



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Operator 00:05

Hello, this is an AMTel operator calling from Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center with a prepaid collect call from Alex. To accept his prepaid collect call press one. All phone calls are subject to monitoring and recording. Thank you for using AmTel.

Mandy Matney 00:28

I don't know if we will ever have answers to all of the unsolved deaths allegedly tied to the Murdaugh family. But after listening and re-listening to hours upon hours of jailhouse phone call tapes, I think we have a better understanding of how Alex's family sees this tangled web playing out in the media in a clearer picture of how Alex has manipulated those close to him for years. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. Wow, so the last few weeks have been a whirlwind. I feel like I've been in a fever dream since we got the phone calls a few weeks ago. So I'm starting off today by saying that the MMP team is finally taking a real vacation and we will not have a podcast next week. I've said this before and I'll say it again, it's really important to take breaks and vacations and step away from this stuff that can be so heavy and overbearing and downright depressing at times. And I promise we will be back the second week of July, re-energized and ready to take on the good ol boys again. I know Liz, David and I have all hit walls in the last few weeks and I hope you all understand that we need the break. But in the meantime, please check out our new YouTube channel. Our team has been working hard going through old episodes adding visualizations, photos and graphics to each episode and it's really a

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EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

whole different way of experiencing the show. Also, be sure to follow Murdaugh Murders Podcasts on Facebook and Instagram. We will continue to post while we're gone.

Liz Farrell 02:28

Hey guys, this is Liz. Before we get into the episode, I want to first update you on the shocking news we got late Tuesday morning when Mandy and David were on their way to their vacation. Alex Murdaugh now officially stands accused of dealing drugs. On June 23rd, the state grand jury indicted Alex on two new counts, one charge of criminal conspiracy and one count of manufacturing, distributing or possessing oxycodone. We've been reporting on Alex's alleged connections to drug trafficking for the better part of the past year at FITS News and here on the podcast, but it was still surprising to see it in black and white. This definitely furthers our suspicion of Alex's claim that he has had an addiction to oxycodone for more than 20 years. It's hard to imagine that someone accused of dealing this highly destructive drug from 2013 through September 2021 would be able to come out on the other end of it without anyone in his life having noticed his addiction. Also on Tuesday, we found out why Curtis Eddie Smith was arrested Friday evening. The circumstances of his arrest were a mystery until 40 minutes before his bond hearing at noon Tuesday. The indictment implicating both him and Alex wasn't sealed. Until then. We were really concerned about this because of how differently Eddie's case was being handled from Cory Fleming's and Russell Laffitte's and he was arrested at his home, meaning the cops went and got him. The quarry and Russell were both able to turn themselves in seemingly when it was convenient for them. They both knew what was in their indictments in

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EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

advance of their bond hearings. Meanwhile, as of Monday evening, Eddie's attorney still hadn't been given the unsealed indictment. It's hard to compare the cases because they're so different. But there are noticeable differences in how the person with the least amount of power and resources in all of this who isn't accused of stealing millions from people is being treated compared to those with significant power and resources. So the indictment is interesting and offers a few new details about the checks Eddie was allegedly cashing for Alex. First there were at least 437 checks cashed over an eight year period 437. The checks are almost always for less than \$10,000. But starting in 2021. The amounts and frequencies of the checks increased by a lot. So far, Eddie is accused of laundering more than \$2.4 million for Alex; he's also accused of engaging in a criminal conspiracy with him and charged with forging his daughters and girlfriends names on these checks. And he also faces new drug charges in this indictment. At the hearing Tuesday he seemed really restless and he told the judge that he didn't have any money that all that cash quote went to Alex Murdaugh, his lawyer advocated for a personal recognizance bond. But Judge Newman decided to set his bond at \$250,000. If Edie postponed, he'll be required to wear an ankle monitor and get drug tested sources are telling us that this latest charge is one that's going to send shockwaves throughout the state because a lot of quote big names in politics and in the legal community could be implicated in Elex alleged drug dealing, we'll be looking into this more after a much needed break.

Mandy Matney 05:33

And speaking of needing a break, I want to be honest about something. We missed a few things in the jailhouse phone calls. And I will take

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EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

responsibility for that. I say all of this, because I'm sure we will play some of these calls on this episode, which is the third episode on this round of phone calls. And you all will probably think, why wasn't this the first thing you reported on while listening to the phone calls? Well, as we've said, there were over 100 phone calls listened to in over 13 hours of content in the CD ROMs we've received in the first episode, we played various clips from those calls to give you all an idea of what we were working with. But a majority of those calls were very boring and very painful to listen to. And without news value. I completely underestimated how mentally draining just the act of listening to these phone calls would be. It's impossible to not feel for Alex's family members who are clearly being manipulated by him, and finding nuggets and news between the exhausting talk of exercise life in jail and canteens. It's tedious and draining and really takes a lot of time. But while dividing up the calls, one apparently slipped through the cracks, which makes sense considering we have a small team and we are working tirelessly trying to crank out stories and podcasts about the bits of newsworthy information and the phone calls before I play this particular call we missed I want you to hear this clip from January 11. Now remember, on January 10 Alex had a bond hearing or prosecutor Creighton waters made it a point to say that they listened to Alex's jailhouse phone calls, and it was clear that he had access to his assets Buster clearly took notice of this.

