



EPISODE 57: Alex Murdaugh to Face His Financial Victims + Why Is Law Enforcement Focused on Becky Hill's Son and Not the Stephen Smith Case

Mandy Matney 00:04

Hello and Happy Tuesday and happy Alex Murdaugh's sentencing day. I say happy but I don't really feel that way. It is hard to be happy when you have the sneaking feeling that this is just another step toward Alex's goal of getting out of his murder conviction. The second he is sentenced today is the second he and Dick and Jim start implementing the next phase of their evil plan and begin looking at ways to dismantle whatever sentence Judge Newman gives him on today's show. Liz, Eric and I break down what you can expect to see in the hearing. Plus for Premium Members we talk about the odd timing of SLED arresting Becky Hill's son right before Thanksgiving in what we think is behind all of it, and we talk about a 48 hours update on the worst lead stands with Stephen Smith investigation, including where things are at getting at Stephen's text messages. I want to say thank you to my best friend Chelsea Marie's dad Scott Murray. We're planning an awesome on the fly book signing at the 25th annual Turkey Bowl. And I want to thank all of the fans who came out to support our mission in Shawnee, Kansas. Today we are proud to be broadcasting the sentencing for our Soak Up the Sun premium members. And if you are at the Jayhawks game tonight and Lawrence we hope to see you there. Rock Chalk, check out our events page link in the description to learn where we will be next. And be sure to follow me Mandy underscore Matney on Instagram for all of the latest. Let's get into it.

Eric Bland 01:53

Cups up guys. Tell me Happy Thanksgiving and I want to hear about what you guys do. Happy Thanksgiving.

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Liz Farrell 02:00

Happy Thanksgiving! Yeah, Mandy, you got some snow over Thanksgiving, huh?

Mandy Matney 02:03

Yeah, the dogs saw snow for the first time, which was really fun. Luna did not like it at all. First, it was like really, she kept like, I kept taking her outside to like play in it as it was coming down. And she kept looking at me like, why are you making me? But then when it was like tiptoe, she was just like, and she started eating it. Like it's like, it's just a little suspicious of it. But the next day like when it was sunny out the dogs have just been playing nonstop in the snow. And it's been really cute. And I'm hoarse because I have a cold. So full disclaimer there. Eric, how was your Thanksgiving?

Eric Bland 02:41

It was just wonderful. My daughter came in from Alabama and we had a couple of friends over. They didn't have family so we just made the table larger. And Rene started cooking on Monday and she did a really bang up job and then I went Saturday I left with my son to meet my brother and my nephews in Philadelphia because Philadelphia was playing the Buffalo Bills and my nephew's are from Rochester right next to Buffalo and it was a great game and you know had cheese steaks and Philadelphia soft pretzels, all the food Tasty Cakes, all the stuff that I used to have when I was a kid and you know, yesterday was my 35th anniversary which is just amazing to be with one partner. So it's just been a great weekend, really looking forward to the holiday season, you know just feeling blessed and just. It's good stuff and I'm really looking



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forward to tomorrow. And I know we'll talk about it but I mean I'm just loaded for Bear. Tell me about yours, Liz.

Liz Farrell 03:36

It was great. But Eric before I'd say how mine was you have to explain to people what happened to your nose so people don't think you got into a fight.

Eric Bland 03:45

Okay, now I did not get in flight. I did get waterlogged because it was raining for seven hours straight but Coco Coco did it. We watered Coco and we wrestled at night and she's a good boxer and she has a quick right and she scratched me really good.

Liz Farrell 04:02

Yeah she did. Yeah, it happens. My Thanksgiving was interesting because I couldn't do what I usually do. I love to cook and that's something I've really lost touch with over the last few years. And so Thanksgiving was always like a return to that so I could spend the day cooking. It could have been the day before but I wasn't really able to do the same level of stuff. Just you know, as I'm recovering from the carpal tunnel stuff, and that was kind of relaxing. I didn't I didn't I didn't realize how relaxing that would be but I did have a dinner party the day before Thanksgiving and that was the first dinner party I've had in my house so that was really really fun and fun Yeah, I spent the whole day cooking now day but yeah, just like I couldn't do you know I'm one of the things I like to make is this or thinking I don't know why I do this but I like to use a mandolin to like make tarts and things like that like vegetable tarts



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and what have you and I just like that's the one that I really like. and do so anyway that's not interesting to anybody but it is to me. Yes it is to me.

Eric Bland 05:04

Yeah isn't sure yeah.

Liz Farrell 05:06

I'm excited for next Thanksgiving where I can actually use my fingers to the full extent so holiday seasons.

Eric Bland 05:11

Nice. Yeah, it is just you know, you feel differently at least for a month and a half. Thank God but it's nice I can start to see everybody happy per change.

Mandy Matney 05:22

Yeah, this is the first time when I've been home when I've really embraced the snow and the cold weather. It's cozy and comforting. Like it was really cool. On Saturday night, I think it was when it was snowing. And we are just, you know, inside watching football eating pasta that David made and the snow is falling and it was just really nice. And people are putting up their Christmas lights. It's very homey here in Kansas and I love it.

Eric Bland 05:50

Nice, Mandy. What's it like going back home? Now with your totally different person, you know, with a brand and a reputation and people



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know you? Does it feel different? Did they treat you different? Tell me exactly what it feels like. I mean, some of my friends and Philadelphia treated me a little differently. But tell me what it felt like when you went back to Kansas.

Mandy Matney 06:09

It was really great. I was thinking about this. We actually went to Kansas in 2021. So we're like, right when Thanksgiving is in Thanksgiving 2021. So right when the podcast was taking off, I forgot how much different I was even then and now and how many things have changed since then, and how much I've grown as a person since then. And it was really fun. I mean, my friends and family all treat me the same. It's nothing, it's all the same there. But the only thing that was different this year was my friend's dad, as we talked about the last Cup of Justice episode hosted by a turkey bowl with a book signing. And people came. We posted about it like a day before. So I didn't expect that many people to show up. But I had a little line. And it was fun. Because like all the boys from my high school were playing football and then there's little mandates and books, taking selfies. It's just really fun to combine those two worlds. And a lot of my friends from high school like my girlfriends from high school had me sign their wives their books for books for their wives. I cannot talk today. And yeah, it was cute. The several of them were like kind of shy when they came out to me like me. Hey, Mandy, my wife's a fan. This is so weird. But it's great.

Eric Bland 07:33

And they're acknowledging you as a UK graduate. Famous graduate tells me that.



