



EPISODE 78: Evidence Stacks Up Against Alex Murdaugh In Week 2 Of Trial

[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know if a Colleton County jury will ultimately convict Alex Murdaugh of murdering his wife and son. But every day of the trial, we are getting more confidence in the prosecution as they carefully present an apparent mountain of evidence piece by piece. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been covering the Murdaugh family for almost four years now. This is another special episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast live from Walterboro as the Murdaugh Murders trial is underway. MMP is produced by my husband, David Moses, and written by my best friend, the extremely talented Liz Farrell.

[00:00:57] Here we are in week two of Alex Murdaugh's double murder trial. Before we start, our whole team just wanted to say thank you again to our fans. We were absolutely stunned this week when we launched Cup of Justice on its own feed and it landed in the number one spot on Apple. That is a big deal. I literally still can't believe it but I know it is only possible because of you, our amazing listeners and fans. And to the MMP Premium community, Liz and I were just talking about how much more interesting and encouraging covering this trial is with the help of y'all. In a lot of ways, watching this trial live with the MMP community feels like being in a newsroom again. We are learning so much with y'all as the trial unfolds and I'm just loving watching this community grow every single day.

[00:01:56] So, obviously, a lot has happened since we last talked with y'all. More than a dozen witnesses have testified for the prosecution so far — almost all of them law enforcement officers. And we're not gonna lie. It's been slow-going at times. The prosecution is continuing to lay its foundation by entering an exhaustive amount of evidence onto the record. That can sometimes be tedious and I'm sure it's putting some jurors to sleep. It is really important, though, and we have to give credit to Creighton Waters for his thoroughness. So, this trial was scheduled to last three weeks but it seems like there's a pretty good chance it'll go longer. We've been told by someone with knowledge of the case to expect at least five weeks. The good news is that we've been finding out so much more about the investigation into the murders of Maggie and Paul. As you know, we have been on the lookout from the very beginning for anything that calls into question the integrity of the crime scene, meaning the very preventable-seeming mistakes that end up weighing in Alex's favor. We know how deep the family ties are to law



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enforcement and we know that at the time of the murders, Alex and others were under investigation for obstruction of justice in the 2019 boat crash involving Paul Murdaugh. As our Cup of Justice co-host Eric Bland has noted before, there is no such thing as a perfectly processed crime scene. Defense attorneys will always find fault in the collection of evidence. But the point is that we don't want law enforcement making it easy for them. So, not unexpectedly, there have been some disappointing moments related to the crime scene testimony. But so far, it's not as bad as we feared it would've been given how many times we've heard people who know the family speculate or joke about the potential manipulation of the scene. To be clear, we are not suggesting the crime scene was manipulated in any way and this is not a statement of Alex's guilt or innocence. This is and has always been about the justice system here and how it seems to bow and curtsy for the powerful, especially in these parts, for the Murdaugh family. As far as that mission goes, it has been really gratifying to finally get answers to so many of the questions we've had over the past year and a half. We'll get into that more in a little bit but let's start with the defense: Dick Harpootlian and Jim Griffin.

[00:04:31] **Liz Farrell:** The talking heads on TV seem to mostly agree that Dick and Jim are legal heroes who are landing major blows in the State's case against Alex. We see things a little differently — or a lot differently actually. There have been successes for Dick and Jim, though. The first is that it seems like there's a good number of people who believe that Alex's attorneys have raised major questions about how law enforcement handled the scene. Like everything else in this case, it depends on how you look at it. The way we look at it is this: Dick and Jim have been effective in confusing matters and misleading the jury and the public because of how they've been asking their questions. This is their job. This is what Alex or whoever is paying them to do. So, for instance, we've been asked a lot about why investigators never searched the house at Moselle. Before we get too far from that sentence, this is not true. Investigators did search the house. The reason some members of the public think this, though, is because Dick and Jim asked investigators — whose responsibilities that night did not include searching the house — whether they had searched the house. The answer was always predictably "no," which looks bad because the average person doesn't necessarily understand that all law enforcement officers are not also homicide investigators. This apples and oranges line of questioning is expected but it



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has been a learning experience for us to see how well it has been working sometimes.

