.



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

Because let's be honest here, Team Murdaugh has been winning the PR game in the last five weeks while sensationalism sells, especially on social media platforms like Tiktok. The truth has got to prevail. And I know I probably sound crazy because this is crazy, convincing the public that Alex Murdaugh isn't the monster that he is portrayed to be. That is the first and most important step in their plan. Dick Harpootlian knows politics. He knows that when the public believes his client is a thief and a liar who murdered his family. There are only so many strings to pull. He knows that even men without morals at the top can't and won't help them because of the risk of public outrage. But if they can convince the public that Alex was just a drug addict who was railroaded by an evil clerk of court named Becky and helped by a team of fame hungry court officials bolstered by a couple of pesky podcasters. Well, that narrative gives them strings to pull. We have come so far in exposing the deep corruption in the South Carolina justice system. And I'll be damned if we let some Murdaugh PR machine take control of the narrative now and ruin the good names of those who have worked so hard on this case, so it is time to remind the public of the truth. Before this Team Murdaugh narrative goes any further we want you to see the tiny details we have been catching as we have taken a closer look at their game plan.

Liz Farrell 8:14

Let's talk quickly about the latest news that happened over the past week. Russell "Can't Admit Defeat" Laffitte is finally in prison at the Coleman low security Federal Correctional Institution in Florida. We talked about what his life at this prison will look like on our latest episode of Cup of Justice from the prison charcuterie to the fashionable straw hat sold at the commissary. So check that out if you haven't already. In the meantime, we have a real mystery on our hands. Cory Fleming was released from Charleston County Detention Center on September 22. Sometime after that Cory's named finally appeared in the Bureau of Prisons inmate database, but noted that he was not in BOP custody. His status remains unchanged, which is very weird because he's also not listed as an inmate in Charleston County or at Beaufort County Detention Center where he was at one point expected to go prior to his sentencing hearing on September 14. He is however listed as a prisoner with the South Carolina Department of Corrections but it's just a profile. He's not actually in their custody, according to that profile. And according to their spokesperson, Chrysti Shain, and actually the profile says he's in a federal institution. But according to Scott Taylor with the Office of Public Affairs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons who responded to our email inquiring about Cory's whereabouts Wednesday morning,



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

DAVID MOSES 9:44

Cory Howerton Fleming is not currently in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons FBOP. If an individual were to come into FBOP custody, per FBOP policy, specific designation information is not releasable until after an individual arrives at his or her destination. We do not provide specific information on the status of individuals who are not in the custody of the FBOP.

Liz Farrell 10:16

So where is Cory? This could just be an administrative error, but we're wondering if it's something more. There have been examples in other cases unrelated to this one where inmates suddenly go missing from the roster because they're being protected like a jailhouse snitch. Prosecutors might detain him at an undisclosed location. Another jail for instance, while they questioned him, could this be a sign that Cory is finally turning state's evidence and an effort to get out of that 13 year 10 month sentence, 10 years of which will be spent in a state prison? Is Cory being held at an undisclosed location so he can be questioned? Is he finally playing his last card? Are investigators currently holding a Panera Green Goddess Cobb Salad with chicken and dressing on the side just out of reach of Cory's desperate hands, taunting him with the fresh nutrients. You want the salad Mr. Fleming, you're gonna have to tell us about Moss and Kuhn and PMPED. If you tell us where the money was going, we might have a dessert made with pureed dates and pumpkin seeds for you. From what we're hearing this scenario is a strong possibility, and we hope that's what is happening because where is Cory? But also, if what we suspect is true, it's annoying that it took this long and it's annoying that he held on to that card until after it was clear that he was no longer a member of the secret country club that exists inside South Carolina's justice system.

Mandy Matney 11:51

Over the weekend, our former colleague David Lauderdale, a columnist for The Island Packet, wrote a really great piece with the headline "Judge speaks the long lost truth in Friend of Murdaugh Case." In the piece he called out Cory Fleming and his supporters for Cory's immediate appeal of his plea deal and Judge Newman sentencing. Lauderdale didn't pull any punches, which was so refreshing as we've come accustomed to McClatchy's soft touch when it comes to calling out Alex and



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

his co-conspirators. Here's our David was some of the best parts of Lauderdale's column.

DAVID MOSES 12:30

The sentence he gave to Fleming was not even harsh. It was extremely lenient. Yet he dared to say that what Fleming did was beyond wrong, it was, quote, unprecedented, unimaginable, end quote. And oh boy, we apparently don't say things like that in a civilized society a la Murdaugh. Oh, no, that's not us. Criminals in hoodies do that, not criminals in coats and ties. The beauty of that hearing is that we got to hear the detailed proof that led to the obvious guilty pleas. We didn't have lawyers spinning so-called discoveries at a press conference. We didn't have the deny slime and delay tactics that characterize the defense of Alex Murdaugh, and what Judge Newman did and said in this instance, should be commended, not attacked.