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Mandy Matney 07:39

Ku...UK is Kentucky. We do not like Kentucky basketball rivals, right. Yeah, we're going up to Lawrence tomorrow night. We're gonna go to the basketball game. I'm really excited. And on. We're doing a photo shoot for the KU Alumni magazine on Wednesday. So that'll be really wow. Yeah. Cool. Yeah. I feel very like Welcome to Shen. Yes. Special. Special time. Well, thank you. Yeah. Thank you. It's a great time being here. Though.

Liz Farrell 08:11

Speaking of holidays, and special times, Mandy and I were talking a little earlier today about a story that ran in the Greenville paper and I don't remember the name of the paper. What is the name? Greenville, News, Greenville News. Okay. And it is like daily. Greenville online is how I know it, but Greenville News. And it was about what it was like, basically, like what you want to know about Alex Murdaugh at the holidays kind of thing, like what he's doing for Thanksgiving. Who cares what he's doing, Eric, honestly, like, I read it. And I started to get more furious because it's when we're talking. I always have to say this because I feel like we get dinged for talking about other media. And it's important. And we say this every time I say it every time but this is another example of why we mentioned this is that instead of looking at it from like a victim centered perspective, which is that you have this person who's done great harm, you know, some would argue the most harm that anyone's done to that number of people in South Carolina being sort of normalized in a way like who cares what Alex is doing for Thanksgiving and what his life on the inside looks like. If you want to do a report, like the Post and Courier did on the conditions of jails and



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prisons and the bureaucratic feelings that are leading to abuse and prisoners and inmates not being healthy in their environment. That's legitimate, but who cares what Alex Murdaugh's holidays look like. And I think that that's the problem is that we, as reporters, I think some people tend to look at things from this. I don't know if it's a glorification of glamorization of the famous criminal in the matter, as opposed to from the victim's perspective. It's interesting to me when we see it play out like this. And that's why I keep pointing it out. Because otherwise it just sounds like we're complaining for no reason. It's just this is what we see, because what it ends up doing is it legitimizes Alex on a different plane. We all know that he is a convicted murderer, but it's also making him a normal person the same way that I think Scott Peterson gets made into like this normal person. And I know there are people who think that he didn't do it. But my point just being that we just tend to do that. And I don't know if it's because God helped me or if it's because people think he's good looking. I just don't know what it is other than him being wealthy and a lawyer and what have you.

Eric Bland 10:38

But it's no, it's normalizing a monster. It's it's, we have an actual portrayal of him that is justified based on facts. And they're trying to humanize him in a way and normalize him that well, he's in, he got himself in a legal pickle, but he's really just a normal person. He's a father and, you know, a lawyer, and he coached youth baseball and all that No, no, that guy is pure evil. He's a monster. And it's not fair to the victims to focus on him. Maybe if they focused on what the victims had. Get thanks, give thanks and be thankful on Thanksgiving, that would be one thing, but to spend our time talking about what Alex is doing on



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the inside. I mean, it's ridiculous. I want him to have hard labor and hard times and be cold.

Liz Farrell 11:30

It only helps his case in the sense that if he is granted a new trial, if he is granted an appeal of his murder charge, or his murder conviction, it's already normalized him to the public. So it's not that drastic of a leap to think of him as a private citizen. Again, I know Eric, I know that you think that there's no chance you call it rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic, but if there is a chance that he gets off on this, it's all it's doing is serving that purpose. I think that's what frustrates me.

Mandy Matney 12:00

Yeah, it's a...it was a pity piece. And it's like I didn't read it. What does it say about his Thanksgiving?

Liz Farrell 12:06

Let me pull it up.

Mandy Matney 12:08

Like I just especially at a time when journalism is supposed to be extremely important. Every journalist who is writing for a newspaper is supposed to be doing important work and you can't say that you're low on resources to write about things and then write a puff piece on Alex Murdaugh and his prison Thanksgiving and I also really hated in the headline they said what you need to know or something or what you should know and it's like what you should know is that he's a family killer. He killed his family and that's it he should be lucky that he's



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having a Thanksgiving at all and he's not on death row that's it that's all we need to know he's having whatever Thanksgiving he deserves, who cares but I think I think you're right Eric like I would like to see the way better peace and how we become better human beings and how we actually go beyond this crime and actually do something to learn from it is writing pieces about the victims and about the damage that was done and instead of just doing this same old cycle of like just Googling over killers and sympathizing them in some sick ways.

Eric Bland 13:20

Like they did that with Michael Vick, you know, remember with the dog you know, the dog fighting and you know, initially and I still remain horrified but everybody was horrified when they heard the stories and then he did his time which is fine he square with the house but then they they put them out to interviews and he started to become more humanized and less of a dog fight or dog killer and you know by the end of his career now he's you know, he may become a coach and I'm worried that that Liz raises a good point that that can happen with Alex if a new trial is granted and they're gonna certainly sandpaper around his edges you know that he made mistakes on at the first murder trial, he could come across looking totally different, you know, not sympathetic but empathetic and a little bit of you know, likability possibly and all these pieces do is they feed into that narrative.

Mandy Matney 14:08

Yeah, and I just don't think that they would do a piece like that on a lot of other murders. And I don't understand it I on I honestly think it's a white male reporter who knew Alex Murdaugh really well, and he got



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along with the Murdaugh's before that's the well known thing like I just, I don't know I can't stomach those types of pieces because a it's just a it's a dagger to the heart of the victims and be there's just so many better things that you could be doing with your job and your voice and you could be talking about.

Liz Farrell 14:47

Beyond that the story was just multi like there's a lot of effort that was sort of put into it because it's about like, what their Thanksgiving was like before the murders, but it always cracks me up when they describe Buster as his like, surviving son as if he didn't murder his other son like is that there was some like tragic accident that happened that just left him with just like one kid by I love the line Alex Murdaugh has lost most of what he was probably thankful for, his wife Maggie and his younger son Paul. He didn't lose them. He killed them. He killed them.

Mandy Matney 15:20

He killed them. He killed them.

Liz Farrell 15:23

Let me finish guys because it gets better. were brutally murdered by his own hand, says the state in a quality and county jury. What more do you need to say that he murdered them? Then those two things like so assess the state. I'm sorry, just because he disagrees with the outcome of his trial and has maintained his innocence. It doesn't mean it's a real thing that you have to honor as a reporter. You know, like you can say he's a murderer. He was a convicted murderer. It is a fact killer, convicted killer.



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Eric Bland 15:54

Killer. He'll be saying that tomorrow, believe me, I will be saying that he hit for the cycle. You know, he's a convicted thief. He's a convicted liar. He's a convicted conspirator. And he hit the home run. He's a double murder convicted, the guy hit the first cycle, let's just call it what it is. It's not wrongfully taking. It's stealing. It's not misrepresenting its frickin lying. I mean, why do we sugarcoat this?

