



## EPISODE 58: Deconstructing Alex Murdaugh 2.0 A Look at the World's Most Bizarre Sentencing Hearing

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**Mandy Matney** 00:03

Hello and Happy Tuesday. First let me just say how amazing it was to visit all of the fans who came out to the co-op Hillsboro Village in Nashville on Sunday. We had a blast. Big shout out to Mandy the dog and her amazing parents that made my whole week. I can't tell you how excited Liz, Eric and I have been to finally get together and talk about Alex Murdaugh's disgusting performance at last week's sentencing hearing. There is still so much to unpack. Even after almost five years of covering this man, I still find myself with my jaw on the floor because I am constantly learning that even when we think we've seen the worst of this murdering thief, he's always ready to show us that he is just getting started. Last week was difficult for us in the South Carolina justice system. Not only did we have to deal with Alex's sick 50-minute performance at the hearing, we learned that the judicial merit selection committee nominated David Miller. You know, the Second Circuit assistant solicitor who made his name helping lawyer legislators like Todd Rutherford and Brad Hutto strike dangerous and practically off the books deals for their clients. In Todd's case, David Miller got his kidnapping attempted murdering burglarizing clients out of prison about a dozen years early in in Brad's case, David Miller helped him craft an easy breezy plea deal for thrice accused rapist Bowen Turner who almost immediately violated the conditions of the agreement, despite victims in their family practically begging the JMSC not to make this man a judge. This group of lawyer legislators who profit from their roles in electing our state's judges got him one step closer. Like I say, in today's episode, we are at war and it is time to put sunlight on the JMSC the likes of which they have never seen before. Let's get into it. Cups up guys.

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**Liz Farrell** 02:11

Cups up. I'm in New England, so I gotta wrap. I can't do the Starbucks up here. DD is what we run on up here. I think you guys know that. Yeah. So Mandy, how was your weekend?

**Mandy Matney** 02:26

So good. We're in Nashville, doing a book signing today here. And we went out with Emily D. Baker last night. She is a big YouTuber. And she has so much fun. We went to a karaoke bar. And it was a blast - every time we go to a karaoke bar. And Emily said this, like even law enforcement has talent here like everybody, everybody who moved to Nashville has like some sort of crazy talent. And karaoke is just amazing. So we were having a good time. How are you guys doing?

**Eric Bland** 02:57

Doing well. How are you, Liz?

**Liz Farrell** 02:59

I'm good. I'm in Connecticut. So I'm here for my mom's birthday. We did brunch yesterday.

**Mandy Matney** 03:05

Nice. Your sister's house? Their vacation house?

**Liz Farrell** 03:08

Yeah. So it's, I mean, it's Connecticut. So it's not like balmy or anything. It's really cold. And it's really rainy today.



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**Eric Bland** 03:16

So in South Carolina right now it's about 80 degrees. 78 degrees. Yeah, it's not sunny, it's yucky, but it's hot.

**Liz Farrell** 03:25

Oh gosh. Well, yeah, I do miss that. But yeah, whatever. It's something you got the seasons back. I kind of like having the seasons back. I'll tell you what, though. Like this weekend has been I don't know if it's the same for you guys. But I feel like when I was driving here, it was a litany of like Alex Murdaugh related issues that were coming up. So I'm like, you know, it's not easy driving from the Baltimore area to anywhere past New York, just because it's constant traffic, and you have to like think really, like pay attention to what you're doing. So it's just like, my weekend. I feel like in some ways, just like that. It's not tainted, it wasn't ruined or anything, but it's just like, all the stuff that's just been on my mind. I don't know if it's been the same for you, Eric, because you're wondering, I was making my way up here. It has. It has. Yeah, unfortunately, but you got Did you have fun anyway, I mean, did you do anything cool this weekend?

**Eric Bland** 04:13

I, you know, a lot with Renee because, you know, she had recent surgery, but watched football, had a great Alabama, you know, Georgia game last night, I played golf and spent time with the dogs. But you know, I was just trying to deconstruct a week, you know, pull it apart and see what happened and where we're going and you know, what's ahead of us. And there's still a lot of it ahead of us. You know, I told you guys this morning that we have the victim's mediation coming up on December 25 to divide up the funds that the receivers obtained from



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Alex and you know, there's things going forward. We've got Judge Gergel and it's coming up and just some different things to figure out. The Plyler case is still out there. So there's a number of things and we're having trouble actually getting Russell to cooperate, to come to the trial, we were supposed to have the trial, he won't cooperate. And so then we were going to take his deposition in person at the facility, and they won't let us do that. And the only place that he can go in and zoom is secured. So now we're only gonna have to take his video deposition for trial purposes. And hopefully, we'll get that done in January. But it's very, very difficult to get into a federal prison to take somebody's deposition. And he does not have to cooperate and come to his trial. And so obviously, we want the jury to see Russell and cross examine him and say, you know, Hey, did you ever invite the Plylers over to swim in the swimming pool that you borrowed their money to build and ask him all these nice questions, but he's been difficult, and his lawyers are being difficult. That doesn't surprise me.

### **Liz Farrell** 05:45

Now, I feel like Eric, I don't know if this is like, I think this says a lot about your optimism and your belief in people being good. And just being constantly surprised by them being that I feel like this week, you've maybe finally reached the sort of peak in the Murdaugh case where you're sort of realizing just how like lowdown and dirty the scheme is and how lowdown and dirty the people involved are and like, it just seems like I don't think that you're heartbroken by the things that you're finding, but it almost feels like you're just like really disappointed in people. And yeah, I don't know if that's just the sense I got from you.



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**Eric Bland** 06:19

I was first time kind of I wouldn't say depressed, but really down this week, because I knew that these people had this in them. But I just thought that the whole process would, you know, educate them and make them have a little bit of empathy. But seeing the way Dick handled himself and Alex in the infomercial, and now the rough stuff, and just a South Carolina bar, how they, you know, delayed and it was just a cascade of really disappointing events this week. And I'm just sick of it. You know, I'm disillusioned. I think we're back to square one. Mandy has been saying it all along. You've been saying it all along. I thought we were making some kind of progress. But we're back to square one. No lessons have been learned. Nothing has been changed as far as the bar goes. And just the way Dick is handling this. And Alex is...Alex is really an evil man. I mean, after the show we saw in court, I've never seen anything like it.

**Mandy Matney** 07:12

So let's talk about that, shall we?