Buster Murdaugh 07:16

But moving forward, I think that these conversations on this phone should be nothing more than surface level. And if you have something, you know,



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Alex Murdaugh 07:25

um, you tell him about that stuff. They were saying that the hearing yesterday? Yeah. I mean, I'm be honest, we get on every single phone call I get on. I know they're listening to it.

Buster Murdaugh 07:37

I just thought, I just kind of thought it was more something that was said and wouldn't exactly be utilized. But I can see that I was wrong. So if there's something of substance you want to talk to me about, just write me a letter, and I'll write about it.

Alex Murdaugh 07:51

I mean, all of that stuff is really just taking snippets and making it you know, this just advocating lawyers.

Buster Murdaugh 08:04

I understand that but not very much in my life is private. The more I can keep private, the more I would like to.

Alex Murdaugh 08:11

I understand that totally, for sure.

Liz Farrell 08:15

Like we've said before, this story requires constant conversation about how to cover it, because we know that everything we report on has very specific and personal impacts. Buster Murdaugh is obviously one of those people greatly affected. And every time we write about him or talk about him, we consider the news value in doing so. So hearing that last call was really difficult for a couple of reasons. One is obviously



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

knowing the role we are playing in broadcasting his father's jailhouse calls. And real quick, I just wanted to throw a little timeline note in here. This conversation occurred before we Fold for the calls about a week later. This means Buster was observant enough and wise enough to know that there are consequences to what they had been discussing. The second reason is that we understand that Alex's alleged crimes are not Buster's alleged crimes but his inextricably linked to how Alex has been behaving behind bars, which is where our interest lies, especially as we work to nudge this state and the 14th circuit toward a much needed reckoning. Buster appears to have been playing a role in hiding the family's assets. He also sought to benefit from a special backroom deal that would have allowed him to return to law school the law school he got kicked out of allegedly because of plagiarism and not just returned to law school but return on His terms. This is in part why we continue to stand by the decision to publish and write about these calls. They give us a look at how someone like Alex Murdaugh regards the system, how he thinks and how he acts. Buster is at a fork in the road. If he bears left, he will continue on Murdaugh Boulevard if he bears right he has the right portunity to create a new legacy for the family, one that doesn't wholly depend on the system they corrupted for their own benefit.

Mandy Matney 10:10

We thought this clip was important because it seems like Alex made a lot less phone calls from this point forward. But this also could be because the jail had more COVID lock downs during this period which Alex does discuss before this particular phone call on January 17. So less than a week after the “don't talk about things of substance chat” Alex



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

and Buster were very much aware that their phone calls were being listened to by the AGs office. After chatting about Buster's weekend Alex mentions that he's caught a glimpse of the 2020 episode, The Fall of the House of Murdaugh, which aired on January 14 2022.

Alex Murdaugh 10:51

What was on TV Friday, Buster? I saw John Marvin on there for just a second.

Buster Murdaugh 10:53

It was something on ABC 20/20. I didn't watch it, it wasn't a new interview, it was the old interview. All I seen was it had him on TV. It had to be the old one. He has not gone on TV, since.

Alex Murdaugh 11:13

He hasn't? 10-4. Was it same old stuff with a bunch of innuendo and false stuff?

Buster Murdaugh 11:26

I'd love to be able to give you some insight but I didn't watch it. And I didn't seek out anything. I only transcripts from it. I don't know. I know. It ain't no big deal. All assuming that's the same old thing Brooklyn folders and stuff that was on it and it was stuff that's wrong. So it's just that same old.

Alex Murdaugh 11:50

Stephen Smith and Gloria and all that bullshit.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Buster Murdaugh 11:55

You know, I think it probably had to touch on that. I think this is I think this I think this one hit maybe a little bit more on the boat wreck. I just know that there was some stuff that they broke on said there. There was seven in the little show. And it's just stuff that it's just stuff. It's not important, but it just shows that if they believe it, they will understate that in fact that they just don't know what they're saying. Because there's just stuff that's not true.

Liz Farrell 12:26

Okay, so this is the only conversation we have listened to that brings up Glorias and Stephen's deaths. Again, this is after Alex became imminently aware that not only were the calls being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office, the content of the calls could be used against him. It's hard to know why Alex wanted to discuss this with Buster not even a week after Buster was like surface stuff only please but part of me suspects that he's decided he could use this phone power to help his case. So maybe in the moment he thought it would be a good idea for law enforcement to hear this conversation and that maybe they'd be like, Hey guys, guys Alex is saying there's nothing to the Gloria and Stephen Smith cases crazy that we thought things weren't adding up there. At any rate, it is surreal hearing him say their names, especially with such disdain.