Mandy Matney 16:18

Right? But I think that that's a good point. And I mean, I get the lists, and I both get a lot of grief for having these conversations. But it's so important because the media is never gonna get better unless we have conversations about why pieces like this are being written and what's wrong about them and why they should be criticized and why it's wrong. And like, the, the thing that gets me and I can go on about this for a really long time is that they put things that's a choice to word, your sentence in that way of according to a college and county, if it was somebody that he didn't like and really believed was a murderer, I guarantee you would put convicted murderer or bla bla bla, bla bla and would write a lot more aggressively, and then not be transparent about like, why he's writing those things. I always say that's what I'm really proud of with the way that we do our journalism. It's like, I don't like Alex, I'll be very honest with you. I have facts on facts as to why I don't like him and I can explain that to you and why I believe that he's guilty, but I'm not going to sugarcoat it. And I'm not going to treat him like any other criminal in my stories, because that's not what this is. And I just think that that type of journalism is just the reason why journalism



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is getting lost. And it's the reason why journalism is deteriorating in a lot of ways is mainstream media journalism.

Liz Farrell 17:47

It's very telling. I know that you both want to know the answer to this. What is like Murdaugh eating for Thanksgiving dinner? I don't care. Alex Murdaugh. No, no, you want to hear this. Alex Murdaugh won't be enjoying Blanca's cooking anymore after watching the televised Thanksgiving Day parades with his parents, nor will he save her sips of bourbon with his brothers while watching the traditional turkey day football games. But he along with most of the 1124 maximum security inmates at McCormick holy crap that's a lot we'll have a holiday meal prepared by the Department of Corrections cafeterias.

Mandy Matney 18:19

Whoopee Blanca, they met.

Liz Farrell 18:23

Interesting. Oh, yeah, no, they went into like what their Thanksgiving. Family's Thanksgiving was like before you murdered them.

Mandy Matney 18:29

Did he do research on what his Thanksgivings were?

Liz Farrell 18:33

This is like the Post and Couriers piece on the Department of Corrections and county jails and why they're failing except it's about Alex Murdaugh's witnesses good phenomenal. It's what Murdaugh ate



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for Thanksgiving. So that amount of effort was put into that story. Same, same amount, different outcomes. But yeah, I just wanted to point that out, because I know I'm gonna continue to do that. I think because I do think that we it gets sort of conflate, I guess things get conflated into like, just because we're complaining about media means that we're these just bitter jerks, and it's like, no, we actually have a point and it seems like a lot of people are missing a point. So there you go.

Eric Bland 19:11

It's deconstructing an elephant in one bite at a time in the reverse. They're deconstructing a murderer and they're trying to make him humanizing, calling him Alex, not Alex the murderer or, or Alex Murtaugh the convicted murderer. They're calling him Alex and you know, it's just, it's wrong. It's wrong on so many levels. It's wrong for Maggie and Paul, it's wrong for Buster, it's wrong for the victims and everything. You know, one of the things I'm going to talk about is you know, you not only did this to the victims, but you did this to your son. He did this to Buster, all the stuff that you did, you've done the Buster. With that we'll be right back.

Liz Farrell 19:56

So Eric, we have a big day coming up well today As people are listening to this, why don't you tell us what we can expect in the courtroom later this morning.

Eric Bland 20:05

I think it's going to be packed and well attended by not only the media, but a lot of people who have been following the case are not sure



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whether Alex's family will be there. I highly doubt it. And it is time for the victims to be heard. You know, the victims have not been heard because Alex has gone to trial. But for the murder case, the Financial Crime Victims haven't been heard. And this is their opportunity to be heard. So what's going to happen is Creighton will probably do the opening. And, you know, I don't think he's going to advocate for more than 27 years to pay for already agree to and then he's going to turn it over to the victims. And since the Satterfield case was the first case up, I fully expect that I will be speaking early on if not first, and then I know ginger is going to speak and I know Tony's going to speak and I know maybe one of the other brothers is going to speak and Brian Howard is going to be there. And it's really the first opportunity that I am going to have to address alex and I've been waiting for this for well over two years, and also his trial team that what they have done to put the victims through over this last two years and two months, I am also going to be speaking to Judge Newman. And I'm going to be telling them what they've done to the judge and what they've tried to do to Judge Newman and I'm going to ask him to use his discretion to go beyond the 27 years and not just based on an agreement between the state and the defense. And I'm going to use it as an example what happened in the bond hearing. The state wanted a \$200,000 bond when the Satterfield criminal case came up, and Dick wanted a \$50,000 bond and Judge Newman would have none of it. After we argued he gave him no bond. And I'm going to ask him that there has been a groundswell movement to hold Alex accountable. And there's a significant portion of our state that does not believe that 27 years is enough. I'm not going to make an opinion on that. But I'm going to speak on behalf of my victims that the victims do not believe that it's



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enough. And here's why. Because he's used the system. He's tried to game the system, Jim Griffin said that he wanted to plead guilty since September 2021. And I have nine different reasons why that's just not true. And, you know, I'm sure I'm going to be stymied or tried to be stymied by Dick. And I'm going to tell him to sit down. And, you know, I'm hopeful that Judge Newman will let me speak like he did, you know, to completeness like at the quarry Fleming sentencing, but he may shut me down just like Judge Gergel did, but I'm gonna go down swinging. Good.

Liz Farrell 22:32

And are there any consequences to Judge Newman being the one to render the sentence?

Eric Bland 22:38

No, unless he deviates. If he deviates, then I think you'll see that Harpootlian will withdraw the play or tried to withdraw.

Liz Farrell 22:46

Deviate? In what, in what sense? Like how could someone deviate?

Eric Bland 22:50

If he gives more? You know, I think that I think there there's probably an agreement between the state and the defense that if Judge Newman is not going to sign off on it, which it does look like he is based on some of the statements he made at the plea hearing a couple of weeks ago, but it gets if he deviates, then I'm sure Harper Collins is going to hit the roof and try to negate the plea and and go back to square one. I'm anxious



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to hear from the victims. I'm really anxious to hear what they have to say, you know, they're all articulate in their own way. Whether you know, it's Tommy Moore when he talked about it or ginger, and certainly Mrs. P and Arthur Badger. And, you know, I just don't know who is all going to speak but I am going to speak on behalf of the Plyler sisters Jordan Jinks, Sandra Manning, who is Gloria Satterfield sister who he took advantage of and then also a lot of the other people who had really good personal injury cases that Alex just let their files collect dust on in the statute of limitations expired and they lost their claims.