**Eric Bland** 07:15

You tell me Mandy. Are we back to square one?

**Mandy Matney** 07:18

I mean, I think that there's little bits of progress. And I talked about this at the CLE course that we did on Friday, like you have to focus on the fact that systems don't change for a reason. Because it's really, really, really hard to change something like this. And so every little bit of I mean, I think even the fact that people are seeing the things that we're seeing is progression. However, it gets extremely frustrating. And as I



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talk to these Kansas defense attorneys on Friday about one of the most frustrating parts is that the bar doesn't recognize anything, and isn't coming to terms with all of the wreckage that Alex Murdaugh and his associates did to the justice system. And instead they just continue to sweep it under the rug and want us to just move on. And another disappointing part of the week for me was David Miller, the solicitor that was the gave Bowen Turner the sweetheart deal was given the approval, but the JMSC to go ahead for judgeship. And that just absolutely crushed Dallas Stoller's family. And I spent a long time talking to Karl, her dad this weekend. And he's in a very similar place of like, I want to change things. I'm determined to change things, but I'm really frustrated. And I told him to Dallas, his dad was going through all these emotions of maybe somebody else could have spoken to them and gotten through to them about David Miller. And I was like, don't even go there. I think the deal was done before he walked into that room. If Dallas' dad couldn't explain to those people why this man is bad for the judicial system. I don't think anybody could. And I think he also just feels betrayed because the way that they presented to him, they were acting to him like they were listening and like they were really concerned that they were hearing him and understanding him and then they turned around and approved him. And I think it's it's a huge slap in the face to victims. It's a huge slap in the face this movement, but I am hoping that it just motivates people more so to change and it just will show everyone that the JMSC is not working and that we cannot trust them. So that's my spiel.

**Eric Bland** 09:44

That's a really good point. You know, Liz helped me learn a lot about how Judge Price came on the bench, you know, at the expense of



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Judge Harrington and Peter McCoy and the role that he played and Peter McCoy is also the receiver. In Alex Murdaugh's case I mean, it just never stops. I mean, it's a, it's a circle. That just is not a big circle. It's a small circle.

**Liz Farrell** 10:09

And they've been reactivated. I feel like there's just this feeling of reinvigoration because I think they've...the bad guys sort of got this, like major step forward this week, and a lot of the things that they're up to. So I think that that's where it's really hard to swallow. You know, I was thinking about something, Eric, I know you're not gonna like what I'm about to say, but it's just factually true. You're of the boomer generation, low end, like last guy through the door below. And Boomer. Yeah, Boomer and Gen X, and Mandy's a millennial. And I think that there's, it's interesting because we have maybe three different ways of maybe looking at a system that isn't changing, or that needs to change and like how we think it needs to be solved. Like, I think that for you, you're sort of coming to this realization that there are these connections, and that things are as bad as they look, and that people are up to the things that you suspect that they're up to. Because you're you know, you're sort of like giving them like a baseline benefit that out, I think I'm more cynical, where I just feel like nothing is a surprise. And then sometimes there's like this, like hopeless feeling of like, well, I mean, this is life. And then the millennial over here, you know, is thinking like, why are we putting up with this? Like, what are you guys doing? Like, there's something that needs to be changed here. So it just I think it's I don't know that I realized until this weekend that our age differences in that way sort of carry, like we're almost classically of the generation that we belong to. But that said, one of the things that will change your...

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**Eric Bland** 11:39

Do you think there will be change? Because it's generational. Is it going to be slower? Mandy will be in my age when it happens? Because I don't think it's going to happen during my lifetime.

**Liz Farrell** 11:48

Honestly no, I think it's an ever the situation, maybe this again, this is just Gen X talking right now. But it feels like it's just this is how humans are, they're always going to you know, there's always going to be a component that is out for themselves and their, you know, almost solitary benefit of themselves and their friends. But that said, I think the thing that I learned the most is that I didn't realize how much our system depended on people respecting it, and how much it depended on people having sort of a polite threshold of where they're going to draw the line in their own behavior. Because when you look back at President Bill Clinton and the deposition that he sat for, right, a, he sat for a deposition as a sitting president, like that's kind of crazy, right? He didn't. It's almost like if you fast forward, this is like, he's a complete narcissist. I mean, like, let's not kid ourselves on President Clinton for all the good he might have done. He is a narcissist. But he didn't think he I don't know if he didn't think he had a choice or what happened. Maybe looking back now all he had to have done back then is say, No, I'm not doing that. I'm not going to answer your questions. I'm not going to, you know, because what I think I'm learning not just from, you know, current politics, but just what goes on South Carolina, how on inhale like that we call out their behavior is just a mere inconvenience to them that they step over, I think, and I think that the more that I'm realizing like them realizing like, oh, classic Gen X newspaper girl just thinks that you can just all you have to do is call it out and they'll be ashamed, and





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then they'll change. That's just not reality. And so I think at this point it is like, I knew when they filed the jury tampering, motion, Mandy and I were talking about how we're now at war, like, this is it this is when Buffy goes to battle. This is like the original evil that we're fighting. And this is the one and I think I don't want it to be like that so it's like I'm constantly having to remind myself like Don't be disappointed or at war. This is just a battle that got lost. Like there's other battles that you need to fight now to make, like the war happens so that this week, you know, it was just a lot of seemingly lost battles. But yeah, the jam is see they don't have to, there's no shame, there's no I mean, now that we have that insight that you were talking about with Judge Harrington, and how judge price, you've got his seat, and we know what kind of antics they were up to at JMCS We know that there's no bottom for them, just like with allegory and wonder, just no wonder all of these things happen.

### **Mandy Matney** 14:11

And they're gonna just need to protect it like they're going to continue to win again, it's just going to be a long and frustrating journey to change that.

### **Liz Farrell** 14:23

Who do we go after? Mandy, who do we go after? Like, is it the people? Do you make it harder for the guys at the top who aren't going to change? Because they don't want to let go of their power? Who are the people that like, is it the people who assist them that we go after? Like, what 's the weak spot that we hit? Like, that's what I want to know.



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**Eric Bland** 14:40

I think I think you're right. I think they used to say go to the voting booth and put new people in there but that's just exchanging one for the other and once they get in, they get either corrupted or they're forced to go along with it. I think you just hit the nail on the head. I think you hit the career civil servants, the people that are under them for some kind of change. Put the focus on people behind the curtains.