Alex Murdaugh 13:23

Understand, so are they still trying to say out there like it's a mystery surrounding Gloria's death about how she died? Saying what now



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

about how she died? Are they still trying to make some innuendo there?

Buster Murdaugh 13:38

About Gloria.

Mandy Matney 13:40

I've also with Gloria, who was the woman who raised Alex's sons, by the way, he is absolutely minimizing the harm that was done to her and her family. Logically there is a lot of mystery surrounding her death. Think about it, no one saw her trip over the dogs. Alex is the only one who allegedly heard her say that she tripped over the dogs even though she was in and out of consciousness at the time. There are several inconsistencies in the details surrounding her death and enough inconsistencies to prompt a new investigation from sled into her death and the exhumation of her body and don't forget Alex admittedly stole millions of dollars from her death settlement. So yes, that's a mystery. And anyone who ever cared about Gloria would want those questions to be answered for the sake of her family. But it's clear that Buster isn't paying attention to details here. And again, I can't imagine how hard this must be on him. Especially on top of grieving the loss of his mother and brother, but Ellie doesn't accept that Buster is trying to stay out of this. He keeps pressing.

Alex Murdaugh 14:51

Has SLED said anything about Stephen Smith even though Andy Savage, yeah...



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Buster Murdaugh 14:55

I mean, I don't think any of us. Yeah, I don't think anybody.

Alex Murdaugh 15:02

There's no connection there. Andy Savage said that.

Buster Murdaugh 15:09

SLED has not released anything.

Liz Farrell 15:12

Andy Savage. If you'll remember, Andy Savage was Sandy Smith's attorney until Sandy fired him last fall after he told her reporter that the Murdaugh's weren't connected to the Stephen Smith case. Before talking to Sandy, there still haven't been any arrests. And we still don't know what happened to Stephen. But here it sounds like Alex was astonished that what Andy Savage told the press didn't work, that it didn't solve the issue of people logically making the jump that the Murdaugh's whose names are all over the case file might have had something to do with Stephen's case. I'm not sure if you caught this part. But Buster said back to him. Yeah, I don't think anybody took to heart what Andy Savage was saying, Andy Savage is a really well known expensive, high profile, highly connected defense attorney in Charleston, we still have a lot of questions about whose interests ended up being served best during his time, representing Sandy, especially when a key component of his agreement with her seemed to be that she not publicly comment on the case at a time when she should have been encouraged to put Stephens name in the headlines every day.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Okay, so that all was said. And then for the only time and all of these phone calls Buster brings up the double homicide investigation.

Buster Murdaugh 16:33

They weren't even they didn't even release a statement about what was this most recent thing. There was something something came out not long ago talking about how there's been like, a breakthrough in evidence to do with like, the homicides and sled would even come out and issue a statement saying that there has been no further evidence like gathered here for. So personally, I would not count on sled to help in any way.

Mandy Matney 17:04

So here Buster is referring to our reporting on this podcast and on FITS News that published back in January about physical evidence linking Alex to the double homicide. According to our sources, I was always curious if Alex's family would at all change their behavior toward him after hearing about this evidence. And it seems like from the calls, they didn't change at all, which shows that they're willing to accept Alex's narrative whether this is because they actually believe it, or they want to believe it, or they need to believe him for their own sanity. I don't know, based on listening to hours of these phone calls, we think Alex is definitely painting himself as a guy who made some mistakes in that sled and the AG's office are setting them up and making an example out of him because they feel pressured to do so by the media. We'll talk about those comments a little bit later. But I also want to point out one more thing Buster commenting about SLED saying I would not count on sled to help in any way it's telling because their reputation up until



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

this past year is that they could rely on law enforcement to help them in several ways. This is an entirely new reality for them. But more telling is Alex's reaction to that statement. He doesn't ask any follow-up questions like "what evidence do you have?" or "I don't understand how they haven't arrested anyone in your brother and mother's murders." Instead, he quickly changes the subject.

Alex Murdaugh 18:37

Just curious. You get some rest and now what can you get on the road tomorrow?

Buster Murdaugh 18:45

About eight, by 8am.

Alex Murdaugh 18:46

I'll give you a call sometime when I can. Buster, what's going on with COVID out there? Must be going crazy.

Buster Murdaugh 18:53

It's um it's this new area. It's the COVID or whatever. Omicron.

Alex Murdaugh 19:02

Omicron Omicron whatever. Yeah.

Mandy Matney 19:06

And we'll be right back. Ever since Richland County released the latest batch of jailhouse phone calls, a lot of you have sent me messages asking the same thing: does he ever mention the investigation into the



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

murders of his wife and son, aside from the phone call that we just played where Buster mentioned my reporting on the physical evidence linking Alex to the double homicide, which they both completely brushed off. There was no mention of the actual status of the investigation, nor did Alex ever mention a concern for bus or safety or the safety of his family members. However, we have to consider this we were not given about half of the phone calls that Alex placed during this time period.