Liz Farrell 23:50

Yeah, it's going to be interesting, because at this point, all we've seen other victims talk to his co-conspirators, which not to say one is less bad than the other. But these are people who, who maybe would not have committed these crimes would were it not for Alex and weren't not for the system that his family had created that sort of facilitated it. So it's going to be, you know, as people who we get to see this man every day pretty much for six weeks in the courtroom and gain some familiarity with his sort of emotional antics. I just I'm curious to see how he reacts to hearing because he's such a charismatic person or, you know, at least that's how he got as far as he did get is because he's a smooth, because he's a I don't hate using positive words like charming or I mean, the gift for me. Yes, smarmy is a good word. But just if people react to that with people throughout history, it's gonna smirk.

Eric Bland 24:45

Right? He's gonna smirk, and I'm sure he's going to elbow Harpootlian. I don't think he's going to listen to me. And then I don't think it's going to



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make a hillbilly difference on how he feels but I'm going to let him know that in addition to Maggie and Paul visiting him every night, all these victims are going to visit him every night. I hope it's a long life that he has to break bread with these victims every night.

Liz Farrell 25:08

Mandy, do you think I mean it just because he put on such a display of emotion from the stand? And when I say display of emotion, I mean fake emotions, do you think we'll see something similar there? Because I mean, he, like I've said he's got where he got because he was able to smooth talk people, he was able to charm them, he was able to make them feel good about themselves. And part of that requires if we're to believe that he is a psychopath or sociopath or anything like that, that requires that kind of reaction that like that act to be there. And I don't think he's ready to let go of that act, especially as a person who is trying to get out of the murder charges and wants everyone to believe that he didn't do this. So I think he still thinks that there's gonna there's a chance for him to get out of this in some way. So do you think that he would?

Mandy Matney 25:55

Yeah, I could see him turning on the tears tomorrow. Yeah. Which we have to again point out that that is so opposite of how he has reacted towards the financial crimes this entire time. If he starts the waterworks again, it's just gonna be another act. And it's another act in his long game to get out. And it's just sickening. I tried not to think about this over the weekend. But God, that smirk on him the left did you guys like I don't know. It just imprinted in my mind from the last hearing, just



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seeing how he was just so cocky and smirky and kind of giggly, and it just really grossed me out. But I can I, you know, this time, he's gonna be Mr. Alex, because that's, that's what he's best at. And the other thing that, like, it's hard to explain this to people, because people a lot of times are like, Oh, he must have been really great with people, he must have been really brilliant to be able to get away with all of this. But it was only because he was on a pedestal so high to begin with. And I say this a lot to people, I don't think people realize he is a big man. And we've all seen him in the courtroom. And we've all seen him, like his physical presence is so intimidating. It doesn't he doesn't need to do what a lot of us need to do with by cutting with our words.

Eric Bland 27:19

Compensating for our lack of height.

Mandy Matney 27:23

So already right out of the gate, Alex can manipulate and intimidate just from the position of his family and just from his physical appearance. So I think that that's important when we look at Alex and people are like, how was he able to do this? It wasn't because he was some genius. And we also have to mention this. And I was thinking about this the other day, too, what a horrible display of acting his whole testimony was, the jury didn't buy it. The public didn't buy it. And Eric, didn't you say at one point that that makes it worse for your chance of an appeal when you testify?



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Eric Bland 28:04

Yes, when you waive your right to incriminate yourself under the Fifth Amendment, and you you have a full opportunity to tell your story there's less of a chance on appeal because the appellate courts get to actually see the defendant you know, if you don't testify then it's you know, it's a little bit of an unknown as he can be is a should we have empathy for him or compassion or whatever, are there extenuating circumstances, but Alex just, you know, he he let it all out. And he showed his true personality that narcissism the you know, the fake sadness or whatever, and I think it lessens his chances on appeal, it's still going to come down to the 404 B evidence on the financial crimes and you know, whether the labor day shooting and maybe a couple other things, but there was a question I wanted to ask you. I've seen a lot of please in my career I have never heard of convicted felon say to a judge as he's playing this is a very happy day for me I'm so happy because I'm finally getting a chance to play that usually you hear it's a sad day I'm very I'm very upset at myself. It's sad that I've lost my career and I've heard so many people but for him to almost be like he was manic and on something to be so jovial to have you ever heard anybody say that

Judge Newman 29:18

Anything else where the regard to the guilty plea that you'd like to say today Mr. Murdaugh?



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Alex Murdaugh 29:29

No, sir, other than I'm glad to finally be given the opportunity to plead guilty. I am happy to be pleading guilty to these charges for a number of reasons. Thank you.

Liz Farrell 29:39

I mean.

Eric Bland 29:40

This is such a happy day for me.

Liz Farrell 29:42

Yeah, I think that that was part of the act though because like he's acting like he was so burdened by this horrible, isolated thing that he did. Yeah, look over here at the financial crimes. I'm glad that I got caught because now I can't commit those crimes anymore. I really see him as trying to really it's the only character he can play in this to save face in any way like he was burdened by this impulse that he had and the ability to do the crime too, but I think we can see through it. I just worry, though, that more I mean, going back to the piece we were talking about earlier about his Thanksgiving dinner, I worry that even though people can recognize that he sure is guilty, they still take him at his word when he says things like that. So you know, if he wants to unburden himself, great, but let's just be honest, the only reason he didn't plead guilty, and I actually do believe Jim Griffin on that one, is that he wanted to plead guilty since 2021. And that's based on the jailhouse calls, I think, I think he thought that he could get away with just that, that all he had to do is admit to the Satterfield thing and be



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like, Oh, I'm a I'm a stinker RNA, and then get his little, you know, sentence whatever that was, is prearranged sentence that dick and Jim would work on forum. And that would be the end of things. The only reason he held off on playing was because of this, this murder charge that he knew since August of 2021. That was coming his way. Eventually, they were trying to beat that back, he first needed to see if he could get away with murder, before you could deal with, I guess, whatever good deal he can get out of the financial crime. So I do believe that he's happy, because to him, this is a brick in the road, just like everything else we've talked about over the last few weeks toward the eventual goal of getting out of the murder conviction, just another it's another part of that.

Mandy Matney 31:39

And he shouldn't say happy, he shouldn't say anything like that. And that's another example of how Alex has no idea how humans are supposed to feel about things like this: happiness is not joyful, or you should not be smirky in any sort of a situation. And again, going back to the piece Liz pointed out earlier, he just like, I don't think people understand the level of destruction this man has had into so many people's lives. Like I can't even count the amount of people that wake up every day and feel different because of Alex Murdaugh. And I can't stand the fact that like, there's even an ounce of sympathy for him at this time. And I don't understand why, like, happy is just disgusting. And I'm sure tomorrow is going to be a whole nother display of him saying that he's been a this was all the opioids and he just got caught up and blah, blah, blah. And again, we're supposed to believe that but not that lie. He was crazy enough on opioids to steal from all these incredibly



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vulnerable people, but not crazy enough to kill his family. It's just going to be a load of crap. And I my stomach kind of hurts thinking about it, honestly, because I think that I'm gonna be sad tomorrow. I think I'm happy that Eric's able to talk but I'm gonna be sad that I think that this is Alex somehow getting it's Alex getting a little check mark off of his little box and his little evil plan. And I hate that.