**Liz Farrell** 15:03

Which is a shame, because those are the hard working people. Right?

**Mandy Matney** 15:06

Yeah. I mean, I, I also just think I mean good old public embarrassment does, I think it helps in the sense of like these men, their wives don't want to be dragged into all of this, their wives don't want to be heard about their terrible husbands on podcast and in the news and things. So I think it's just a matter of that. And it's a matter of like with a JMSC. And I said this on that recent podcast, like they should get ready for sunlight like they've never seen before, because we are going to go after everything that they've ever done. And we're going to expose them. And we're going to make it really, really difficult for people of South Carolina to not see what we see.

**Eric Bland** 15:51

Then what do you do when you have somebody like Harpootlian and Rutherford, they don't care. The more you go after him, the more you talk negative about Dick Harpootlian, the more he likes it. How do you deal with people like that, that are that you can't vote him out?



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### **Mandy Matney** 16:05

I think we have to just show people that they can be voted out. I mean, I am not under any I understand that both Rutherford and Harpootlian have sealed the deals in their districts for a while, but we've seen it, we've met with lots of people that have said, I voted for Dick, and I'm sorry that I did that. And I would never vote for him again, now that I see what a terrible person that he is. I think you just have to, again, continue the exposure and continue to show people who they really are. And I don't. I'm not under the belief that the majority of South Carolinians want these men to represent us. It's just a matter of getting there. And a matter of being able to show that in the voting booths and getting these people out.

### **Eric Bland** 16:55

You see the way they went after Judge Newman. And it's not only Dick, and Jim, it's a lot of the other people that have talked about Newman, and he's, I wouldn't say defeated, but he is done on the portion of the Murdaugh's cases. I talked to him and he said he still has the Cousin Eddie stuff. And there's still some other lingering stuff. I wouldn't say he was defeated. But he certainly realized what happened. You know what I'm saying? Is that, does that make sense to you guys, that he even the good gets taken down. And he got taken down?

### **Liz Farrell** 17:25

Well taken down makes it feels like it's, I guess we do have to recognize some success on their part. But I hate you know, I hate to do that, you know that I hate to put any mark in their column. I think that okay, there were a lot of questions right? Or about why did Judge Newman let Alex talk for so long? Right? Why did that? At some point, you



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should have shut them down when 75% of what he was saying was about himself and about his family, not at all about the victims. And it was not the point of, you know, his right to be able to apologize for his acts, his right to address the core and express this, you know, shame and embarrassment or whatever. They went and transcended that right, really quickly. So why did Judge Newman do that? I think judging him is so wise that he understood that it's the old saying of you give a man enough rope. So Alex will, you know, end up hanging himself, which I think did to a large extent, I think I think the public was disgusted by him. And I don't think whatever Dick and Jim might have had planned, you know, get Alex out there to deny the murders again, get him to appeal to the public, get him to hate on the media. I don't think it worked. I just don't but maybe in some way, Judge Newman, it's not so much defeat in that he's realizing that by asking that another judge take this case, he's giving them what they want so that they will do themselves in, essentially. That's that.

### **Eric Bland** 18:48

I think you're right. I think you know, the corollary to that is never interrupt your enemy when he's trying to destroy himself and so once Alex ventured beyond the financial crimes and then took off on the media and podcasters and sled and you know, focusing on these financial crimes, you're not focusing on the to murder the murderers out there who murdered my wife and son and you know, then the apology to Buster, the courtroom was a guest. I gotta tell you, I don't know if you guys could see it, whether they just showed a few of the audience members but the media had their jaws open. Everybody had their jaws open. And, you know, when he made that statement to me about Gloria Satterfield, not raising his children that it was Maggie and



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him and his parents and I never said that Gloria raised the kids I said she had a hand in it which is a truth and which is what everybody has said all along. And then when he started on SLED, I just got up and I said, I can't take this any longer. And it was loud enough for everybody here and I left. I mean, I left I think was probably 35 minutes into it. And I didn't go into the immediate room. I just walked. I went to the stairwell and I sat down. I just could not believe it. I was not as smart as you are to realize what Judge Newman was doing, letting him hang himself out. It was too much into the moment wondering what the hell is Judge Newman doing why isn't he shutting this guy down. But I realized that it was all pre planned because Dick had said, Judge, I would like my client to speak, it will be about, you know, almost 10 minutes, less than 10 minutes. And he looked at Jim and Jim said, it's going to be longer. So this was pre planned.

### **Liz Farrell** 20:18

Yes, you know, so Dick said that it would be less than five minutes. And Jim corrected him to 10 minutes, I believe. And the funny part of that is that it was five times that long.

### **Mandy Matney** 20:28

So let's unpack that insane speech when we get right back. First of all, Eric, I think the big lingering question is that, did Judge Newman have the right to stop him? Like what is okay? And what is that, like?

### **Eric Bland** 20:54

The right is when you start to go beyond apologizing and you start attacking in a plea in mitigation, a judge has the absolute right and will shut you down. And I've seen it happen. This was a situation where he



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has to show contrition and he should be talking in a way that you know, I recognize what happened, but this was a full blown I'm trying to change my image in advance of this new judge coming on to hear the motion for a new trial. And if I get a new trial for the potential jury pool and the public to see I'm a different person, I'm clean. I gave everybody therapy about drug addiction and how to get over and I can be a new counselor for anybody. I'm gonna serve a great role in prison. I mean, it was bizarre. It's insane. Yes. But in a bizarre bizarro world, we were in Jerry's bizarro world.

### **Mandy Matney** 21:41

It was. And like he did himself apps, it was exactly a just like, flashback immediately to when he was on the stand. And it was the same thing when he just like he would be asked a question. And then he keeps saying like, and this and just like hanging himself over and over again. And yeah, he used it as a PR platform for a new branded IQ 2.0. But it came off as nothing like that. He was almost worse than the last time we saw him. I couldn't believe that he started out with insulting Gloria like that's not that's not a good Alex to point out. That's just the same insane, crazy person selfish. Like, what did he think that he was going to? What did he think that he was going to gain by arguing with you about how much Gloria did for his children? That was just bizarre.