Mandy Matney 13:26

Late on Wednesday, the US Attorney's office filed its response to Dick and Jim's motion to have US Marshals immediately seize Alex Murdaugh's assets. The US government is objecting to the motion and saying it does not intend to seize Alex's assets. That is a huge deal. Because for a while there, it seemed like the Feds were basically helping Alex elude state accountability. And worse, it seems like this plan was going to leave victims like the Beach family in the lurch. It's worth noting that the Beach's along with their family attorney Mark Tinsley are entirely responsible for the court appointing a receivership to control Alex and Buster's assets. The motion to seize his assets was just one step and Dick and Jim's multi-step plan to extricate Alex from the South Carolina judicial system. And because Alex's federal plea deal, the deal he pleaded guilty on September 21 seemed like it was tailor made to his wishes, it would have been a disgusting failure if the US Attorney's office didn't make the effort to fight back. So we commend them for that. And we really hope we were wrong about what this all looks like. But they're mentioned of Dick and Jim maybe not getting paid if the assets were seized by the Feds seems like a total bone thrown to them. We weren't the only ones wondering if the end game for the Federal seizure had anything to do with a future workaround to get Alex's attorney's money. So today we want to talk more about the plot to free Alex Murdaugh. We say free Alex because even though we know the likelihood of him getting out of prison altogether isn't high, we know that getting moved to federal prison could be in a way, the most freedom he can hope for right now. We talked about the phases of this plan and how



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

Dick and Jim need each step of the way to go in order for the entire plot to be successful. In summary, they have to get Alex a new trial or get his murder verdict overturned on appeal and have this happen before the state is able to convict Alex on the financial charges so that the federal government can get an opening to take him into custody. Also a part of this scheme is that they are trying to get the federal government to seize Alex's assets out of the hands of the receivership. Why part of it is out of cruelty to the victims and retribution against their lawyers. But it also puts money in the hands of the US Attorney's Office, which has already shown itself to be highly receptive to the notion that PMPED is a victim deserving of restitution. Now see, an appeal, especially on the grounds that Judge Clifton Newman should not have allowed testimony about Alex's financial crimes would have taken several years. They don't have several years. They didn't have several years during their labor day press conference. And they especially don't now that Judge Newman has scheduled the financial trial for November 27. Of course, there's one little hiccup in all of this and it'll be interesting to see how it gets sorted out. Alex has also confessed to the financial crimes in federal court. So why does the state need to prove its case against Alex when the federal government basically just uses the state's investigation to prosecute Alex. There must be some way to head off Dick and Jim at the pass at this point, no? That is a question for another episode.

Liz Farrell 17:18

So as it relates to their plot, everything rests on Colleton County Clerk of Court Becky Hill. Her book gives Dick and Jim a Trojan horse so they can get through that very first important gate. According to Jim Griffin and his podcast co hosts a woman who has four fingers constantly pointed back at herself. Becky was plotting to take advantage of what she calls the Murdaugh economy and write this book early on which here's how that went according to Becky's book. The idea for Becky to write this book came sometime between when Alex was indicted in July 2022. And before the trial started, the idea came from a woman named Rose, the owner of an AirBnB in Chimney Rock, North Carolina, where Becky was vacationing with her friend Wanda. When Becky told Rose what she did for a living and where she was from, Rose, quote, stopped in her tracks and said she'd heard all about the murder case.

DAVID MOSES 18:16

Rose, Wanda and I continued our talks in the evenings with a glass of wine, and on our last day, Rose planted the seed of authorship into my soul, my heart and my



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

mind. Rose said, "Becky, as I've gotten to know you over these brief few days, I know that you are the one who will write the best book on this Murdaugh saga. This trial is happening right in your courtroom, and it's going to be worldwide. You possess the talent to write this book, and you must." Those prophetic words from Rose fueled my belief and got my mind and hands to typing.