Liz Farrell 19:50

From October through December more than a third of the phone calls we requested. were held back by Richland County. We're not sure yet what was held back from this latest batch but should No soon some of these calls Alex had with his attorney but others were with family members. According to the county, the family calls were held back because they contain personal information and the county had no way to redact those parts. So they held back the whole call, which is not the way the FOIA law is intended to work. So we will be looking into that more. One thing we learned from this latest batch of calls is that Alex clearly loves a three way call and thinks nothing of ordering one up whenever he feels like it, which again, is against the jail's rules. We've definitely detected in several phone calls references to conversations we haven't heard, and we get the sense that Elek might be using his Jim Griffin calls and meetings as a shield for his more controversial conversations.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Mandy Matney 20:44

There were some roundabout mentions of Maggie and Paul in the murders at Moselle. In this call on October 30th, Alex suggested Buster go hunting at Moselle, the property where his mother and brother were murdered just a few months before this phone call.

Alex Murdaugh 21:03

Y'all hunting?

Buster Murdaugh 21:05

We're going to this afternoon.

Alex Murdaugh 21:08

Let me tell you what you ought to do, Buster. I think the deer feeders were full over there at Moselle. If you felt like oh, man, I bet with nothing going on. I bet there's deer all over them. Thanks.

Buster Murdaugh 21:21

Not gonna do for me. What's that gonna do for me? kill a deer. I'm not going on out there.

Mandy Matney 21:29

And here Buster is like, no dad. That's weird. And his dad is saying okay, but and he keeps pressing him.

Alex Murdaugh 21:39

So I wanted to tell you this, I just remember this day we planted a sunflowers. Do you have interest in hunting that field? Do you care if it's



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

I let Jim do it. He should. Yes. But you meet him to call you if we don't. What about Jim Griffin?

Buster Murdaugh 22:06

Let them hunt doves out there. What are you talking about?

Alex Murdaugh 22:08

I'm talking about, I didn't know if you wanted to hunt doves out there. If you did, then I want you to do it. If not, then I'm gonna let him do it.

Buster Murdaugh 22:17

He knows how to facilitate a dove hunt. What? So he knows how to facilitate a dove hunt?

Alex Murdaugh 22:23

Well, I mean, you know, I don't think it would be. I hadn't really? I don't know. Did you just do you want to dove on out there? No, not at all.

Mandy Matney 22:37

But what was even weirder was what Alex suggested to Buster around Christmas time. In this December 9, 2021 phone call Buster told his father that he was almost done with his Christmas shopping and Alex made a strange suggestion.

Buster Murdaugh 22:54

Yeah, I'm gonna get day I've been spending so much money. It hurts me. But what people's Christmas presents? Well, I mean, I gotta buy presents for everybody. Well, a lot of people.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Alex Murdaugh 23:14

Tell you this Bus. What? Do we tell people something that was mom and Paul's? Is nothing think people really like that?

Buster Murdaugh 23:22

Well, I mean, I wasn't gonna do Oh, no do that.

Alex Murdaugh 23:25

We'll see if I, if I get out of here, which, like I say I'm not optimistic. But we'll see. They seem to be optimistic. But they were optimistic the first time to write anyway.

Buster Murdaugh 23:40

Well I mean, I've already I've already bought everybody's something.

Alex Murdaugh 23:44

Well, we'll talk about finances when I get out of here, but I'm gonna make sure you're okay. With me.

Buster Murdaugh 23:49

I'm making money. I know. And if I don't, if I don't go back in the spring, and then I'll continue to make more effectively. I know.

Alex Murdaugh 24:01

Anyway, we'll get all that square update when we're not on this phone being recorded. All right, everything else was good.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Mandy Matney 24:12

So there have been a few times while listening to these phone calls where Alex behavior has left us speechless. This was one of them. And then this call, which was around the same time when they talked about Maggie's belongings in the mysterious Blanca who comes up a lot came up again.

Alex Murdaugh 24:31

Have you talked to Blanca?

Buster Murdaugh 24:37

What was I supposed to tell her again?

Alex Murdaugh 24:43

Just tell her that I want to, I want to give her a call and explain to her what she has to do. And if that's okay with her.

Buster Murdaugh 24:50

Yeah.

Alex Murdaugh 24:52

And will you do that today? I'd like to call her over the holidays.

Buster Murdaugh 24:56

Yeah, I'll do that again. And again, Blanca and I...things that are up not on the same cylinder with me and Blanca. I've got some serious problems Blanca. You know, man I went out in the Moselle the other day she tell anybody I mean she's packed up everything and I don't



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

know where anything is so I can't find anything that I want. You know, I think she got you know, she calls grandma and looks for permission to go out there and take mom's clothes whether it's a you know, even tell her she needs to call me.

Alex Murdaugh 25:31

She's just trying to help don't remember that. But just show us. I mean Blanca. Oh, he is she's just trying to help.