### **Eric Bland** 22:43

His way of letting letting me know and everybody know that when he gets in a courtroom? It's still his courtroom? Yeah. You could tell that, you know, he was in his element. It would be like pulling, you know, Jim Baker, you know, wherever he is, and putting them in a pulpit. You know, he's in his element. He was, you know, where his destiny is



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standing up and talking his bullshit because it was straight bullshit. It really was, especially after the powerful victim impact statements made by Ginger and Tony and I talked to Liz about the growth in Tony since I met him but you know, when I met him, he couldn't even speak publicly let alone in front of cameras. He was just shy and Ginger was the same way and the way they you know, he turned and said, I want to look at him when I speak to him was so powerful. And then Jordan Jinks, the fact that he says, you and I have been very intimate with each other. And you know, I know things about you. And I want to come see you. And you could tell Jordan knows a lot of stuff. He said, I've entertaining judges for you. That have done you tremendous benefit. And I saw fear the only time I ever saw fear. And Alex was when Jordan was talking. And I mean, I'm talking about in two years, not buying hearings, not in the trial, not when he's being lambasted by witnesses or when Miss Shelley was talking, no fear. Guy doesn't show fear. But when Jordan was talking, that fear was palpable to me.

### **Jordan Jinks** 24:12

I would like to be on your visitation list. I'm gonna sit down with you. I want to look in your eyes and talk to you. I want to really talk to you. Because some intimate things we can talk about.

### **Liz Farrell** 24:24

So when I'm saying that, you know, Dick said that this was a five minute speech and then Jim cracked it into 10 minutes and eloquent on for five times that that length. I think that that fear that you're talking about is what set him off? Because I think he realized in that moment, oh, yeah, this is still something I can do. I can still use information and you and sort of that imply that Jordan Jinks to come up there and have that sort



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of he didn't say the thing but it's very clear what he meant. To us at least.

**Eric Bland** 24:53

It was one mafia member to another.

**Liz Farrell** 24:58

Yeah remember it goes back to like what Miss Shelley said, what Blanca said, what Eddie Smith has said about Alex, which is that you know, the threat isn't this direct subject verb or what have you. It is an implied, you know, I know this about you or what have you. So when that happened, I think that was what kicked him into gear and invigorated him. Honestly, I think that gave him life when Jordan Jinks said that, I mean, I definitely think he was showing fear. But I think he remembered who he was in that courtroom. And that was what we ended up seeing. And I remember when we were in the chat, people were very sort of, don't let him speak. I don't want to hear from him. And rightfully so, like 100%, rightfully so it's going to be very traumatizing for the victim. It's gonna be traumatizing for us who watched him on the stand for a couple days. But I wanted him to speak because I wanted to hear and I wanted people to see who he was. And like, even more so in that context, because what we saw was the script of how he committed his crimes, he apologized to the victims, he buttered them up, they'll come visit me in prison, you know, and he even to the point where you're talking Danny Henderson and talking about thank you for what you did to my for my wife and my son, you know, I'll never forget that. Was that a threat? Was that a reminder of some dirty business? Like what was? What was that about? So I think it allowed him to get back into his element. And sort of maybe it wasn't just this like, I guess what I'm





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saying is I don't think that Dick and Jim necessarily planned for him to go and do that entire thing, including even some of those more like Alex 2.0 moments. You know, I think it was a moment where he realized, like, I can still do the thing I was good at.

### **Eric Bland** 26:28

He also said, you know, thank you so much for the great letters and the emails that I'm getting in prison. Keep them calm and keep the cards and letters coming. I mean, it was disgraceful, disgraceful.

### **Mandy Matney** 26:40

But yeah, I get what you're saying, Liz, because in the last couple of months, we've seen the media again resort to this giving Alex the benefit of the doubt and being very kind and generous with him. And it was a great reminder of like, this is the monster that y'all are helping and this is who he is 1,000,000% You cannot deny it. You think that this man deserves anything whatsoever, like look at this. This is because he was worse than he's ever been.

### **Liz Farrell** 27:16

They were his captives, Mandy. He took them a hostage, they were sitting in the jury box. Like they couldn't go anywhere.

### **Eric Bland** 27:24

It's like Stockholm Syndrome. It's like the whole public gets Stockholm syndrome with Alex. It's not that he was doing anything over the past five months. But time has a way of rewriting who Alex is. And this was a great reminder to bring everybody back to square one. It's almost like we have to do this like every five months. Bring Alex and put them on



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camera. Let him speak. And so we all get reminded, go back to square one again.

### **Mandy Matney** 27:48

Right? And going back to what Jordan Jinks said, I was the same way. And when I went back, I don't know if you went back and watched it, Eric and watched his face change in a video. I was right. It's unbelievable. He literally blinks. He goes...

### **Eric Bland** 28:03

He moved forward to them and said, You know what I know. And I'm going to come see you because we're going to discuss it. And we chose Yeah, that I'd really liked. He's going to remind him I hold state secrets. There's no question about it.

### **Mandy Matney** 28:20

Yeah, and I agree with you, Liz. I think that really, he got scared at that moment. And then his mind was like, oh, it's a game on here. And let me just bring up every weird thing that I possibly can while I have a microphone blasting out to the world. And this speech to Buster was very bizarre. And Buster wasn't there which made it even weirder, because he was just talking into this like Dear Buster.

### **Eric Bland** 28:50

Do you think that there's no communication with them? That's why he did that.

### **Liz Farrell** 28:54



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Yeah, there's indication that there's no communication.

**Mandy Matney** 28:58

Yeah, I don't know. I don't know. I would be kind of surprised if Buster cut off all communication at this point. But like Liz said this earlier, Buster is a passive person. I think he just kind of does things.

**Liz Farrell** 29:14

It's easy not to take a contest. Right? It's easy to race and then to make an excuse later and say oh, yeah, I didn't get it or so I think there's there's a way for Buster there's like a space for him to exist in a passive way where if his uncle's come to him and they're like, hey, talk to your dad. You know saying that you're not picking up his calls. Oh, I didn't let you know I don't remember that. So I think that if Buster was going to lay low try to like to put some space between him and Alex. There's an easy way to do that. Now that he's in prison.

**Mandy Matney** 29:45

Yeah, I don't know either. Beth Braden pointed this out. It was interesting. He didn't apologize to old Cory or Chris Wilson. His regular apologies were...he didn't apologize to Big Russ. I don't think he will ever apologize. If something's going on there.

**Liz Farrell** 30:05

He had no respect for Russell. That's the fact.