Liz Farrell 19:05

So yeah, there was Becky plodding away to take down Alex Murdaugh with someone named Rose and someone named Wanda in an AirBnB cottage. Jim did try to make it out like Becky is Little Nikita, but she's more like the Golden Girls. Beyond that Becky didn't seem to have a plan for writing the book until after the trial when she became friends with the wife of the man who would become her co author. According to the book, she met this couple during the trial. And let's be clear, there was no book deal. We say this not to insult Becky but to clarify what Dick and Jim are saying about her. She didn't have some lucrative deal with the publisher. She's self published and her co author recently said in an interview that they had to take out loans to publish the book. Her book deal was basically her saying to herself, "Becky, you should read a book. Yes, Becky? I think I will." Oh, anyway, Dick and Jim's plan to take down Becky didn't come out of nowhere. It had been in the works for quite some time before her book was written so quickly. And it really matters when this plot started. If they knew they had reason to suspect impropriety on the part of the clerk of court while the trial was still happening, then that means they lost their opportunity to raise the issue because they didn't bring it up, then, for instance, it's clear that at least some of the claims Dick and Jim are making about Becky were knowable during the trial, meaning there is a school of thought out there that Dick and Jim knew that at least one juror ie the egg lady juror had pointed to a potential impropriety during the trial. Did Dick and Jim call for an investigation then? Nope, they sure didn't. They held onto that little nugget and their pocket for later but what else was in those pockets of theirs? For this episode, we've looked at the timeline leading up to Dick and Jim's Labor Day weekend press conference when they revealed that they had filed a motion claiming Alex's civil rights had been violated by Becky. We looked at the headlines and the media play and at the online chatter that seemed to pick up in conjunction with all of this. Here is what we found. We first learned immediately after the trial that the egg lady juror was represented by Dick Harpootlian's friend Joe McCulloch, who attended every day of the trial and took notes for some reason. As we told you before Becky listed Joe as a friend in her book,



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

and Joe is who paid for Becky's open bar birthday party at the media center the day before the verdict. Joe was also Connor Cook's attorney and the boat crash lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh. Becky clearly had some trust in him and he clearly had some friendly off hours access to her when she likely had her guard down. One question we've been asked is how did the juror who is from the Walterboro area know to reach out to Joe, who is a Columbia attorney? And that's a great question. We don't know. Another great question is does Joe's early representation of this juror mean anything in terms of what Dick and Jim might have known about the jury? And when they knew it? We don't have the answer to that either. Let's start with Dick and Jim's poorly attended press conference outside the courthouse after Alex was sentenced on March 3. Both Dick and Jim said that it was not a mistake to put Alex on the stand, which is funny when you consider that the jurors who went on Good Morning America said that Alex testimony showed him not to be credible. I was listening to The New York Times' podcast The Daily, the other morning. It was an episode about the Krypto King Sam Bankman-Fried who faces federal charges of defrauding investors of billions of dollars. The Bankman-Fried maintains that he never intended to defraud his investors, prosecutors uncovered evidence in the form of computer code that they say shows intentionality. In other words, it doesn't look good for Bankman-Fried. But reporters talked about one quote, useful Hail Mary, that exists for the defense team, the very risky move to put Bankman-Fried on the stand. The reporters discussed how defense attorneys generally don't like to put their clients on the stand for many reasons. It changes the tone of the whole case. They said, essentially, the jury shifts away from the evidence and it becomes about whether or not the person on the stand comes off as credible to them. That's what Dick and Jim wanted for Alex. They wanted to shift the case away from the evidence. And because Alex thinks he is super amazing at getting people to believe his lies, have the jury instead rely on Alex's dramatic performance of sad dad to win the day. Obviously, we know how that turned out for him. And yet, Dick and Jim said it wasn't a mistake. It makes you wonder if they know what the definition of a mistake is. We've yet to see evidence that they do, other than Jim's facial expressions during his podcast. Also, during this poorly attended press conference, Dick and Jim spoke about the egg lady juror. Here's what they said.

Dick Harpootlian 24:00

She admit, well, she admitted she talked to other people about the case, but not specifically. But technically, I think the judge had leeway to excuse her but she clearly



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

and after we interviewed her back in chambers, in my mind had not made up her mind. And I thought that was important. I don't know she didn't express an opinion. To us, she said she was open. She hadn't made up her mind.

Mandy Matney 24:33

So one, we have Dick and Jim admitting that Judge Newman was right and excusing the juror, meaning he had reason to let her go. They have since twisted this completely because it serves their new argument. Now they're claiming that Judge Newman excuse the juror based on Becky's assertion that this juror's ex husband had posted on a Facebook page about how the juror was talking about the case and Alex being innocent. Why? Because the Facebook page argument is the strongest one they have they can easily prove that the post apologizing for his earlier words which Becky's staff wrongly believed was evidence of this juror's ex husband apologizing for his now deleted Facebook post was not actually written by this juror's ex husband. We still don't know what post Becky saw. Was it actually a post from the jurors ex husband Dick and Jim would say no, because they quote unquote, have downloaded his computer, which is a funny image. But could have Becky seen another post talking about how this woman had talked about the case outside of court. Could she have mistakenly believed the man to be her ex husband? You know what? It doesn't matter? Why? Because this is not why Judge Newman excused the egg juror. Dick and Jim's argument and the argument being put forth by their troll army is the equivalent of standing outside an Olive Garden and getting excited for some Chili's baby back ribs. Chili's is a different restaurant, Dick. During the trial, Judge Newman said he excused the juror not because of the Facebook post, but because two people signed affidavits that said she had spoken to both of them about the trial, discussing her opinion about Alex's innocence. Dick doesn't like it to be put that way. He wants the efg lady juror not to have said that she believed Alex was not guilty, but that the state had not proven its case. We know he wants it put that way because he was caught on video speaking to the person who told Judge Newman about hearing from two co-workers that this juror had discussed her impartiality with them. He wants the juror to look like she was keeping an open mind during that time and therefore could not have been speaking out of turn to the villagers he so disdains. Also, during that press conference. They said on the record after conducting focus groups in other counties, they had determined that a change of venue wouldn't have mattered to the case, which is interesting because months later, Dick would use the quality and county jury as an argument to Judge Newman