Liz Farrell 25:41

Here again is the mysterious Blanca who we believe is the assistant for Russell Laffitte. The former CEO of Palmetto State Bank. We do not at all blame Buster for having a problem here because at some point in the weeks after this call Blanca put several items of Maggie's clothing on sale on Poshmark and these were not Maggie's back of the closet clothes in Blanca's closet either. These were items of clothing that the people in her life remember well and closely associated with her such as the \$260 quilted jacket Maggie wore often the Blanca sold for \$60 and a pair of \$500 Golden Goose sneakers that she sold for \$200. Alex says Blanca just wanted to help and maybe that is the case. But it's an incredibly strange thing to go online and sell items of clothing that belong to one of the victims and one of the nation's most talked about and still unsolved murder cases like with everything else and Alex Murdaugh's realm. There are so many questions here: was Blanca authorized by the Murdaugh family to do this? If so, did she keep the money for herself? Does this have anything to do with a mysterious account Blanca was setting up that is referenced in the call with Buster? Did Alex tell her to sell the clothes as a way of circumventing



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

the receivership? I have to say in a case that features several horrifying and inhumane details. This sale of Maggie's clothing breaks pretty high. Blanca is selling the clothes of a murdered mom potentially as a way to help the only publicly named Person of Interest in her death. Why not sell Alex clothing? We highly doubt he's going to need them again. Now another bizarre thing we learned in these latest calls is how obsessed Alex seems with getting Buster to connect him with Maggie's parents Terry and Kennedy Branstetter whom Alex refers to repeatedly as Grandma and Papa t not only does the pastor Buster about whether Buster thinks they would be okay with talking to Alex, he continues to nag him about getting an inmate calling card set up for them without ever being told to our knowledge that yes, in fact, they would like to speak with him. There are a few times in the calls when Ella gets emotional about Maggie and Paul which he should be and they do seem like genuine moments of grief to the point he is unable to talk. But there's also a very performative nature to the grief and this isn't a characterization more than a dozen times during these calls Alex asked Liz Murdaugh and Lynn Murdaugh or ask bustard asked Liz Murdaugh to place flowers at the still on Mark grave sites of Maggie and Paul, which is really nice, super appropriate, very thoughtful and emotional, especially around some of the holiday calls. Except every time Alex asked for that to be done. He also wanted something else from it. We'll share a few of those phone calls with you. Here's one from December 19th.

Alex Murdaugh 28:27

Hey, did you remember to ask Lindsay to get flowers?



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Buster Murdaugh 28:30

You never you'd never told me anything like that.

Alex Murdaugh 28:34

I did the other night to get flowers. It doesn't matter where you asked her right now. To do what?

Buster Murdaugh 28:40

You get flowers. For what? For what?

Alex Murdaugh 28:45

For Mom and Paul? Okay.

Buster Murdaugh 28:46

Okay, I mean, this is the first time I'm hearing to this.

Alex Murdaugh 28:49

I know. I'm sorry. Yeah, I'll tell you tell right now. Yeah.

Buster Murdaugh 28:56

What do you want me to tell her to get flowers sent over there? Yeah. I just told her.

Alex Murdaugh 29:06

Thank you so much. She said she do it. Yeah. Good. Is Brooklyn what you did in this he put them out? Yes. All right. And we you asked her to let Grandma and Marian know she put them out? Yes. You do that right now for you forget.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Buster Murdaugh 29:25

Yeah, I'm gonna do it soon as we go.

Liz Farrell 29:28

Almost every request for flowers ends with a request to make sure Maggie's mom and dad and sister Marian know that he made this happen.

Mandy Matney 29:37

Here's a call from November 24. With Liz Murdaugh.

Alex Murdaugh 29:40

Will you do me a favor? We've made sure that grandma and Marian know you putting out flowers so they won't worry about it?

Liz Farrell 29:49

From December 22nd.

Buster Murdaugh 29:51

And and all that stuff was taken care of with the flowers and the gravesite. So just a heads up on that. Are you there? Hello. Some here so all that's been done I think Lynne did it.

Alex Murdaugh 30:06

So did they tell Grandma

Buster Murdaugh 30:09

Yes I believe that I believe I believe was asked to do it I think she did.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Liz Farrell 30:14

And December 23rd.

Alex Murdaugh 30:17

Sorry, but you bet real quick a boss was very important for me to you let them on top of key man about all the problems and it worries me to death how much I noticed has made it hard on them like I told you to make sure they know that I worry about them. Okay, we do that. Yes. It makes sure Marian knows we put flowers out.

Liz Farrell 30:43

There are a couple of things sources have told us about Alex relationship with Maggie's family; they weren't especially tight though Maggie was fully immersed in the world of Murdaugh. Alex was only a sometimes participant in his in-laws lives. We've been told that Alex seemed jealous of Maggie's brother-in-law who is very successful and wealthy. After the murders it struck several people who knew Maggie and Alex as peculiar that Alex spent so much time with his in-laws. Maybe he did it for Buster, maybe it was to get away from home. Some have suggested that it was a way for Alex to monitor what Maggie's family knew about the situation and to monitor what they might tell law enforcement, though we have no doubt that his grief is real Alex seeming obsession with the brand stutters knowing about his act of kindness seemed like another one of his manipulations like he was priming Maggie's parents to be on his side.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Mandy Matney 31:37

Oh, and another thing we noticed around the time of Alex first bond reduction hearing, when his lawyers were trying to argue that he deserved a lower bond. Alex started asking about reaching out to Paul's friends a lot more.