**Eric Bland** 30:08



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Yeah no, he actually did. He said this wasn't Russell Laffitte's fault. And remember, Russell filed the post trial motion with Judge Gergel saying, Look, Alex exonerated me at the murder trial.

**Liz Farrell** 30:19

I forgot about that. But don't you think that was just like, that's a gentlemanly thing to do. He was in the spotlight. And so he just did it.

**Mandy Matney** 30:27

Yeah, he again, he did that to his own benefit. He did that because he was on trial for murder. And the best thing that he could do at the time is say, this isn't that guy's fault. And that made them in his mind that made them look better.

**Liz Farrell** 30:41

But he got unwilling to take responsibility.

**Eric Bland** 30:44

When I was driving home, I kind of started looking into myself and saying, Is there something wrong with me because you had these just amazing, beautiful victims? You know, Ronnie called him pray, which I think that's a better term, these people who have the capacity for to forgive, and I don't, and I don't know whether you do, Liz, I think we're all the same ilk. And I'm wondering, is there something wrong with us? are we different, they forgive they were they were wounded, so, so horribly, and damaged and scarred, and they don't forget, but they all for their own reasons, whether they have to move on, or whatever they were able to forgive. And I thought that was amazing. And then I started doing some introspection and saying, maybe my damage is so



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bad that I can't forgive. Not that I want to, and I'm not going to but are we different? What is wrong with us? If anything for not forgiving?

**Liz Farrell** 31:37

I want to say something kind of controversial, or it's not really controversial, but very stark. I think in South Carolina, are two things happening? I think one is there's three things one, I think it's just there's a religious aspect of it, right, which is their God tells them to forgive. So they're going to do that. The second thing is, just like you said, moving on, like the practical matter of moving on, is sort of solved by forgiving somebody. But I also think we're talking about a rock that has been worn down by you know, that the enslavement of people, institutional racism, the continuation, I mean, this is a state that did not honor desegregation for years and years after they were supposed to, they are still living in a time of resistance to the I mean, even if we go back to the Civil War, like there is a resistance, that cultural resistance that's still in mind. And I think that people are used to having to forgive the man in power who did wrong by them, because it's survival. It's the thing you do so that there's no more connection between you and that powerful person, I would suppose. So, making sense when I'm saying I'm just trying to say that language is more submission.

**Eric Bland** 32:45

Is it more of submission? Submission? Right?

**Mandy Matney** 32:49

I think their ability to forgive and their ability to still be kind in moments like this is, unfortunately, a reason why Alex went after them to begin with. And I don't want to say at all, like this is their fault whatsoever. But



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I think that that was a trait that he looked for in victims of people that would see the best in him and people that would pray for him at the end of the day, and no matter what happens and people who I mean, I think that I think we need both people in our society. I think we need people like the three of us that are like, It's unforgivable. I'm gonna go after your head and until this, right, I'm not forgiving you for crap. But it's also very refreshing to see that amount of kindness and grace and love being poured out into that room by people that have just been destroyed by this man.

**Eric Bland** 33:44

The disgusting thing was when he said to these victims, and it was so hurtful to me, even though I did that to you, you have to know I love you. It was so crazy to hear it come out of his mouth. I know I've hurt you, I wronged you, but you must know I am tremendously in love with you and I'm glad you're my friend. You're still my friend. Did you guys catch that?

**Liz Farrell** 34:07

I did. I it's just the classic narcissist like it's really what's at the heart of sexual assault. It's the perpetrator, making you question your own reality about what you felt and what you saw and what was done to you. And I that going back to like the media being held hostage in the jury box. I do think there's a difference. There was such a difference between Alex answering questions on the stand and being a witness to his own, you know, in his own murder trial to what he did. You know, extemporaneously speaking because it was all directed by him. Does that make sense? Like the witness stand stuff, you know, he's



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responding and trying to control that and wrestle it out of Creighton's hands, but in this case, he is twirling the baton by himself.

**Eric Bland** 34:56

Yeah, he's the producer and the actor.

**Liz Farrell** 34:59

So that kind of thing. Like exhausts me. It was exhausting to watch. It was exhausting to experience the point where you left the room.

**Mandy Matney** 35:06

Did anybody else leave?

**Eric Bland** 35:07

No, but a couple people were going to. Ronnie grabbed me twice and said, You can't do this, you're going to embarrass us. And I finally couldn't take it anymore. But some people when they came out said, I'm so glad you left. I wanted to do it. But I didn't want to create a spectacle.

**Mandy Matney** 35:21

Right, right. And the way I also had to point out the way that he would say these really weird things and then just go next. Like he was reading like cooking instructions, like a director.

**Eric Bland** 35:33

He didn't blink. Now, what's the thing he does with his mouth when he's trying to cry and hold it? And he starts to like Bob a little bit? Did you notice that? It's almost the effect he does?



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**Mandy Matney** 35:47

Well, my thing was like, if he really is sober than God, he's more of a monster than we ever I guess he is. His train of thought was so bizarre and so psychotic like, and again, like the way that he would just spill his guts out and then just say next, and then when he did the whole, I'm a I'm a face of a post addict. Like, I want to be the poster child for addiction. Who wants to sponsor me?

**Eric Bland** 36:18

Did you guys ever watch The Big Lebowski? Yes, of course. Okay, so there's one line in there where the other Lebowski says, What in San Heavens are you blathering about? Mr. Lebowski? That's what Judge Newman almost said when he started to talk like I don't even know you. You don't even know yourself. I don't even know what I just witnessed but you haven't learned a thing. That's what he just basically said.

**Mandy Matney** 36:46

And he didn't, he has not learned a thing and I do think that it was the rope that he needed. And I will say that I saw a couple of reporters, one from Court TV I forget whose name finally just calling it out and saying like this is a disgusting display of narcissists. I've never seen anything like this and finally treating him like an actual defendant in not only a murder case, but all these other horrible cases like an actual criminal, they were finally treating him like an actual criminal and a narcissist. Instead of like, I like Murdaugh says this blah, blah, blah, like it's normal.

**Eric Bland** 37:29

Liz helped me with my opening by talking about that. This is not a faceless crime. It's not somebody stealing from shareholders. This was





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an up close and personal robbery. He knew these people, they were right in front of them. So I think what I was able to talk about was that she thought she gave me the idea about red collar crime that we talked about that this isn't white collar crime. This is red collar, this is predatory predator crime. And Ronnie picked up on that. And then Judge Newman said you're a predator, I was able to say and bring it back when I talked about you know, we wanted him to get a full cup of justice. And that's where you know, we were able to talk about cup of justice and I think he got whatever cup the justice we can get whether you guys think it was full I think we got the most volume of a cup of justice that we could get in that circumstance.