Liz Farrell 33:20

Eric, is he allowed to address the victims in any when he speaks to the court? Like is he allowed to turn toward them and apologize the same way that Cory did? Or is that that feels wrong in some way? But I guess normal criminals, maybe that's a good thing for them.

Eric Bland 33:37

I don't know it's going to after I get done, it's going to look so ridiculous. Because of all the different things that he did to the Satterfield over the last two years is directly opposite of somebody who wanted to make matters right. What he did Judge Newman twice by filing a motion to recuse him and saying that he's conflicted and that he's violated his judicial canons. What he did to the Beaufort county jury system. Remember, he all but broad brush the whole jury system in Beaufort County by saying they can't be impartial and objective because they've heard who Alex Murdaugh is, and they're familiar with, you know, the murder case. I mean, this guy has taken a flamethrower to everybody that's been in front of him. And I think tomorrow is going to be, you know, a little bit of a reckoning of that. I do agree that, you know, he's going to enjoy the show. And it's, you know, another field trip for him.



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He's gone to the zoo, or, you know, wherever we take our kids in sixth grade, it's a field trip.

Liz Farrell 34:29

We need to be on the lookout for any sort of unusual treatment you might be getting as an inmate in the Buford county jail, just because that is his home turf in some regards. Gee, you know, it's on the 14th. And Beaufort County is really the center of business for the 14th circuit. So you know, right across the street from the courthouse, the jail is right behind the courthouse and right across the street from the courthouse or it's a ton of lawyers offices and you know, within walking distance of the courthouse, so all his people are you know it's former people are there so I just wonder.

Mandy Matney 35:04

Cory stands. What's that? The quarry stands?

Liz Farrell 35:09

Cory stands? Oh my gosh yes. I'm still sort of surprised I think by people not now that they've seen the facts now that they've seen Cory admit to it now that they've seen Cory saw you Eric lay it all out there's still this feeling of sympathy for Cory on the human side of things. And I don't know that people have that same sort of sympathy for Alex. I think it's a different type of and actually, you know what Alex should have studied Cory's performance because that might have actually got them somewhere.



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Eric Bland 35:38

I think a lot of people believe that Cory, deep in his soul, isn't a sociopath. He's a guy that just got caught up into trying being in the in crowd and drafting in the wake of the murder dolls. And he obviously made so many bad decisions and his morality definitely lessened as his life God. You know, as he got older, he lost his footing on morality, but they can see you know, we should have some empathy for him. He is going to be square with the house. But Alex you see none of that you see just no genuine contrition and the fact that he's got a lawyer like carpooling and who's going to be arguing for him. That doesn't bode well either. He's not dead he did. Harpootlian is not Debbie Barbier. Dick Harpootlian is not going to lay it out, like Debbie did, in a way that you believe if Dick tries to be anything, and warm and kind and understanding everybody's gonna say it's an act. It's not who he is. So it's going to be a bad visual tomorrow. Right?

Mandy Matney 36:37

No matter what Harpootlian does, I think Jim should just handle the whole thing because Jim could at least be a little serious and straight and at least do what Debbie Barbier did, which is like, we're going to make this as easy as possible on the book shows that they're not going to do that. We know that. Wow, this this. Yeah. So Eric, what is your most? What is the line that you're the most proud of in your letter for tomorrow?

Eric Bland 37:05

I'm going to talk about the carnage that he caused. I'm going to talk a lot about the hypocrisy of his total defense team and him and how



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they've dealt with these victims. Whether it's first trying to deny that he ever stole the money like Jim did in the answer to the civil complaint to Harpootlian coming out of the bond hearing and in the press gaggle saying that Satterfield shouldn't look at Alex for anything that he shouldn't have to repay them. If they want their money, they need to look to other people who have more capability than Alex never forgot to say that. After the bond hearing all the different machinations that they've done, they tried to rope the Satterfields into the Nautilus litigation, and then six months that they negotiated these terms of the confession of judgment when it should have been given immediately. And then he tries to vacate it. And then when all that fails, they turn their sights on Judge Newman. And I'm going to try to tell that so for me, it's your hit for the cycle, you've caused carnage, you've exploited so many different people in your life. And when you go back to yourself, and I realized that your son Buster's got a walk through life, not only that his father's a murderer, but he's a thief and a liar. And everybody that deals with Buster is gonna see, does the apple fall far from the tree?

Liz Farrell 38:24

Really quickly? I did want to ask the question that David posed here, because I think that people might not understand that. But Eric, his existing murder sentence of life on the two charges from Maggie and Paul is in a separate container, basically. So what happens tomorrow with his sentence is I guess we could call them different tracks if we put the murder sentence on one track. And can we put the financial sentence on another track? And do those tracks ever meet?



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Eric Bland 38:52

Yeah, they do. Because as part of the plea agreement, the Financial Crimes sentence of 27 years runs concurrently. At the same time, if the double murder charges stick, and he's doing a double life, it's not a double life plus 27 years, they merge together, and it's just a double life. So there is no concurrency right now, between any of the state court penal sentences with what Judge Gergels going to do. Usually, the Federal Court does not run concurrent with the state; it's a separate consecutive consecutive means separate so then it's that plus that instead they merged together. Now, we still have the unknown of the labor day shooting case, and that's a separate felony. And if he is pleased with that, we don't know if that's going to be consecutive or concurrent. But right now, their goal obviously is okay, we got this 27 years, it's 85%. We're going to get what Judge gerbil gives us but we want these murder charges to be reversed and a new trial and then try to get a not guilty verdict or a hung jury so that they don't retry it and then you're just left with the financial crime sentences because he wants to go through life as a thief and a liar. He doesn't want to go through life as a murderer.

Liz Farrell 40:07

That is for sure. But we all know what he is no matter what he ate for Thanksgiving.

Eric Bland 40:13

We will be right back.