Alex Murdaugh 31:53

I was getting ready to ask you some Buster. Yeah, I know I put a lot on you. And I don't want to keep adding stuff to you. But I want to get somebody to reach out to a couple of false friends.

Buster Murdaugh 32:10

Okay, who would you like to reach out to?

Alex Murdaugh 32:13

Do you want to do that? And you'll make it somebody else did.

Buster Murdaugh 32:16

I mean, I can get, you just tell me who. I talked to Will Lovin the other day.

Alex Murdaugh 32:22

What's he up to?

Buster Murdaugh 32:25

Not much. He just he just called said he's checking in and thought for a minute.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Alex Murdaugh 32:30

That's good. I'll let you know.

Buster Murdaugh 32:34

Who are the people you want me to talk to?

Alex Murdaugh 32:36

I'll get you a list. I'll let you know.

Buster Murdaugh 32:40

Why don't? Why don't you just write me another letter and put the people in that. Unless write letters are too difficult to get set out?

Alex Murdaugh 32:47

Well, I'll let you know. I'll leave to do that around, let you know and hear the way you have a patent when you have time and have a pen and write it down. But I don't want to bother you with that if you want go have time to do it. Like and I'm not fussing at you. But like, it was important to me to let Lynn and Randy know. And they told me you didn't call him or text him. And I know you don't have time, you just gotta let me know when you don't have time to do something I asked you to do.

Buster Murdaugh 33:14

Okay. I mean, it's not a matter of time. I just distribute sometimes.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Alex Murdaugh 33:20

And I understand that to definitely let me know. Don't let it worry. You know how much he does.

Liz Farrell 33:29

When we watched Alex's December bond hearing, Mandy and I both felt pretty strongly that Alex was using his statement to send messages to people on the outside that he still had their backs, Alex mentioned Cory Fleming and Chris Wilson, in an effort to vouch for their innocence in his alleged schemes. Cory, as you know, has since been indicted for his alleged role in stealing money from Alex's clients. And Chris Wilson has been working hard in the media to separate himself from Alex. Interesting to note by the way, that Alex did not mention Russell Laffitte's name to the judge during his statement. Remember when we reported in Episode 37 that prior to his October arrest on the Satterfield charges, Alex had texted Cory from rehab to really guilt trippy texts, neither of which offered an apology three days after his first round of indictments in November, which included more serious Satterfield charges. Alex wrote to Cory from jail, apologizing and lamenting all the harm he had caused Cory and his family. He also told Cory to let him know whether he could help him in any way at all. Why did he do this? Maybe he's just that kind of nice guy. Or maybe he knew he was going to have to fight harder than ever to get on a bond and needed all the support he could get from the outside. We think there's a reason for everything Alex does or doesn't do. As it relates to this last phone call. We were remember thinking it was really strange that during that same courtroom statement Alex made it a point to mention Paul's friends and tell the judge how he was afraid his detention was, quote alienating



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

them. We know that the Murdaughs were generally close to their son's friends, many of their friends called Alex Big Red. But the word alienating is a peculiar one to use in this scenario. Why would his detention be alienating to the friends of his deceased son? Are they dependent on him for something he can no longer provide because of his detention? Or do they know certain things about the Murdaugh family? And now that Alex is behind bars, he can't quite manage to keep the door shut on that dark library of knowledge. We obviously don't know the answers. But these are questions worth asking. Why is it so important for Alex to maintain a relationship with his son's friends? Maybe this has to do with his grief. Maybe it's his loneliness in jail, maybe he wants more pen pals or people to ask favors from, or maybe it's about good old fashioned control.

Mandy Matney 35:54

Another thing about that statement Alex gave in his December bond hearing, it seems like he really wanted the public to hear it.

Alex Murdaugh 36:03

That's it, what kind of what media was out there about this last bond hearing?

Buster Murdaugh 36:08

That I hate to tell you it but I've, I've blocked all the outlets that produce articles about this stuff, because I just got tired of seeing it. So I don't see it a whole lot anymore.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Alex Murdaugh 36:21

I don't blame you. Curious if, you know, they asked me to say something Judge Lee, I was curious if they printed any of that? Or they just did you don't know.

Buster Murdaugh 36:35

Yeah, I mean, they had very, very little excerpts about it. But I mean, it was like two three sentences. It just mentioned that you spoke about me and I think that you mentioned...

Alex Murdaugh 36:45

Hang on...