**Liz Farrell** 38:23

But nice try. Nice try to get it Steph Curry with that.

**Eric Bland** 38:28

Liz helped me you know, kind of make that contrast of how up and close and personal these crimes were. And we'll be right back.

**Mandy Matney** 38:46

I just felt like I got hit by a bus after that whole thing. It was like an accumulation of the last two years in one sitting and topped with Alex's just insane display of narcissism and just the slap in the face to the public that like God we have exposed this man to this extent we have all spent so much time exposing this person and putting pressure on the system to hold this person accountable and in he's still a freaking monster. He hasn't changed one bit. He still stood up in front of the court in the way of I'm going to get out of this. So here we go. And



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again, he smirks the whole time. He went between smirking and trying to make himself cry. Hey, it was just disgusting. It was disgusting.

**Eric Bland** 39:39

What did you think of Dickey Dick's performance?

**Liz Farrell** 39:42

Real quick I'm gonna go back to two words that you used maybe when describing his soliloquy to the to the courtroom and the world was psychotic and bizarre and we all know what psychotic and bizarre looks like like the guy in Disneyland you took off all his clothes, went on the small wonder, you know, Small World ride and is being carried out like hogtied by police. That's bizarre right? That's psychotic that Alex did. That was bizarre and psychotic but I want to make it clear to people that we're not talking about something that is so easily identifiable as Alex didn't take off all his clothes. He didn't write I am the you know Jesus Christ on his chest he, what he did instead is a psychotic illness and a bizarreness that, unfortunately, I think we see in different iterations every day when it comes to the power differential between the people that will break the law to maintain their own power and their own position in the world versus the people who have to just deal with it. So I just want to make it clear that like, Yes, he was bizarre and psychotic, but it's so much worse than that, you know, because, like psychotic, right. You can treat the guy...

**Eric Bland** 40:49

You heard Hannibal Lecter speak, to Jodie Foster and start speaking to people, you get engrossed, and you get captivated and you want to hear him speak, there's a significant portion of the people that want to



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hear Alex speak, they may think he's crazy or whatever, but there's some captivating nature to him like Hannibal Lecter, you know, Hannibal is going to eat you, you know, if you get a room and you get them out of the jail cell, the first thing you're going to do is bite your ear off the same way with Alex, you know, you're dealing with a loaded, you know, monster animal that's going to bite your ear off.

### **Liz Farrell** 41:23

When you're talking about what we deal with in our everyday lives. And you know, whether it's what we do for a living, or whether it's somebody who's just trying to go to work or in their living and having to deal with a narcissistic boss, or you know, somebody whose ego takes over the entire room, somebody who's married to somebody like that somebody whose father or mother's like that, it's it's so much more insidious and so much more damaging, I think, to society. The second thing I'm going to talk about is what you said, you asked me about Mr. Doodle, and what his performance was like, let's talk about him. Because right before the trial, Andy and I were texting each other and we're like, what do you think is gonna happen? And we were like, one thing we know is gonna happen is that Dicks is going to try to interrupt Eric.

### **Mandy Matney** 42:04

As our prediction number one and we did it.

### **Liz Farrell** 42:06

That was prediction number one, but it happened faster than we thought. Yeah, it was checked to check that box immediately. So yeah, when he immediately before you even spoke, objected to you and called you.



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**Eric Bland** 42:18

Well, let me tell you how that arose. When I walked in Creighton came up to me and said, be ready. Dick is going to be arguing back chambers to the judge that you don't speak, because he heard on your podcast that you know, you're going to go after Alex, and you're going to go after the lawyers. So he's going to do that. And he said Judge Newman is not inclined to shut you down because lawyers have a right to speak on behalf of the clients that they represent. But He said Be very careful. The second thing he said was be very careful on how strong you go and what you say, because you sway Judge Newman in the bond hearing if you do that again. And this thing, if he exercises his discretion and deviates from the 27 years, the whole negotiated plea over with and you will have lost a trial, we will not get this Murdaugh trial of Gloria Satterfield till next year, next winter of 2024. If that, because it could be a murder trial first. And he said, we'll never get this chance again. And this is it. So please be very careful. And so I had to kind of look at my speech and what I was going to say. And because I was going to ask him to use discretion at the end like he did at the bond hearing. And so when Dick came out and said, This is an opportunity for some of these lawyers to sell T-shirts, mugs, and bobbleheads, Ronnie turned to me and said, I got to speak now. Ronnie was not planning on speaking. But when Ronnie stood up and got rid of the word victim and made it pray, I thought it was powerful. But he took Dick hat on and said, We don't make an apology. Yes, Eric got some notoriety out of this. But we're not here selling T-shirts today. And oh, by the way, all the money's gone to charity, but he made it clear, you know, we don't make apologies for selling merchandise or whatever. But Dick wanted to get his licks in. And then he got his licks in on the objection, when he said that I'm



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going beyond my six clients. When I started talking about Arthur Badger...

**Liz Farrell** 44:12

I have two questions for you guys and you can answer either one of them. But one, do you think that there was a chance that let's just say that had Dick and Jim and not filed that motion to have Newman removed? Or you know, what if Judge Newman weren't over this? Because like, like you said, toward the end, he said, I just want to be me basically say, I just want to be done with you. I want to turn the page.

**Eric Bland** 44:33

I'm handing it off.

**Liz Farrell** 44:37

If he wasn't sick of Alex, do you think that there was a chance that he would have used his discretion? And then the second question is actually more pernicious than that. Do you think that Dick and Jim, maybe because maybe I'm wrong? Maybe Alex didn't surprise them with his 50 minute speech? Maybe they knew he was just going to go on for as long as he could. Do you think at any point that Dick and Jim were hoping to spike the deal or hoping to make judgements and not accept the deal, because they would get that delay that they had seen. And then the deal would be off the table and they would have lost their court date. So either question.

**Eric Bland** 45:10

I'll answer the second one. Oh, man, you can answer the first one. The second one is possibly. Dick definitely did not want that 15 year deal. I



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told you that he is even 27 years old. Yeah. But I'm saying 27 He was against it. He didn't want to go to 15. I think I got to the point of judging him and when I pointed my finger and said and then they came after you. That's yeah, he looked at me and nodded. I believe he would have deviated but the word came to him. I believe from a lot of different sources. You have to accept this deal. There has to be closure on this. I don't think he wanted to. I honestly do not think he wanted to.