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Liz Farrell 40:23

Let's talk a little bit about what happened right before Thanksgiving. Because when we're talking about people who had a bad holiday, I would put Becky Hill the Colleton County clerk of court on that list because of what happened to her family. Not only is she facing accusations, baseless accusations, as far as we can see so far from Team Murdaugh about jury tampering. Her son was arrested and arraigned for secretly recording or allegedly secretly recording a county employee on a turns out, Beth Braden, Luna Shark's reporter, messaged Mandy and me earlier to say that, coincidentally the day of this alleged incident in which Becky's son who was in it he works for it at the college and county are at college and county recorded this conversation with her on the day of Becky's book release. And so we don't know a whole lot of what happened. But we do know there's a lot of coincidences. One is that this employee who made the charge against Becky son is a descendant of the smoke family, which anyone who's familiar with the 14th Circuit would know that this is a very important judge to PMPEDd and the Murdaughs. And additionally, she is married to USC, a probate judge who was a 14th circuit assistant solicitor and who has connections to deep connections, family connections to PMPED, from what we've heard. So that said, it seems like something stinks in suburbia. And I'm not entirely sure what we're looking at here. What are your thoughts?

Eric Bland 42:11

I think it's, I think it's a, it's not good for Becky at this time. And now I'm not saying that Becky had anything to do with this or it has something to do with the dispute that she has with, you know, any of the assistant



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clerks that we're hearing about, but the fact that they took her phone, I just it's not, it's not a good look for her, especially when her credibility, her image and everything is, you know, front and center right now on the motion for a new jury trial.

Mandy Matney 42:43

How could they legally take her phone? Like they would have a search warrant for you will? Yeah, but what would the purpose of if she had communications.

Eric Bland 42:51

With her son about something that was, you know, that the son was investigating? Or she was asking her son or somebody was asking her son to do some kind of surreptitious recording or eavesdropping on people that she wanted to have information on and she may have nothing to do with it. It's just not good. It's just not a good look.

Liz Farrell 43:15

They could have searched his phone for that though. This feels like a sort of a vehicle in order to justify that search warrant to get her phone. Because they're probably hoping to find that, well, it's in the wrong hands. But I think they're also hoping I mean, just based on the trolls and the garbage that they spew like they're hoping to see that like Becky and you and me are like texting during the trial like hey, what about and like, you're not gonna find anything? You are not gonna find anything? Didn't happen.



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Mandy Matney 43:44

Yeah, the trolls have said that since Becky was when these accusations first came out. I've gotten a ton of tweets from people saying I hope they take Becky's phone and I hope they find all this stuff between Mandy and Liz and Becky and yeah, good luck. Good luck didn't happen our only communication with Becky throughout the trial was basic like can we get a media pass.

Liz Farrell 44:08

Can we get a second media pass which she gave us the idea that we would.

Mandy Matney 44:12

Are you making sure he's guilty?

Liz Farrell 44:17

Especially when we believed he was guilty anyway, we believe that the evidence was going to show that.

Mandy Matney 44:22

Right, we believe in the integrity of a trial and like we actually respect that. How many times in our reporting have we taken a step away because we're like, I don't want to get it, it's not okay to get involved. I don't want to mess anything up here like it does. None of this sits well with me and the other thing that really doesn't sit well and this is a good transition is like how did SLED have time to do this? And how did SLED have time to investigate this when they claim they haven't had resources for Stephen's case? They claim that they haven't had



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resources for other cases. If that is just really it seems it seems minor. And also Liz can speak to this too. How many worse crimes have we seen by public officials that have not gotten investigated have just been swept under the rug entirely. Granted, we don't know everything with this. But a lot of times in South Carolina, what they do is to keep public integrity and to keep the reasoning for a Public Integrity Unit. They go after the little guys. And they go after the guys like taking \$1,000. Like, I've seen like DMV workers get in trouble from SLED and like lower tier public officials, instead of the ones who are actually doing the really dirty work. And I don't know what I hope the outcome with this because it's, it's not good. I don't, I don't want to hope that they this was somehow a conspiracy to get Becky's phone because again, I'll say this again, and I got crap for it last week. But it's another thing that makes me very scared to live in the 14th circuit. I live in Duffy Stone's circuit, like he could take my phone any day, where's the freedom like i When where's the line that these people won't cross? That's where I'm at. I hope that we find out more about Becky and we're going to Beth has done a lot of voices this week. But everything initially just does not sit well. And also, it's odd for them to arrest somebody on Thanksgiving week. We all know government offices, they all are doing the bare minimum, typically on Thanksgiving week, that it just felt like an intentional stab to the heart of Becky, who probably was really looking forward to a nice Thanksgiving with their family, and then how to deal with all of that. I'm looking forward to finding out more and I hate jumping the gun. But like Liz said, there are just so few coincidences in all of this. And we can, we need to stop just assuming things are just Oh, that's weird. Because it's never just been weird. In this case. It's always been connected in some way, shape or form.

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Eric Bland 47:14

I mean, this happened in July, Mandy, this happened in July. If they wanted to do something, they could have done it before Labor Day, they could have done it in the fall. Here. We're now getting rid of all the financial crimes and the focus going forward is going to be on the other than judge gurgles sentence which comes down the pike. But the next thing that comes up is this motion for a new jury trial. And, you know, here's Duffy stone, you know, holding in his hip pocket, something that has to do with Becky's son that could have dealt with Munson before and then take Becky's phone and have an article written about it. It really does seem that they want to diminish her credibility or her standing visually amongst the public.

Liz Farrell 48:01

Let's be clear about who we're talking about when we see they because they isn't SLED and the Ag or they isn't even Duffy necessarily or David Pasco, who is a solicitor who I believe investigated this. Ultimately, when you talk about somebody getting arrested before Thanksgiving, like you just said, this is something that they've been investigating since July. It is such a conscious act when it comes to the headlines and who do we know who thinks about the headlines? Because they know that every newsroom including television, newsrooms and the state are on bare bones during Thanksgiving. So you have the headline, Becky's son arrested, her phone has been confiscated. And then there's going to be a lag, right? There's going to be perhaps a lag, I should say like, if you're going to plan this out, you're going to look okay, then there can't be a quick follow up headline. That's the one that's going to link or I also want to point out that when reporters from the Post and Courier and



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your trip from ABC for they went to the bond hearing for Becky sign and were kept out of the new courtroom, which is the exact opposite of what the Constitution says. So they weren't unable to hear what was being said like what was the justification from the warden or his arrest? And additionally, we found out today from Beth Braden, who was trying to get a copy of the transcript that they do not do transcripts of bond hearings, apparently, or at least this judge doesn't wear this court. Yeah. So I obviously we have to get that verified.

Mandy Matney 49:57

Right. Because isn't that, they can't do that.

Liz Farrell 50:02

It feels like they're supposed to have some sort of record of what happened,

Mandy Matney 50:07

Right? There can't just be a private bond here. That's absurd. And also, this is so crazy because it's Becky's frickin courthouse. Like, where would be we normally call the clerk of court? Oh, that's a problem like, this is just so insane and I don't know. But if they don't allow reporters to go in there and record and they don't record themselves, I don't know how that could stand up.