[00:06:01] In addition to their attempts to get evidence excluded, Dick and Jim's main goal right now seems to be to confuse the jury as we said, but also to get jurors to ask themselves whether there could have been two shooters, whether law enforcement did screw up the scene to the point of unreliability, and whether investigators there had zeroed in on Alex from the very beginning and therefore, were sloppy about collecting evidence of a potential other shooter, such as tire tracks and footprints. Perhaps the two biggest points the defense has scored so far were with special agent Worley, a footprint and tire tread expert at SLED, who was awesome. She did great — until the end. Turns out, SLED did not include a ruler in their photos of potential footprints. That ruler is important because it shows scale. Also, one of the investigators left a bloody footprint in the feed room where Paul was killed and that's not good. It's things like this that create a potential for reasonable doubt. Back to the tire track evidence real quick. This is another thing that doesn't add up. Dick and Jim want to exploit the fact that a first responder didn't photograph tire tracks he noticed. But it's also important to know that even though Alex told that first responder that he had only pulled into the areas by the kennels one time, that is incorrect. Alex, according to his own accounts, went to the kennels, saw that they were dead, and then went to the house where he called 911. Then, he went back to the kennels. That's at least two times, offering a possible explanation for the other sets of tire tracks that the first responder did not photograph. But it's things like this that end up in the headlines without the full context. Like we said, though, we have been overwhelmingly impressed with the witnesses so far. They come off as knowledgeable and fair and most have been able to hold their own on cross-examination. Where Dick and Jim have lost points is in their attempts to get evidence excluded. On Tuesday, they move to exclude testimony from SLED's phone data expert about Maggie's and Paul's cell phone and they fought it hard. Judge Newman denied their motion, though.

[00:08:16] Also, while they continue to insist that Alex was unfairly targeted by SLED, that investigators were aggressively focused on him from the beginning, the evidence continues to show that investigators handled Alex as gently as they would have a fuzzy baby lamb. We'll share those interviews



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with you in a bit. Now, one interesting thing we've been noticing is that while Dick and Jim have been challenging the integrity of the investigation from the standpoint of law enforcement, they don't seem to have a problem with the fact that one of Alex's co-workers at the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office was the one to download the data from Alex's phone or the fact that certain members of the non-law enforcement community were at the crime scene. Nope. They don't have a problem with that. In fact, it kind of seems like Dick and Jim threw those guys a bone. So, from what we heard before the trial, Moselle was a real who's who on the night of the murders and in the days after. Turns out, that was true. After Alex called 911, it seemed that every partner at PMPED showed up. SLED Agent Jeff Croft testified this week that investigators not only had to work around the litany of PMPED attorneys who were at the scene for whatever reason, he indicated that some of those attorneys actually played some sort of role in the collection of evidence. Here is Jim Griffin's cross-examination of Special Agent Croft on Tuesday morning.

[00:09:44] **Jim Griffin:** On the eighth, you were asked to point out who's that person? Who's that person? Who's that person? That's Ronnie Crosby. He's a lawyer. That's Mark Ball. He's a lawyer. That's Lee Cope. He's a lawyer. Do you remember that testimony?

[00:10:00] **Jeff Croft:** I do, sir.

[00:10:02] **Jim Griffin:** Now, Alex wasn't lawyering up on the eighth. Those were his friends who came over to help him? Correct.

[00:10:15] **Jeff Croft:** They were giving counsel to Alex as far as what we were doing. They were making phone calls to his counsel. That was the instruction which we gave, we were given.

[00:10:32] **Jim Griffin:** And they were assisting you, as we saw on the body cam, go through the evidence that you ended up seizing in the gun room, right?

[00:10:42] **Jeff Croft:** They pointed out some items that they had concerns about.



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[00:10:52] **Jim Griffin:** Did you find that their efforts were obstructing your investigation?

[00:10:57] **Jeff Croft:** They didn't obstruct our search within that gun room. No, sir.