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

that the only possible place they could try the financial crimes fairly would be Mars. And let's be clear about Colleton County, Dick and Jim and Alex wanted to try the case there because Colleton County is Murdaugh country. They thought they had this in the bag, and by mentioning Greg Alexander repeatedly, and by putting Alex on the stand and John Marvin on the stand that they would be able to get through to the jury. And maybe they did get through to one jury member, the egg lady, but she's screwed it up for them by talking to people outside of the courthouse. Now we first heard about Dick and Jim's venture on FoxNation in late April of this past year. Late April is also when Becky first wrote to the South Carolina Ethics Commission to inquire about the ethics of writing a book. The Commission responded by the first week of May, with the ruling that left open the possibility for the book as long as it wasn't something she would be paid to do that otherwise would be within her official capacity as clerk of court. Though she did the right thing by asking the Ethics Commission for a ruling. Dick and Jim have used her inquiry as evidence that she was scheming. They say she was scheming by going through the proper channels and making sure that it was clear to write a book and their trolls run with that, though it is clear from the behind the scenes footage included in the docuseries that Dick and Jim had been planning some sort of post trial Hollywood deal. It is not clear if they shot the footage specifically with FoxNation in mind. Or if they shot it as part of perhaps some in house sizzle reel they'd hope to use to strike a deal. We do know that by May 9, Becky had already been approached by the FoxNation production company. Now, let's be clear. When we first heard about the project in late April here is what we were told that a friend of Jim's was representing Dick and Jim as their agent and something that FoxNation is going to do in that deal included access to Alex and that is a way around paying the murderer aka the Slayer statute, meaning Alex can't be paid directly for any adorable little court journal he wrote or for any interview he's barred from giving, but Dick and Jim can be paid for that access. And they want us to think Becky is the scheming one here. We also know that by at least May 16, Buster is not only signed up for the FoxNation project, but he's on a boat to Daufuskie to film with reporter Martha McCallum. We know this because Alex called Buster during that boat ride and told him he was supposed to have called Buster when Buster was with Jim. Now, we know that Jim got called out by the South Carolina Department of Corrections and then Alex got in trouble for reading his journals over the phone. Well, they got recorded for FoxNation, but we have to ask this question: was Alex calling Buster so the cameras could capture that moment? Alex told Buster he was proud of him. And now that we know he was filming, we



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

know what he was actually proud of. He was proud of Buster for telling the nation that he supports his father. But we should know that we've always felt suspicious of that call. It felt like a strange one off since it was the only call that came back in our FOIA. I was the only call made on the record. It felt like it was meant to be a breadcrumb for this documentary. And it's funny that Jim would later say that the media mischaracterize that call as Buster being called to his father and seemingly wanting nothing to do with them. Speaking of Buster, remember how he told Martha McCallum during that interview that he did? In fact, fear for his life? Because the so-called real killer was still out there. And he was taking precautions because of it. Will we continue to get reports from people that demonstrate just how untrue that statement was? Obviously, we can't say what goes through Buster's head. But we know if we were worried about a cartel or a real killer coming to get us we would probably not answer the door for strangers in the evening, which apparently Buster has no problem doing. So one of the big questions we have had about the timing of the Fox nation Docu series, which was released 12 days earlier than expected is was this a part of the plan to drop the series re Harnish the nation's interests in the case gather public sympathy from Buster use that to soften Alex's image in the press and then drop the bomb about their accusations against Becky. Obviously, we think that was the case. This series was four parts and the first three parts being released ahead of schedule in August. And then the third episode ended with pro Murdaugh reporter Dana Kennedy saying that she thinks there is going to be another twist in the saga. I had to point out that Dino works for the New York Post, which is owned by the same company as Fox nation. I would love to know if she knew about this Becky Hill bombshell. The defense was about to drop a few days after that episode published or is Dana some kind of psychic. That twist that Dana Kennedy so accurately predicted a vilifying Becky Hill sure did make for a good story arc in the Docu series. And just like that, a few weeks later, boxnation dropped its fourth episode of the series and called it the clerk in question.