Buster Murdaugh 36:49

I think the exact quote that circulated was the part where you're talking about you know that you apologize and want to be able to you know, get released and you know, start to mend things and you know, some of that little portion of it. It was very, very brief. Talking about like the love and support that you get and then people went off on tangents talking about you know, none other Sam was ever at the bond hearing but he's clearly got no love and support don't know what the hell he's talking about. Simple stuff like that.

Alex Murdaugh 37:21

People don't see it. Way past worried about what people that don't matter. Say, you know, there's so many people now, they don't have a freaking clue.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Buster Murdaugh 37:36

It's easier for you, you don't run into these people in public. Which people? Many people that have a negative outlook on this thing.

Alex Murdaugh 37:45

Do you know who they are?

Mandy Matney 37:48

We have noticed a recurring theme after listening to hours and hours of Alex conversations. And that's on top of years of reporting on this family. The word Narcissus comes up a lot when people describe what is going on with Alex Murdaugh. The Mayo Clinic describes narcissistic personality disorder as a mental condition of persons who have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, troubled relationships and a lack of empathy for others. According to the Mayo Clinic people with narcissistic personality disorder have quote an exaggerated sense of self importance. They believe they are quote superior and can only associate with equally special people. They expect, quote, special favors and unquestioning compliance with their expectations and they take advantage of others to quote get what they want. Multiple studies have found that a common defense among narcissist is victim mentality or blame shifting. It is apparent in these phone calls that Alex has a victim mentality and uses it as a primary manipulation tactic to maintain control over his family members like in this November 23. Phone call days after he was indicted on 27 charges for allegedly stealing millions of dollars from several clients including the Satterfield family and an



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

injured law enforcement officer Alex is very clear with Buster about how he should be feeling about this.

Alex Murdaugh 39:27

Jim and them told me the grand jury indicted a bunch more things last Friday, but you know, that's just overkill, right? Yeah, I mean, I mean, they're just trying to pile it on me, man, you know that. Yeah, I'm aware, but I can take it. So don't let it worry.

Mandy Matney 39:48

He wants his son to feel bad for him and he wants his son to believe that the system is making an example of him. He does this with John Marvin too.

Alex Murdaugh 39:59

You have any news or anything?

John Marvin Murdaugh 40:03

You know, they told me about the new indictments. But I think all that was to be expected.

Alex Murdaugh 40:09

Yes. They told me about that. I mean, truthfully. I mean, I'm saying what they do and and I get it. I mean, you know, they just he's, he's, you know he's making a discussion he's making any charges is he can say he taking it easy on me. But it is what it is.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Mandy Matney 40:33

It's important to note that Alex family members do not push back when he attempts to elicit sympathy, they just comply and follow his script.

Liz Farrell 40:43

After his December bond hearing, there were multiple calls in which Alex joked with family members about paying his \$7 million bond, another kick he was on, he suddenly became an expert on how unfairly he was being treated in the grand scheme of the nation's worst white collar criminals.

Alex Murdaugh 41:01

John Marvin get my bond posted yet?

Buster Murdaugh 41:08

He's writing a check tomorrow.

Alex Murdaugh 41:10

That's a fucking joke.

Buster Murdaugh 41:13

Well, I just don't know how they I don't know. I don't know what goes into that.

Alex Murdaugh 41:20

Bernie Madoff had a \$10 million bond. He took \$10 billion. That dude from Sun Gold \$380,000,000.20. 400 investors \$100,000. Last year, they stole money from clients where he told him if he didn't they didn't turn



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

over their retirement system their retirement monies to him they were gonna lose it took him six and a half million dollars. Anyway. It is what it is. Are you okay?

Mandy Matney 42:00

In fact, he compared himself to Bernie Madoff several times.

Alex Murdaugh 42:06

You get my bond posted yet? Bernie Madoff got a \$10 Million bond. Did Buster tell you?

John Marvin Murdaugh 42:26

No.

Alex Murdaugh 42:27

The guy that stole \$340,000,000.20 from clients? No, I hadn't heard 100,000. The lawyer in Lexington, so six and a half million from people from their retirement accounts. Not not money he made in cases. A difference but there's a little bit of difference.

John Marvin Murdaugh 42:57

That's crazy.

Alex Murdaugh 42:59

Anyway, that ain't what I'm calling about. Did you...I asked Buster to text Jim? And he said you did.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Liz Farrell 43:09

So this is another moment during the phone calls that really struck me as especially significant because it gives such insight into how Alex thinks about what he allegedly did to his clients is literally putting himself in a different category, a better category from these other bad guys, because the thing he is accused of is not taking money that his clients already had, but rather money that he had acquired for them. We definitely theorized for a while that this was how he was able to justify his actions to himself and maybe others because of his family name. The work his forefathers and their law partners did to secure the loyalty of Hampton county judges and juries. And because of the family's connections and power and the litany of favors they collected over the years, Alex was able to win his clients the settlements that were far larger than they would have gotten somewhere else like lottery winnings to his mind, it seems some of that money going back to the house, meaning to him maybe it wasn't stealing so much as it was secretly taking back some of what he felt was owed to him for loaning his family name to a case. Think of it this way the Murdaugh family over generations created an industry and at the heart of that industry, there was a very effective judicial machine that they built and continued to pass on to their sons. Bernie Madoff is just a guy who outright stole from people totally different from Big Red.