[00:11:03] **Liz Farrell:** Now, you tell me. Would any other man out there who has returned home to find his wife and son murdered; who claimed to have checked their pulses; and who claimed to have tried to move one of their bodies despite the fact that he appeared to be completely clean with no blood or dirt on him; who, in the words of Creighton Waters, not only told anyone who would listen that this had to be related to the boat crash — those were among the first words out of his mouth — would any other man like that be allowed to have his non-law enforcement officer coworkers walking around the crime scene and weighing in on the evidence collection? I think you know the answer to that.

[00:11:46] **Mandy Matney:** Now, the prosecution. Let's talk about how they're doing so far. And where to start? Well, there's been a lot of Big Creighton energy. Every day, Creighton has come in strong and has done a great job on redirect, especially cleaning up on a lot of the confusion Dick and Jim have been trying to create. One of Creighton's bigger shining moments was on Monday when he methodically entered into the record a veritable arsenal from the Murdaugh's gun room, as well as a long list of ammunition. Dick and Jim did not like this one bit and tried to get Judge Newman to stop it, claiming it was unfairly prejudicial. Judge Newman disagreed and allowed it after Creighton threw it in the defense's face that the evidence was necessary to show that counter to their claims, investigators did do a thorough job at the scene.

[00:12:42] After all the guns and ammo were logged, Creighton then played a chilling interview with Alex from June 10th, 2021, three days after the murders and the day that Randolph Murdaugh died. All of that information about the guns started to make sense. But stick a pin in this for now. We'll get back to that in a second. For this, we have to start at the beginning. The evidence really speaks for itself. So, we're gonna play some of the recordings of Alex on



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the day of and in the days after the murders, starting with the unredacted 911 call that we've never heard before. This call was played for the jury last Thursday. The original call that was released by law enforcement had several parts with long gaps. It wasn't clear what exactly had been redacted back then. Now, we have a better idea of what we were missing in the summer of 2021 when this was first released to the public. The audio on the recording is really hard to hear, so we'll just summarize this with some bullet points. Right away, the dispatcher asked Alex whether Maggie and/or Paul shot themselves. He answers "Hell no." This is interesting because how does he know this? Later, SLED agents wanting to verify that Paul didn't kill Maggie and then himself looked under Paul to see if he had fallen on a weapon. At this point, according to Alex, he had found his wife and son's bodies, checked their pulses, and tried to turn Paul over but couldn't, meaning if there was a gun under Paul, Alex couldn't have known that unless he knew how they died. Also new: the dispatcher asked Alex not to have a gun with him. It sounds like he slowly said, "I will not do that." This becomes confusing later when she tells him to make sure his gun is put away when the officers get there. One interpretation of this moment when she asked him not to have a gun there is that the dispatcher was reminding him that there's a killer on the loose. He does not express fear for his own life nor confusion about what happened. It's also not clear why he went to the house before calling 911 after allegedly discovering the bodies at the kennels. Was it to get a gun? Was the gun already in his vehicle? This might be important because the prosecution has indicated that there was biological evidence in Alex's Suburban. Did it get in there after Alex found the bodies or did it get in there on the drive to his mother's house? Finally, during the 911 call, Alex first floated the boat crash theory. Unprompted, he told the dispatcher that Paul was being threatened. She asked for a name and he could not give her one. She asked him if he has reported these threats and Alex says "yes." And we will be right back.

[00:15:56] So, a few hours after the 911 call, Alex then met with Colleton County Sheriff's Office Detective Laura Rutland. Like we said in Cup of Justice, we felt like Detective Rutland was one of the strongest witnesses for the prosecution so far. Rutland is an officer with the Colleton County Sheriff's Office who assisted SLED on the night Maggie and Paul were killed. According to Rutland, Alex appeared to be wet and sweating but his clothes were dry. He also appeared to be clean with no blood on him after he said that he checked



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for Paul and Maggie's pulses. I wanna play this clip from court because it was powerful.

[00:16:37] **Jim Griffin:** Now, when you were at the scene, when you first got there, did you see any footprints in the blood?

[00:16:45] **Laura Rutland:** No.

[00:16:46] **Jim Griffin:** Did you see any knee prints in the blood?

[00:16:48] **Laura Rutland:** No.

[00:16:50] **Jim Griffin:** How would you describe the defendant's hands when you saw him when you were interviewing him? How would you describe his hands?

[00:16:56] **Laura Rutland:** They were clean. Clean.