In this new episode, FoxNation used footage from Becky's previous interview, you know, before her name was in every newspaper across the country before she was painted as the clerk who ruined the Murdaugh trial. Before she was being followed around by literal paparazzi. FoxNation producers were not clear that they were using old footage of Becky, which is what makes this so journalistically awful. They made it look like fame hungry. Becky was there sitting for another interview casually chit chatting about the trial after Dick and Jim accused her of jury tampering. Becky was



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

also featured in the new season of the Murdaugh documentary on Netflix. This was also clearly in the interview from months ago. But again, they didn't make that clear, which only hurt Becky and helped the defense. The headlines that followed made me really angry like this one from the Daily Mail. "Exclusive: Becky Hill, quote bias court clerk and Alex Murdaugh trial it emits a new book that she worried drew would acquit legal science on murdering his wife and son." So that headline was just a few days ago. And Becky's book has been out for months. None of these media outlets ever batted an eye about her ethics before Dick and Jim's Labor Day week press conference.

Liz Farrell 35:25

We also find it really interesting that SLED Chief Mark Hill had promised an update about the Steven Smith case by Labor Day weekend, but instead we got this circus was unintentional or coincidental on the part of Dick and Jim. Did they hijack a moment they thought might come? We don't know the answer to that. But we do know that FoxNation is complicit in helping bolster Dick and Jim's plot so much so that their Episode Four twist, an episode devoted solely to Becky Hill seems to comport with the overall momentum of Dick and Jim's campaign to free Alex. The docuseries has helped keep headlines pointed in their favor. It helps keep Becky Hill's name alive and well and gives plenty of oxygen to those who want to villainize her and make her out to be an agent and his sinister plot. What does this media on slot do? Let's put it this way. There are 18 audience members out there that Dick and Jim want to reach: the jurors and the alternates. They want it in their heads that Becky Hill did bad things. They want their talking points on the jurors' and the alternate's lips and they want to intimidate the jurors by saying things like you need to get a lawyer and by painting SLED out to be some Gestapo that will come knocking on their doors with badges and guns. Both Dick and Jim repeatedly have mentioned how coercive they believe law enforcement will be. But that's preemptive laying of brick, right? That's Dick and Jim putting down a foundation in case the jurors don't come back saying what they hope they do. And frankly, from all accounts so far, it seems like the jurors are not saying the same things that the egg lady and her one friend on the jury are saying. Dick and Jim want to blame this predictable discrepancy and what they're saying and what the actual jurors end up saying to SLED. So the only method they have to get there is to use the media to blast the jury's ears, get a lawyer. Those are scary words for working class folks to hear. Who has money for a South Carolina attorney that isn't working on a contingency fee



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

agreement. No one who has to work for a living. I will tell you that much. Dick and Jim say that they had started to hear things about jurors not being happy with Becky sometime in late spring, but that it took Becky's book to motivate jurors to come forward. Again, jurors haven't come forward. They have the egg lady and another woman and that's it. And they haven't yet pointed to the things in Becky's book that upset those two women so much that they came forward. Was it simply the fact that Becky wrote the book that upset them? Or was it that she went to New York with three jurors who were not these two women. The only thing Dick and Jim continue to point to in the book is a part where they erroneously and misleadingly say that Becky included herself in the word we when she was talking about the jury. All that said, there is one thing that cannot get lost in all of this. Really it's the only thing that matters and it's the one thing that Dick and Jim want everyone to forget. It's the one thing they want to get lost in the wacky online theories and that FoxNation docuseries and their campaign against Becky Hill. Alex Murdaugh is actually guilty of killing Maggie and Paul bottom line. Look at all the lies then look at what the truth tells us. Anyone who can look at the facts of this case as a whole and still say he didn't do this is operating in a different reality and you need to question their motives. Let's start at the top. Alex had a big secret. He was sitting on millions of dollars in thefts from his clients and from his law firm. That secret not only threatened to take him down, it would take down his immediate family, the entire Murdaugh family name and his law firm. If he were ever to be found out worse, he would lose his law license which was his license to steal clearly the only thing he was good at and who knows who would have been implicated in the theft beyond just Russell the FBI and Cory Fleming we're still waiting to see if law enforcement has it in them to pursue charges against the so called unnamed co conspirators. So Alex was sitting on this mass of secret along with the secret that he was involved in laundering money and trafficking drugs with all those secrets came stress right? It's only natural.