Mandy Matney 44:36

We'll be right back. Bernie Madoff, a textbook narcissist who Alex loves comparing himself to But one more thing you need to know about narcissists, they often get angry when things don't go their way. And all of us agreed after listening to hours and hours of these phone calls,



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

anger isn't really a feeling we sense from Alex throughout a majority of these conversations, but in this December 22 conversation with Liz Murdaugh, I hear some anger and resentment in his voice when he's talking about media coverage of the case.

Alex Murdaugh 45:17

And I really learned shit last what anybody who doesn't know, me or us says but it you know, I couldn't listen to it when they started printing on it or you know, hand picking what they print only printing negative stuff without putting it in context with other stuff. You know, taking the snippet that when you look at it in its totality, there's nothing to it, but if you take a little blurb you know, it sounds bad in the media. I mean, it's good all the time. But anyway, the only thing that worries me about it is you know, I know it's hard for y'all. You know, and I know it's hard to grip on poverty it worries me a little bit for buster. I'm not sure he quite knows how to deal with it

Liz Murdaugh 46:20

I don't really asked him but I feel like you guys read it that much.

Alex Murdaugh 46:28

Most of the stuff that he's still worried to get a good amount of fatigue as well.

Liz Murdaugh 46:39

Yeah, I do think Marion's told me that they may read it but I think that only read the Post and Courier that's so that they don't leave. You know, the more tabloid you kind of one.



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

Mandy Matney 46:59

Throughout this entire case, the Murdaugh camp has tried time and time again to frame Alex as a victim after the suicide for hire incident and September. Alex and his attorneys wanted us to believe that he was a targeted victim of a roadside shooting. When that narrative quickly began to crumble. They switch gears and framed him as a drug addict. We haven't seen any evidence that Alex was actually addicted to opioids. But we find it very interesting that this was a drug that the Murdaugh team seems to have chosen for him. It is the one drug whose addicts America has collectively decided to look upon sympathetically. His lawyers wanted us to believe that he stole millions of dollars from his clients simply because he had a drug addiction that was out of control. His lawyers wanted us to believe that he was impecunious and his financial state was ruinous when in reality these jailhouse phone calls reveal the exact opposite. All along Alex has wanted our sympathy, sympathy for losing his wife and son sympathy for his drug addiction and sympathy for his poor financial state. When he didn't get that sympathy he wanted from the public and a lot of the media he made sure he got it from his family. In the 14 hours of tapes we listened to we never heard the voice of a man who was truly sorry for letting down those who loved him. We didn't hear the voice of a man who recognize the damage that he's caused so many, we heard the voice of a narcissist clinging to the little control, he still has left over his own family members.

Liz Farrell 48:49

Being an investigative journalist is sometimes exciting. But following a trail until you reach the full story of something, meaning the truth, the



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

360 degrees of truth that is not for the faint of heart. Because along these trails, you meet people who are hurting you encounter complex issues that are frustrating to untangle, and you deal with unsavory characters who will suck the joy out of you, if you let them. While you're on these trails. You have onlookers lining both sides, most of whom are cheering you on. Some are shouting out insults at you and others are throwing obstacles in the way when it came to these jail tapes. We did not have the support of our fellow South Carolina journalists, some of whom seem to be cool with regarding the calls as private and therefore inaccessible. And I'm not bringing this up to school those journalists but rather to explain why their position on this was dangerous. Alex Murdaugh, is Alex Murdaugh because he could be right the ecosystem in the state was made for him. We all know that now.

Mandy Matney 49:51

We only knew what it looks like from the outside these tapes have given us amazing insight into the man Alex is now not the man he wants us to believe he is the guy who is hyper aware he's being recorded, but also in an environment that makes him vulnerable by its very definition by listening to his phone calls and sharing them with our readers and FITS News in our listeners on this podcast. We are arming you with insight of how the powerful operate and how they will try to clean to whatever modicum of control they can as their house of cards starts to fall with your support, we were able to catch the system off guard the system did not expect us to ask for a listen. And here we are. We hope these calls particularly the latest ones that we've shared not only give you better insight into how things work for certain families in South Carolina, but also empower you in your own lives if you were dealing



EPISODE 51: Overkill, Incoming Call From Alex Murdaugh Part Four

with a narcissist or sociopath whether in friendships at home work or even in your community. Remember, it's about control. Alex has his narrative and based on how our fellow journalists reacted to the jailhouse phone calls, and based on their histories of constantly accepting these pre packaged narratives from the Murdaugh team over and over again, we feel it's more important now than ever, not just to shine a light on all angles of this but to hold up a mirror. This is the man at the center of the story. He is telling us who he is and we are choosing to believe him on that. The Murdaugh Murder's Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney, and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell, produced by Luna Shark Productions

PODCAST