[00:16:58] **Jim Griffin:** How would you describe his arms?

[00:17:00] **Laura Rutland:** They were clean.

[00:17:01] **Jim Griffin:** How would you describe his T-shirt?

[00:17:03] **Laura Rutland:** Clean.

[00:17:03] **Jim Griffin:** How would you describe his shorts?

[00:17:05] **Laura Rutland:** Clean.

[00:17:06] **Jim Griffin:** How would you describe his shoes?

[00:17:09] **Laura Rutland:** They were clean.



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[00:17:11] **Mandy Matney:** Clean, meaning suspiciously clean — too clean. If he checked their pulses and tried to move Paul, where was the blood? But the most captivating part of her testimony came when they played the audio recording of Alex's initial interview with police. We learned that PMPED attorney Danny Henderson was representing Alex on the 9th of June seventh. He was in the car with Rutland and SLED and SLED agent David Owen. I have to wonder: if Danny knew about the PMPED confrontation that day on June 7th while he was representing Alex, was he sitting there thinking this must be a coincidence? Something I wanna note before we play this interview: while trying to convey to the jury that SLED zeroed in on Alex Murdaugh and had tunnel vision throughout their investigation, Dick describes SLED as aggressive while interviewing Alex. So, I ask you: does this sound like an aggressive police interview?

[00:18:16] **David Owen:** Alright. As I stated, I'm David Owen and Laura Rutland with Colleton County. I'm with SLED. I hate to have to do this but —

[00:18:26] **Alex Murdaugh:** I understand. I totally understand. So, you don't, you don't have any problem with it.

[00:18:33] **David Owen:** Yeah. So, just start at the top. Take your time.

[00:18:39] **Alex Murdaugh:** Like when I came back, I mean, I pulled up and I could see him and, you know, I knew something was bad. I ran out. I knew it was really bad. My boy over there I could see.

[00:18:54] **Mandy Matney:** With his lawyer and Detective Rutland sitting behind him in the back seat, Alex launches right into his story.

[00:19:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** And I ran over to Maggie. Actually, I think I tried to turn Paul over first. You know, I tried to turn him over and I don't know. I figured it out. His cell phone popped out of his pocket. I started to try to do something with it, thinking maybe — but then I put it back down really quickly. Then I went to my wife and, I mean, I could see.



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[00:19:38] **Mandy Matney:** Notice he said the cell phone popped out of his pocket. Alex then very graphically described Paul's injuries, which I don't think are necessary to air. But listen to the language that Alex uses here.

[00:19:53] **David Owen:** Did you touch Maggie at all?

[00:19:55] **Alex Murdaugh:** I did. I touched them both.

[00:19:56] **David Owen:** Okay.

[00:19:57] **Alex Murdaugh:** I tried to take, I mean, I tried to do it as limited as possible. But I tried to take their phones on both of them. And, you know, I called 911 pretty much right away and she was very good. I talked to her. I told her I was gonna get off the phone to call some family members. I did that.

[00:20:33] **Mandy Matney:** Can you hear the lawyer in him? As limited as possible. Granted he is in shock but it's odd. And, again, he's telling the police this while he's wearing a shirt that simply does not match his story.

[00:20:49] **David Owen:** What made you come out here tonight?

[00:20:52] **Alex Murdaugh:** I went to — my mom's a late-stage Alzheimer's patient. My dad's in the hospital. My mom gets anxious when she does. I went to check on them and Maggie, Maggie's a dog lover.

[00:21:07] **David Owen:** Okay.

[00:21:07] **Alex Murdaugh:** She fools with the dogs and I knew she'd gone to the kennel. I was at the house. I left the house and went to my mom's for just a little while. Tried to call her when I left. Texted her. No response.

[00:21:28] **Mandy Matney:** He said "I was at the house when Maggie was at the kennels." This is hugely problematic because the prosecution played audio in court where Alex's voice can be heard at 8:44 PM, just minutes before Paul and Maggie were murdered. This was a big moment in court that we will



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unpack later. But I have to ask this: why would he lie to police about being near the murder victims moments before they were murdered?