Mandy Matney 39:39

Then February 2019 happened his son, the one who caused him nothing but trouble throughout the years whose expensive messes he was always having to clean up, killed a girl while drunkenly driving one of the family's boats and unfortunately for Alex, this son had an easily discoverable history. Jury of drunken antics openly tolerated by Alex and Maggie including previous incidents involving boats and vehicles. So the girl, Mallory Beach, we will say her name, her family hired an attorney



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

and shockingly to Alex.. This attorney was not one who was going to allow himself to become intimidated by Alex or Alex's advocates at PMPED who wanted the case to go away. Instead, the attorney pursued the case as if Alex or any other defendant with deep pockets who was unwilling to part with his money to get the attorney to go away Alex made the mistake of telling him he was broke, that he had no money. That notion was so ridiculous and unbelievable. And demonstrably not true that this attorney called Alex on his bluff and subpoenaed for a list of his financial records and retirement accounts for months. Alex pushed back and tried to find a way out of the subpoena. But then he was given a deadline June 10, 2021. He would have to either comply with a subpoena on his own, which would have edged opened the door to his crimes and revealed that he had been siphoning money from cases for more than a decade, or he would have to face the wrath of the judge and be ordered to comply with a subpoena which would have been worse for him. In the meantime, he had recently stolen almost \$800,000 by hijacking a fee he had earned for his law firm and a case led by one of his best friends at a different law firm. And oh, his law firm had just discovered this theft, and was demanding that the money, which he immediately spent on who knows what, be returned.

Liz Farrell 41:52

Making all of this worse is that his father, the man who was always by his side and who cleaned up his expensive messes was dying to keep his crimes from being exposed. Alex needed solutions, he needed to be able to liquidate Moselle, the multimillion dollar property that was in his wife's name and that his son loved above all else. He also needed to be able to take equity out of the family's beach house, which was half owned by his wife and which his wife was being difficult about getting appraised. And I want to note something here, those who defend Alex like to say that at the time of Maggie's death, Maggie had finally made an appointment with Palmetto State Bank to have the beach house appraised. But let's look at who that's according to. It's According to testimony from Russell Laffitte's brother who handled the appraisals for the bank. It came out during Russell's trial at a time when Russell and his father, sister and brother were under scrutiny for giving Alex millions of dollars and not requiring him to do anything one would normally be expected to do to get that kind of money. In other words, Maggie's alleged appointment for an appraisal was key to Russell and his family and trying to beat Russell's charges and quell suspicions that his family members were in on the conspiracy. That said, this is where Alex Murdaugh's head was on June 7, 2021. When things got worse. His law



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

firm gave him an ultimatum after years of lying to them and getting caught and getting out of it. The law firm wasn't just going to let him skate by on this. Hours later, he snapped and killed his wife and son. Alex told law enforcement that Maggie had come to Moselle that night on her own volition. Turned out he was lying as Maggie's sister testified and as Maggie's text messages show. The only reason Maggie was at Moselle that night was because Alex wanted her to be there. Maggie didn't want to go, but her sister told her she should. If Maggie and Paul were killed by social media vigilantes, they shorted luck out by showing up at this remote location on the one night when they'd both be there. They lucked out even more when they showed up to kill them but realized they had forgotten to bring weapons. Thank goodness the family's guns were available and left down by the kennels.

Mandy Matney 44:02

Now, Alex denied that the weapons that killed Maggie and Paul belong to the family and he tried his hardest to steer law enforcement away from that theory, in fact, to keep law enforcement from knowing that the family owned one of those guns, specifically, the 300 blackout rifle that belonged to Paul Alex lied and said after it had been stolen that they never replaced it. Then Alex's cousin who happened to be a DNR officer who sold him that weapon backed him up by telling law enforcement that he hadn't sold the family a replacement. Q But then, oh, law enforcement found Maggie's canceled check for that rifle. Now Alex had to change his story and the DNR officer had to fess up blaming his previous statement on a clerical error. Later, law enforcement would find that the bullets that killed Maggie came from the same gun that Paul and his friend had been shooting outside of the family's home two months earlier. Now immediately from the 911 call to the body camera footage from the first arriving officer at the scene Alex wanted law enforcement to believe Maggie and Paul's murders were a result of Paul's boat crash. It was a story he had rehearsed and through his grief is performative grief. He made sure to tell it. This has something to do with the crash. "I know it does," he said. Obviously, we've always agreed with Alex that this had something to do with the boat crash, but just not in the way that he wanted people to believe. From the get go. Alex told law enforcement that this was a targeted killing, not the work of some unknown at large killer going house to house looking for victims. In response to Alex's words with a duty to keep the public calm. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office put out a notice to let everyone know they are safe. There wasn't a random killer on the loose per Alex. In the meantime, they sought DNA samples from not only the boat crash victims and their families but from