Liz Farrell 50:33

It's crazy because he's in public. So let's remove the fact that he's related to Becky Hill. And there's this whole thing with elk murder going on. He's a public employee accused of committing a crime during the work



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day. So there's a public interest that's withstanding, notwithstanding everything else. Additionally, and I don't know, again, like I have so few details about what he's accused of doing. But it's confusing to me. Because isn't South Carolina, a one party state? Aren't you allowed to record people without their permission?

Eric Bland 51:06

No, if you're a part of it, you have to be part of that discussion to record. What do you mean, you would have to be? You would have to be part of it. He went to a party, right. He would be at a party. If Mandy and I were talking. I can record her because I'm one party.

Mandy Matney 51:21

Okay. What was the charge called, was a wiretapping? Yeah, wiretapping.

Liz Farrell 51:25

I guess he's accused of setting up a recording device without being in the room? Is that what you're hearing? Uh, yeah.

Mandy Matney 51:30

And I've, I've just talked to a few former prosecutors just asked around, and they said that they've never heard of anybody getting that charge. Like, it's a very rare charge in South Carolina. Because we are, we're a one party state and it's hard to, but I, the whole thing is just extremely bizarre. And they didn't charge him with crime and office, you know what I'm talking about?



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Eric Bland 51:56

He's definitely the question is, Is he using his position to further a personal vendetta or something? Or, you know, we have no idea and it's not fair to Becky, for anybody to speculate. Certainly, you know, she's definitely in the microscope and under the firing line, and it just all seem so prepackaged, when the next thing is going to be her credibility and veracity. Right.

Mandy Matney 52:22

And I just one more thing I want to say, going back to Liz's point about Thanksgiving and the media Dick Harpootlian has done I remember this specifically, before Thanksgiving and 2021. He went after you, Eric, he did that thing where he went after your law license that was like two days before Thanksgiving, and that was the headlines. And that was like everybody was in a huge tizzy. And last year, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, right after Russell Laffitte's trial, we were all completely defeated from an exhausted Dick. Dick drops that like 100 Page motion, about the blood spatter that got everybody out. And again, this just has, it feels so Harpootlian really, and because it feels so Dick Harpootlian, it just makes me not trust anything with it. And I hope to God, he had nothing to do with it. I hope it's all just a weird coincidence. I hope Becky had nothing to do with it. That's the best hope that we can all have. But because I don't want I don't want SLED to be doing work for Dick Harpootlian in any way, shape, or form that scares me now.

Liz Farrell 53:36

That you just given those two examples back to back like that. And now we have a third example of a Thanksgiving bomb being dropped, you



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have to ask the question of who do our public employees and SLED and Prosecutors Offices work for? Because to me, it doesn't seem like an organic decision to do this on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. It just doesn't. What flight risk did this guy have? When like Paul Murdaugh, he and not to make that comparison, I guess, but I am sure that the hill family has very deep ties in the courts and County community. And they're not trying to go live on the lam and Chicago like, I think that we can be pretty certain that the color court son will show up and you don't turn yourself in when you know, it just seems like we have to ask that question. If it turns out that there is something going on, like I mean, two things can be true at the same time. There could be merit to this charge, there could be merit to the whole thing. But at the same time, who does our government work for? If there if in fact, it turns out that they are acting at the behest of a defense attorney who is this is one another step in his plan to get his one client, the one client that is in History who has ever been innocent off on the murder charge.

Eric Bland 55:05

So, I don't, I don't think SLED right now would be carrying water for Dick. You know, given the statements that he made about SLED and their corruption and their inability to conduct an investigation in their crime scene, you know, recordings and stuff like that they don't see that.

Liz Farrell 55:27

You don't see them put in a scenario where Dick knows that this exists, this investigation exists there's an outcome to the investigation that



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there's enough evidence there's enough probable cause to warrant an arrest. You think is Dick's keeping that in his old man's briefcase for the next week? Or is he pressuring SLED to make them look like they are protecting Becky and they are protecting their murder investigation visa vie, delaying and around I mean, I don't believe that no pressure, no pressure was put on them. You know what I'm saying? Right?

Mandy Matney 55:59

And also like, I just want to make this point to Liz and I were talking about this morning how there's zero consistency with so many things in the legal system like bond and also what warrants an arrest. Alex Murdaugh didn't get arrested after the roadside shooting.

Liz Farrell 56:19

After stealing from his law firm. He got to resign after they found millions of dollars that he had lied over who knows how many years at that point. He got to walk out of there without handcuffs. Not there's not a call or a SLED wasn't alerted for days, right?

Mandy Matney 56:37

And Harpootlian was able to go on the news and say my clients are going to turn himself in tomorrow. Like compare that to Becky Hill's just getting arrested like it just doesn't make any sense to me, especially when you think the roadside shooting was a violent crime. He took a gun and it was dangerous. A gun was involved. It was it was dangerous. He was in a terrible state of mind in the fact that Dick Harpootlian was able to dictate that entire thing. But this happens over and over and we see like we saw Eddie Smith wasn't able to turn himself in; they just ran



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and arrested him and like, guess who got to turn himself in the quarry guess who got to turn up to himself and Russell? What did these people have in common? And without the it's just there needs to be more consistency and there needs to be more rules for that because I do think that it just doesn't sit well with me. Especially with the whole I also think that Harpootlian really thinks about the headlines that linger and the news cycle and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is a heck of a link lingering headlines situation not much is gonna top that over the weekend. And I just again I hoped it wasn't involved. I hope that this is a completely separate weird thing and has nothing to do with Becky but I think we got to switch to Stephen.

Liz Farrell 58:09

Just real quick though one point to tears Mandy. Not only did he it was, but Alex was allowed to turn himself in Dick arranged this deal over and we all got to hear it during the murder trial with SLED to do this like a wackadoodle interview over the phone from some undisclosed location. And in Atlanta, when they made the arrangement for Alex to turn himself into SLED. He was supposed to drive directly from Georgia or wherever he was directly to turn himself in. But he did not do that; he had himself driven to his mother's house and SLED came and got him because he didn't honor the agreement that they had for him to turn himself in early on in September 2021. And we're now in year two of seeing that kind of dishonorable behavior. So I just want to throw that out there. But yeah, let's let's talk about Stephen. And 48 hours was just on was that Saturday night? Yes. And it was purported to be about the Stephen Smith case and it largely was but I think it got a little too deep



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in the weeds with some of Alex other crimes which I guess you know, you started off.

Eric Bland 59:22

The last 12 minutes they went to what they went to last 12 minutes they just veered straight off a Stephen and into Alex. I thought it was good. I thought Sandy was really magical. I thought she was articulate. You know, a woman that you want to fight for and you admire and respect and, you know, she wasn't vindictive and really mean and nasty. She came across as a loving mother, somebody who you know, the system seems to be eating up and spitting out various different times and You know, she doesn't harbor ill will. She's just, she came across really well, I was extremely proud of her extremely proud takeaways.