[00:21:57] **Alex Murdaugh:** When I got back to the house, the house was, obviously, nobody was in there so I figured they're still up here fooling around. Paul was gonna be getting set up to plant. Our sunflower seeds got sprayed and died and he was refiguring to do to plant the sunflower seeds. So, I came back up here and drove up and saw and called.

[00:22:26] **Mandy Matney:** Alex then was asked about relationships with Maggie and Paul. He said him and Maggie had a wonderful relationship and it will be interesting to see if any witnesses can testify to that. He also said that his relationship with Paul was as good as it could be. Then, Alex floated the boat crash theory again. This is important because this theory — that the murders were an act of revenge for Mallory Beach's death — spread quickly after the murders and made it to mainstream media.

[00:22:58] **David Owen:** Have y'all been having any problems out here? Trespassers?

[00:23:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** None.

[00:23:02] **David Owen:** People breaking in?

[00:23:03] **Alex Murdaugh:** None that I know of. The only thing that what comes to my mind is my son Paul was in a boat wreck a couple years ago. And there's been a, you know, he was charged with being arrested for being the driver. There's been a lot of negative publicity about that and there's been a lot of people online. Just really vile stuff. But when Paul's out and about, I mean, people routinely — I don't think I know the full story 'cause I don't think they'd give it to me. But, I mean, he's been punched and hit and just attacked a lot. So, you know, but, I mean, nothing like this.

[00:23:49] **David Owen:** Yeah. Any, any one person in particular or group of people?



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[00:23:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't know.

[00:23:57] **David Owen:** That you could think of?

[00:23:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** Not that I know. No, sir.

[00:24:02] **David Owen:** Has he — other than being assaulted, has he received any direct threats related to the boat accident?

[00:24:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** Oh, yes. All the time he gets threats.

[00:24:11] **David Owen:** Recently?

[00:24:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. I mean, he gets them all the time.

[00:24:16] **David Owen:** Okay.

[00:24:17] **Alex Murdaugh:** He gets 'em all the time.

[00:24:21] **David Owen:** What kind of, I mean?

[00:24:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm gonna kick your ass, you know? I've never been privy firsthand, you know?

[00:24:33] **Laura Rutland:** Is that through social media or —

[00:24:35] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, ma'am. It's mostly like if he goes out places is what, you know, what — he goes out like somewhere. He's in college, so if he goes out is what I understand. And I can find out better details from some of his younger friends on that.

[00:24:53] **Mandy Matney:** So, notice here that Alex can't name any specific threats about the boat crash. And he said "No, ma'am" when asked if there's anything on social media, which he knows is easy to reference. He then said



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that the threats were more like he would go out sometimes and come back with a black eye and tell his parents that it was because of the boat crash. And I wanna say something here because context is everything in this case. Alex Murdaugh sued people for a living. I have a hard time thinking that the Murdaughs would actually sit back and casually accept their son getting assaulted without reporting it and filing a personal injury lawsuit. Then, Alex pointed police in another odd direction. He said that the groundskeeper recently told Paul a very weird story about working with undercover Navy SEALs to — checks notes — kill black panthers. It was really bizarre and I'm not even gonna play the whole thing 'cause it's a waste of time. So, Alex told police about how he spoke to the groundskeeper on the phone that night, which the defense told us about in a previous alibi statement. The groundskeeper is on the witness list and I sure do hope we can hear what was said on that phone call. Alex told police that the groundskeeper was off of work that day.

[00:26:19] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yeah and I sent him a message to text me earlier today about the sunflowers. And he called me back when I was on the way to my mom's house.

[00:26:32] **David Owen:** Did you talk to him at that time?

[00:26:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Briefly. I was on the phone with a lawyer friend of mine named Chris Wilson from Bamberg, so I told him I'd call him back tomorrow. See him in the morning.