**Liz Farrell** 45:47

Mandy, what do you think?

**Mandy Matney** 45:48

Yeah, I don't think he wanted it either. And again, it kind of makes me mad, because I hate to admit to any win on their part. But a lizard said this all along. And I'll say it to them, their game is exhausting. And Newman was exhausted at the end of that. Like you could tell it was just like a sigh of relief. He wanted to be done. And that's what they do. And so I think that that was just kind of a sad moment. But that said, I did not wish that we saw more confidence in the state that the murder trial would have held that the murder trial is holding up. I wish that Creighton would have just been a little bit more strong with his words, because it was great it was a fair trial. And in the last couple of months, it has been so mucked up in the media that it's like, the media is essentially acting like all he has is 27 years that's guaranteed right now and who knows when he's going to get out. And I don't know if you saw this, Eric, after Dick and Jim had a press conference in which Jim made a joke about golfing with Alex and 20 years.



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**Eric Bland** 47:05

And how do you get around the federal courts?

**Liz Farrell** 47:07

Don't forget the federal court sentence. Yeah. That's right. Okay.

**Eric Bland** 47:12

It's not going to concur. It's not going to be concurrent. Why?

**Liz Farrell** 47:14

Why do you say that? Judge Gergel can tell Judge Newman you need to make this concurrent with mine when it comes to Fleming the Judge Gergel can't do he's not gonna make a concurrent with Judge Newman.

**Eric Bland** 47:24

Judge Gergel has had too much heat. I'm predicting it'll give a minimum of 10 years at its lowest lowest end, but I think it's going to be more and it's going to be consecutive. I think he's going to wrap it up in a bow for everybody that Alex is never going to get out. He may end up going to federal prison if he can live to be 75, 76, 77.

**Mandy Matney** 47:45

Sorry, I just have to say this in any other murder trial that I've ever watched in any other situation across the United States. It is well known that it is extremely hard to get a murder conviction overturned and it is a tough tough road with a lot I mean, how many times have we how many like 20/20's have you guys seen of somebody that it's clear that they've been in prison for nothing all these years and they don't even



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get in they can't get out for the life of them and thing after thing is revealed and it's it's really really really hard but in this situation everybody's acting like oh, well then trial will be next year. The new trial will be next year blah, blah, blah. And it's just bizarre like why are we being convinced of this thing that and it's just a staple in law that...

### **Eric Bland** 48:37

They assassinated Becky they've done a great job they they've almost killed her it's been helped by other podcasters the newspapers have excuse created Becky, you know, one of the things that I've been yelling about in the inner circle when I say inner circle, meaning inside the Becky circle, there's not enough people coming out and fighting for Becky. It's like everybody's resigned. Okay, Becky, causing this show. Let's start it up all over again.

### **Liz Farrell** 49:05

We did a lot of digging behind the scenes on the Becky Hill case. And what we're seeing so far everyone is incredibly stinky. It's we're sort of just like trying to put it together in our heads but I think we know what's happening and we're hopefully gonna be able to share that stuff with you soon because it is diabolical truly but I want to quote Eric when I say that is rich coming from you guys because Alex took a good portion of his speech to hate on the media and the media has been his greatest assist through all of this he thinks that like the media we're sure of course we're out there and we've got a lot of listeners and all that but he thinks that like the media has done him no favors. You've got to be kidding me because we were even talking during the hearing we're like watch this be about Alex apologizing. The headlines will be about Alex apologizing and not the victims forgiving them or not the





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victim saying You hurt me, you or you, but it is exactly that. I like apologizes. Wow. Thank God.

### **Mandy Matney** 50:05

Tearful apology. And I saw two headlines and I'll say this again, but it made me really mad that they described the victims as angry in both in two headlines. And that is the takeaway. That just blew my mind as that's what you are, that is your overall takeaway from that? Victims angrily addressing Alex Murdaugh what like they showed grace, forgiveness, love prayer...

### **Liz Farrell** 50:36

Confusion. They were confused. Why did you do this to us?

### **Mandy Matney** 50:39

Or was that not the takeaway emotion and I just thought that that was so wrong. And again, that is our that is Alex winning the headline game because it looks like Oh, poor little Alex got a tongue lashing from all these mean victims? And that's not at all what happened. Yeah, the media does their dirty work every single day. I don't know if they've realized that they're doing it or not. But yeah, you're right, Liz. But I think that that also shows how much power we have. Because when he says the media...

### **Liz Farrell** 51:07

He literally means, you and I.



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### **Eric Bland** 51:10

When I got done, Ronnie said, you know, I never realized all those things that Alex, Dick and Jim have done since 2021. Not to accept responsibility when I laid out the litany of all the different things that they they've done along the way appealed this \$160,000 The motion to vacate yada yada yada he said my god they really have tried to extend this out and then when I said isn't this rich that you know here you got Dick and Jim are at Crime Con and Jim's got a podcast and there's not a microphone or a camera that they won't go in front of. And then all the documentaries that they've done.

### **Mandy Matney** 51:45

And they know it and what they do right after it they set up a press conference and giggled about golfing with Alex later, and the media will continue to giggle at Dick's stupid jokes again and again. And it's just a cycle. But it is amazing that they think that the media that Alex has some sort of idea that the media is not on his side because wow, they have been doing a lot of Team Murdaugh work in the last few months.

### **Eric Bland** 52:15

We are who we represent as much as we want to try to say as lawyers, oh, I'm just doing my duty as a lawyer taking the oath that somebody should get all their constitutional rights and hold the state to their obligations in their burden of proof. bullcrap. We are who we represent. And right now Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin are who they represent. They're synonymous with Alex. No, they didn't commit his crimes, but they have gone so far beyond what is necessary and good lawyering. The they are who they are. They are Alex.