Liz Farrell 1:00:07

Seem to be like if we're gonna look at the headlines from what came out of this episode. One is Sandy saying that she believes that their secrets are held in Stephen's phone that would give us answers and beyond that, that there are people out there who don't want us to see what is on Stephens phone.

Eric Bland 1:00:26

And then the second thing, I think that people will ask his tablet, right, so yeah, and I'm telling you that I do, I do believe that his tablet has been cracked.



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Liz Farrell 1:00:33

You do believe that? I do believe that. Well, that's good. That should be interesting. And then the second thing was that Stephen's body was not like the scene wasn't staged in the way that a state trooper had sort of surmised that it looked like it had been based on the autopsy that the second autopsy that the GoFundMe funded. That's interesting, too. I mean, like that, I think that was a revelation for a lot of people, it seems. But it doesn't change the fact like that doesn't answer your question of whether this was a hit and run or a murder, or manslaughter or, you know, involuntary manslaughter, voluntary manslaughter, either one.

Eric Bland 1:01:18

I think, I think it gave the impression that it was an intentional killing. And also what I was surprised that is how deep and to 48 hours went into naming the Murdaugh's as part of this, what happened to Stephen? Just that Murdaugh name, they just kept over and over. They did what you did, Mandy, you know, remember in your book, when you said, I went back and I had to count how many times the Murdaugh name was in the report. And, you know, they focused on Buster, they almost fingered Buster based on some of the rumors and innuendos. And that was surprising to me.

Mandy Matney 1:01:56

Yeah, I think that I can't imagine watching it and not without knowing the case, I would have been extremely confused of how, like the end tied into the beginning. But it was an extremely complicated thing. And I think what's so frustrating with the Stephen Smith case is like the more we find out, the more confusing everything is and the more



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questions that we all have. And I believe my overall takeaway was just like you said, Eric, I really just hoped for Sandy's face out there in her words, and God the time I forgot what question The reporter asked her, but her answer was, it wouldn't be the first time someone lied to me.

Liz Farrell 1:02:40

Yeah, I was gonna mention that. That was heartbreaking. It was because Sean Connolly, who is one of the two men that were, I guess in the I don't know how to even say that because it is so complex that whose names were brought to the attention of law enforcement after the Hampton Guardian wrote this Thanksgiving story about Stephen and Sandy. And it is a powerful family involved. These two men's names get floated with state troopers and one of them is Sean Connolly and Sean Connolly told Sandy face to face I did not do this. And she believes them and Nikki Oster will, you know, what, if you find out he was lying, or what if you find out that he did have something to do with it. And she just sadly said that wouldn't be the first time somebody lied to me. And it just shows you again, like how long we're talking about this system that's broken, the abuse that happens that favors this one side that can afford it ends up having a direct and opposite effect on the side that can't and so you see that somebody's that's not even a cynical statement. It's a heartbroken one. It's one that has just been defeated by the past. And I hope that that resonated with people out there too. And I unfortunately don't have any faith in the people who know what happened to Stephen, that they will have a come to Jesus, that they will have a reckoning with their own soul, which they should be if they haven't already. Because I think what's happening in the murder trial, what's happening with Becky Hill, what's happening with this plea



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deal? I just see some semblance of momentum happening with Tim Murdaugh that they can at least cash in on from, you know, locally. And so I think that that in and of itself, the idea of Alex possibly getting out of this murder trial or the idea of Alex someday in the future, getting out of prison, could be enough to scare people back into the, you know, into silence is what I worry about.

Eric Bland 1:04:48

Well, I spoke to Chief Keel last week and he said that this is very much these are his own words. And he gave me permission to say that this is very much an act of invest allegation, and we have a number of issues that have been assigned to officers that they will be pursuing. And, you know, I take him at his word, I hope that he means it. Sandy hopes that he means that we all hope that he means it. And we just have to wait out this process. It's taken a long time. You know, they were able to solve Alex's situation in two years, this is now seven, eight years. It's just, it's a horrible situation for Sandy to go through and remain hopeful.

Liz Farrell 1:05:38

As long as I can, I do hope that people in law enforcement understand, like how big of a hero they will be if they are able to close this case successfully. Because when you look at what the public wants, the public wants this, there are strangers all over the country and the world who are watching this case and want to see it solved, because no one should get away with this, doing this to anyone. But in this case, specifically, where there is such a power differential in that county. I just, I think that it just resonates with so many people and breaks our hearts. So I hope that the SLED agents that are investigating this case,



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understand that they have the power to do an excellent job at what they're doing to great effect.

Eric Bland 1:06:27

Yes, I agree. And, you know, we were focusing on Alex tomorrow. But I want to make sure that we always talk about Stephen, I know Mandy, it's always on the front of your cerebral cortex, you're always telling me, let's talk about Stephen, let's put snow with Steve and Liz, you feel the same way. And so if we keep that pressure up, if we keep talking about Stephen, look at Stephanie Truesdale made a Stephen doll that was just perfect, you know, and the whole Internet just responded. You know, it's those little things that mean a lot and they keep this story alive. And that's what we have to do. It can't be pushed to the backburner. Just because Stephen wasn't from a family of privilege.

Mandy Matney 1:07:12

Yeah. And we're going to go back to that on True Sunlight as well. And keep going back to doing deep dives. And probably the next few weeks on Stephen's case and making sure the SLED and everyone knows that we're still on this, we're not going away. There's still a lot of questions that need to be answered. And the time is now like let's let's get this thing going.

Eric Bland 1:07:39

And tomorrow you know, we have the sentencing. It's got to be broadcast at 10 o'clock from Beaufort, Eastern Standard Time. I don't know which different stations will carry it but I assume somebody's going to YouTube it and there'll be different media outlets there and I



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look forward to talking to you guys on the way to view for giving me some thoughts Liz always gives me some last minute thoughts and I'll talk to you after the sentencing hearing.

Liz Farrell 1:08:04

Awesome and first Soak Up the Sun members of Luna Shark premium, you will get to watch the broadcast the usual way and interact with Mandy and me and yeah, we'll get to get the band back together, as they say with that awesome group of people that we formed relationships with during the trial. So that's the only positive about about it.

Eric Bland 1:08:28

Send good vibes.

Mandy Matney 1:08:30

And on that note, I think we'll close out.

Liz Farrell 1:08:32

Cups down guys.

Mandy Matney 1:08:34

Cups down. This Cup of Justice episode is created and hosted by me. Mandy Matney with co-host Liz Farrell, our executive editor and Eric Bland Attorney at Law aka the Jackhammer of Justice from Luna Shark productions.