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

Stephen Smith's family, which was brutal salt in the wound. Alex and his team later use the sheriff's office alert to the public as proof that law enforcement had tunnel vision that he was the victim of being targeted by investigators that they never considered any other suspect. Ellie told the police these murders happened because his family was targeted. Yet he waited 45 minutes before he called Buster, who was a few hours away in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He waited almost an hour to warn his surviving son that someone was after the family. That is how concerned he was about these unknown vigilantes. These examples are important by the way, they show a pattern Alex causes chaos with his lies, and then he uses that chaos as evidence of his alternative narrative. He lied about why Maggie was at Moselle, he lied about the family owning a now missing 300 blackout rifle that replaced an earlier model that had been stolen. He lied about the boat crash victims. Now for another lie, the groundskeeper. It's going to be the groundskeeper. People close to the Murdaughs were told at the time by family members. It wasn't the groundskeeper. Unlike Alex the groundskeeper had an ironclad alibi.

Liz Farrell 47:53

Speaking of let's talk about that, remember Alex alleged ironclad alibi. It was so unclear that he pressured Miss Shelley to lie about it. And Miss Shelley, his mother's caretaker, worried that if she didn't lie for him, she might not be able to keep a job that she loved, but to maybe make up for that ugly pressure and to curry favor he offered to pay for Miss Shelley's wedding. Pretty generous for a man with no money right, paying for the wedding of a family employee who was the only person to see him that evening and whose lie he desperately needed. So nice of him. Miss Shelley was also the source of the blue tarp evidence she told law enforcement that shortly after the murders, Alex had come into the house carrying what appeared to be something wrapped in a blue tarp, which he put in a closet. When SLED found the tarp which turned out to be the largest blue tarp colored raincoat known to man, they discovered it was covered in gunshot residue. Dick Harpootlian would later dismiss that evidence because the Murdaughs were the quote shooting just MF'ers around. But also the defense fought back hard against that blue raincoat evidence during the trial to the point of absurdity. The raincoat is not a tarp. Yeah, girl, but it sure would look like one to someone not familiar with giant blue tarp colored raincoats. Anyway, Alex lied about his alibi about how long he was at his mother's house. And until he took the stand at his murder trial. He kept up the biggest lie of all that he was never at the kennels that night. Because guess what he was at the



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

kennels. He was there with Maggie and Paul at least five minutes before their phones were never used again. Let's talk about those phones. By the way, Paul's was left on top of his body after Alex who had no visible blood on him that night says it fell out of Paul's pocket when he tried to move his bloody body. Did Alex know Paul was taking a video shortly before he shot him.? Did he worry that Paul was on FaceTime with Rogan Gibson when he killed them? Is that why Alex called Rogan over and over and over? Was that why he had taken Paul's phone out of his pocket? Maggie's phone showed movement on it about 56 steps after law enforcement believed she died. Alex defenders like to say this points to someone other than Alex killing her. But could it have simply been that Alex didn't realize Maggie's phone was sitting on the golf cart he was driving until he parked it up at the house near his SUV. Do those 56 Steps Be him carrying it to the truck so he could dispose of it. Alex defenders love to point out that Alex couldn't possibly have cleaned up in the short amount of time between Maggie and Paul last using their phones at 849 ish and him leaving Moselle at 906. They mock the prosecution for making Alex out to be the quote, Low Countries John Wick. They say he'd have been covered in blood if he had done this, but consider this. Paul was deep inside the feed room when he was first shot. For the second shot which Ellie took from either a squatted position or by holding this shotgun real low as Paul advanced on him. Alex was blocked and protected by the wall and by his low stance, Maggie was shot with a long distance rifle. He was only close to her at the very end when he stood over her and shot her in the back of the head after she was already dead. There was high velocity impact spatter at the top of his white undershirt. It was evidence that was rendered unusable during trial because a member of SLED had ordered a superfluous test to the shirt that gave the defense just enough room to create Reasonable Doubt is one of the most frustrating aspects of this case because there was the physical evidence that Alex defender so desperately crave. But guess what, I don't need to be in the cloud to know that snow came from it. I can see the snow on the ground. I can see it in the air around me without being in the sky. I know when it is snowing. So how did Alex clean the minimum blood that would have been on him? Could it have been from the hose that the guy who cleaned the dog kennel said was put away neatly the same hose that was seen unspooled in the kennel video, and who put Bubba's dead chicken up on the kennels was at one of the five foot two inch Gunless vigilantes who showed up randomly hoping Maggie and Paul would be there that night. How nice of them. Also, how adorable just think of the little hops they had to take to get that chicken up on the stack of kennels. Now, back to Alex's cleanup time.