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### **Mandy Matney** 52:50

Right? I tweeted this earlier this week, when Jim joked about golfing with Alex like, I blow we're gonna do around I'll be blah, blah. 80 years old tee hee hee. It upset me deeply. Because why? Jim knows. Everything that Alex did to Jim is he's had a front row seat to this entire thing. He has seen the amount of destruction he saw the amount of hurt in that room, he saw the amount of just destruction and horrible like, I can't even I can't even find the words for the level of the trial was betrayal and hurt he really deeply hurt people and why on earth if it's your client, if you're if it's your client, fine, and you're fighting for him, but you are protect you're acting like this man is your friend and that you look forward to playing a round of golf with this disgusting human being who has done so many things to so many people's lives, including lawyers, what he's done to the judicial system and the public trust among lawyers. And Jim just jokes like can't wait to play golf with him one day, it's like what is wrong with you? Where is your moral compass whatsoever?

### **Liz Farrell** 54:06

I think it's harder than that, Mandy. People who think that a problem can be solved with money though. Like if money is the thing that makes you feel better. Personally, you can't imagine that people feel actual emotions of hurt, because they think, well, they've gotten their money. The Saturday fields have recouped, you know, several millions more than what was stolen. All these victims have gotten their money more money than and then probably in their mind, they're thinking like you wouldn't have gotten that amount of money anyway, we're like, because the way Alex I think justified in his mind is I'm getting these bigger returns from insurance companies. So I'm going to keep a



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bigger share of it, you know, and be able to hide it from the government or what have you. So I think that that's part of what it is, is if you can if you feel comforted by money in a way that it's the plants your emotions, then of course you're not going to be able to listen to like you're gonna listen to those victims and be like, Oh, you can just miss it easily. Oh, they got money so they're fine. They're fine. That was because they were, you know, it was a show for them, because they think that way they think that like, No, there's no genuine emotion maybe. And I don't want to compare these guys to surgeons, I don't but you don't want a surgeon on the table. Like when you're on the table who's applying any sort of emotional connection to you, right? You want the surgeon to look at you dispassionately in the sense that like women are focused on fixing the problem, right. And I do think that Jim and Dick have fooled themselves into thinking that maybe they're surgeons and that it the emotional connection or the personal connection isn't there for them necessarily, in the sense that like, they can do these things because they can do these things, you know, like it's, it's kind of an is what it is statement, but I can do it because I can do it. So I'm going to do it. And that basically describes what South Carolina I think lawyering is on their level.

### **Eric Bland** 55:49

I've saved this for you guys, and probably fits in what you've been telling me and how wrong I've been all along. A friend of mine was eating at Salute's after the hearing, which is a nice restaurant and five points. And Dick and Jim went right to Salute's. And they were laughing it up having a great time almost celebrating him. One of my friends was there watching him the whole time. And she was absolutely disgusted. So you know, after that I wanted to wash myself off. I came home. I said



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Renee, I gotta go work out. I had to go to go work out I worked out at eight o'clock that night. I couldn't, I had to get it out of me. There wasn't a celebration or anything. Dick and Jim drove right to Salute's and had a celebratory dinner. So that'll tell you exactly the difference.

### **Mandy Matney** 56:38

Just disgusting. I mean, again, I think Gloria's sister Ginger said it best when she said, I'm glad that I don't understand you. Thank God, I don't understand you. And I, that's my take away with TIG and Jim do is that like, Thank God, I don't understand that. Thank God, I was not raised by people who think that that behavior is okay. And that you can just go on and laugh after seeing that much hurt in a room and to continue to zealously fight and and destroy other people's lives in the process all on behalf of this narcissistic man baby who was a murderer, and I don't understand it for the life of me. And I'm glad that I don't. And I think that, on that note, do we have anything else to cover?

### **Eric Bland** 57:23

I do want to leave you with a couple of good thoughts, and we'll talk about him next week. I don't think we've seen the end of judging him. And I had a pretty good conversation with him after the hearing. And he has no intention of just December 31st coming in and taking off his black robe. So that's a good thing for our state. That's a great thing. And everybody's getting ready for the mediation for the victims coming up. And that's going to be a big dogfight because the law firm and PSP are going to come in and claim that they're victims, obviously, we talked a little bit about the federal court judgment that they got in favor of Ross. So that's all going to be in the mix over the next couple of weeks. So, you know, the other thing was, I want to talk next week about Mark



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Tinsley. I mean, he wasn't fooled at all. He knows who Alex is. I mean, he knows more than anybody who Alex is. And that was interesting to see the difference between Justin and me and Mark. Mark is not to buying anything.

**Mandy Matney** 58:18

And I think Mark left us with a lot of hope to have. I'm not done with you. And I want to find out where the money is. And also the big responsible. Right.

**Eric Bland** 58:31

Mandy, what's your week look like coming up? Tell us what you got more books, right?

**Mandy Matney** 58:35

I think we're gonna drive. I don't know if we're gonna stop in Atlanta, or just do the whole thing, but we're staying in Nashville tonight, and heading back tomorrow. And I'm just excited to be home. I'm excited. I have not been home in a really long time for a long period of time. And I'm excited for that for Christmas. My house has already decorated so it just got to come home and cozy. And I'm excited. What about you guys?

**Eric Bland** 59:02

Are you happy with the book sales? I mean, every time I've turned it around, everybody's got it. Did you expect it was going to be this hot? Or you thought it would be or you know...



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**Mandy Matney** 59:12

Again, like the number it's so it's so hard to get numbers out of anybody really. But like I keep seeing I keep popping into random bookstores and seeing it so that's good.

**Eric Bland** 59:26

I've had so many people...I've had at least 50-60 people telling me that they've read your book already. So that's me, that's me, just one person.

**Mandy Matney** 59:35

Yeah, I'm just glad that um, the personal responses that have been amazing. Just every day I get somebody that's like, Thank you for saying like, I'm struggling in a bad relationship. And you reminded me that I can get out of this, you know, things like that, that I'm going I your book reminded me that I gotta go back to therapy. So thank you for doing that. Things like that, which is great.

**Eric Bland** 1:00:00

It reminded me of Robert Percy's book Zen in The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. You can read that book and it's about motorcycle maintenance or you can read that book and it's about life and has nothing at all to do with. Your book had a lot of that, that it was a lot about Alex Murdaugh, but it was a lot about our own fears and insecurities. How do we get out of things? How do we get out from our own shadow? There was so much self help in there and so much that was liberating that it had almost nothing to do with Alex Murtaugh but had to, you know, develop and mature.



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**Mandy Matney** 1:00:33

Well, thank you! On that note, cups down everybody.

**Eric Bland** 1:00:38

Cups down. Great show.

**Mandy Matney** 1:00:53

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.

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