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

He wiped off at the hose station creating that puddle with what seemed like blood that wasn't near the bodies, evidence that the defense bought to keep out of the trial and he changed his clothes. He took his dumb blue button up fishing shirt and his khakis off along with his shoes. He put on a pair of shorts and different shoes and who knows what he did with the evidence but we do know he panicked when he learned that SLED knew he'd already changed once that night that he wasn't wearing the clothes he'd worn to work that day. And he wasn't wearing the clothes that he had on shortly before the murders. And we do know that he tried to get his family housekeeper Blanca Simpson to lie about it. More lies. He was at the kennel, he changed his clothes twice that night. In the moments after Maggie and Paul stopped using their phone Alex moved faster than he had any other part during that day. And on the way to his mother's house, he paused right around where Maggie's phone was later found. Then he paused outside his mother's house near the smokehouse. Then he lied about how long he was at his mother's house. Lies lies lies. Notice how I haven't mentioned the financial crimes once since the beginning. Notice how the financial crimes are only the explanation for a state of mind on the night of the murders. Notice how guilty he still is separate and apart from those financial crimes and not for nothing. The murders bought him some time when it came to those financial crimes. People like to say the motive is moronic and that it flies in the face of the fact that the murders led to the discovery of the financial fraud. But it worked at first, it worked.

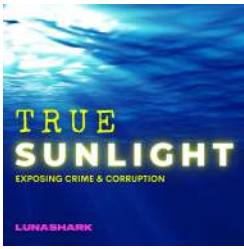
Mandy Matney 53:49

In no way did Alex ever think this investigation would ever be handled by anyone outside of the 14th circuit. And in fact 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffy Stone, who inherited his role from the Murdaughs after 86 years in that office, refused to recuse himself from the investigation for two months. His office, Alex's office, was right there with their finger on the pulse of the investigators. The plan was working. He took out loans and was liquidating assets at rapid fire to get the money to pay back the firm. And he did that one of the first things he did after the murders was to get that \$800,000 Back to PMPED. He had things under control for a minute, but he couldn't control the media. And he couldn't control the sunlight on his case. No one can hide in the sunlight. Now remember, three days after the murders when he seemed to say "I did him so bad" by accident. Sure. There's debate over what he actually said at that moment. But one, inadvertent confessions by reluctant murderers, men who might have felt they had no choice but to do what they did are not unheard of and



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

two, watch the video again and watch how Jim Griffin seems to take note of Alex's word in that moment. Also, remember during the trial when Alex testified in a performance later deemed not credible by the jurors, he said he would never intentionally harm Maggie and Paul intentionally. It was a word that got lawyers talking that night had Alex Murdaugh confessed again, Janine Pirro from Fox News talked about this on stand confession and how it had just opened the door for the jury to consider a down charge reckless homicide charges. Perhaps little did she know that Alex lives in the land of no consequence. By the way, Alex's defenders love to say that he only testified because he had to, because Judge Newman had so wrongly allowed in the financial crimes and Alex needed to defend himself. Um, no Alex didn't defend himself against the financial crimes. He admitted to them. He got up on the stand because he lied about being at the kennels. He had no choice because he lied about being at the kennels. Again, he creates chaos with his lies. And then he uses that chaos to create a new narrative. And unfortunately, his supporters and the media fall for it every single time. Finally, we get to one of the biggest pieces of evidence as to how Alex reacts when under pressure, the roadside shooting. The roadside "shooting", I'll put it in quotes, where he lied about having a flat tire, lied about being shot and lied about who shot him, giving investigators a description that basically looks like one of the boat crash passengers. SLED was on to him about the murders. And he just been forced to resign from the law firm because they suddenly found evidence of the fake Forge account. He needed a solution and that's the solution he came up with violence covered by lies. The next time you hear or see someone online talking about cartels or to shooters or Alex not being capable of doing this, or Cousin Eddie did it remember all of this. This man killed his wife and son. This should have been case closed a long time ago. But Alex Murdaugh is so used to getting out of whatever he gets into that he just cannot accept the consequences for his actions. He will stop at nothing to make life better for himself. That is who the media is helping right now. That is who way too many TikTokers and social media trolls are helping right now. That is who, whether they like it or not, a lot of documentary producers are helping. They might be in it for the clicks and views, but it doesn't matter. They are helping a monster. As Dick and Jim continue to throw people under the bus for Alex they should know who is going under the bus next and that is themselves. New Trial or not. Alex is guilty. Stay tuned, stay pesky and stay in the sunlight.



TSP 19 - What Dick and Jim Want Jurors to Hear About Alex Murdaugh + Cory Fleming Seems to Be ... Missing

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.

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