[00:26:42] **Mandy Matney:** Wow. Really interesting that he brought up Chris Wilson to police. This shows how confident Alex was in himself at the time. Chris likely knew that something was up with Alex at this point; that Alex had misappropriated fees from PMPED. Chris says that he was fooled, but he likely knew that those missing fees were being questioned by PMPED. So, why would Alex point police to Chris Wilson like that? Speaking of, we learned in testimony this week that Chris Wilson was on scene the day after the murders in the gun room at Moselle while SLED agents were processing evidence. Several PMPED partners were there at the same time, including Ronnie Crosby, who knew about the confrontation of PMPED that day and knew that



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they had been asking Alex for the missing fees that Alex owed PMPED for the case that he split with Chris Wilson. How did all of these guys on scene — who shouldn't have been there in the first place, by the way — not put two and two together? Missing fees, confrontation, Alex's money problems. Then, Alex's two family members were suddenly murdered. And did any of them tell police about this? This is what I really wanna know as it looks like Newman is going to allow evidence of the financial crimes into trial. Were the PMPED partners and Chris Wilson honest and forthcoming about what they knew? So, back to the interview. The SLED agent then asked Alex about weapons that they store and Alex explains that they have an arsenal of guns at Moselle.

[00:28:35] **David Owen:** And the shotgun that you had when deputies pulled up, where did that gun come from?

[00:28:40] **Alex Murdaugh:** I went to the house and I got a gun. Probably overreacting but —

[00:28:46] **David Owen:** And was that when you pulled up and saw them?

[00:28:50] **Alex Murdaugh:** No. I mean, I came out and, I mean, I called 911 first. Talked to them for a little while and then I told her.

[00:29:01] **David Owen:** Told her?

[00:29:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** That I was, that I was gonna go to the house.

[00:29:04] **David Owen:** Okay.

[00:29:05] **Alex Murdaugh:** And that I would let authorities know when they got here that I had a gun.

[00:29:08] **David Owen:** Okay.

[00:29:09] **Mandy Matney:** I wanna point out that Alex is saying here that he found his wife and son brutally murdered on his very large and very dark



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hunting lodge. And he said that he was probably overreacting when he grabbed a gun for protection. The officer then asked Alex about Maggie and Paul's schedules that day.

[00:29:32] **Laura Rutland:** What was their schedule today? When did they get home?

[00:29:35] **Alex Murdaugh:** My son works for my brother and he was coming home to deal with the sunflowers. He got here, he got here pretty early 'cause he and I rode around looking at everything for a good little while, probably 45 minutes to an hour. Maggie had things she did in Charleston and she had a doctor's appointment in Charleston and she got back here. It was fairly late.

[00:30:15] **Laura Rutland:** Was it dark yet when Paul got home?

[00:30:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, Paul got home early.

[00:30:19] **Laura Rutland:** Early. Okay. So, before dinnertime? Before —

[00:30:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** Oh, yes, ma'am.

[00:30:24] **Mandy Matney:** So, there was a Snapchat video recorded on Paul's phone at 7:56 PM showing Alex at Moselle. That video is important because of what Alex is wearing and we'll talk about that in a minute. So, back to the interview. The SLED agent asked Alex a question a lot of you have had: were there any cameras at Moselle? And, of course, Alex has a vague answer.

[00:30:53] **Laura Rutland:** Do you have any cameras on your property?

[00:30:55] **Alex Murdaugh:** I have deer cameras. But none, you know, around up here.

[00:31:03] **Laura Rutland:** Where are they at?

[00:31:04] **Alex Murdaugh:** On different deer stands.



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[00:31:06] **Laura Rutland:** Okay, so deep in the woods?

[00:31:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, not necessarily deep in the woods. Some of them are in fields and —

[00:31:13] **Laura Rutland:** Okay.

[00:31:14] **Alex Murdaugh:** But I don't — there's none that, you know, are near here.

[00:31:19] **Laura Rutland:** Okay.

[00:31:20] **Mandy Matney:** Huh. Convenient. Also, if they really didn't have any security cameras to protect any of their property, that shows that they weren't concerned at all about intruders and that speaks to the power that they had. Finally, the officers asked about what Alex did that day, but he conveniently left out a big part of his day: the PMPED confrontation.

[00:31:46] **David Owen:** What did you do today? Were you at the office or — ?

[00:31:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** Nope. I was home. I came home. Paul and I messed around. I was up at the house. I laid down, took a nap on the couch, probably, I don't know, 25, 30 minutes. I got up. I called Maggie. Didn't get an answer. And I left to go to my mom's. And she had said she might ride with me but she normally doesn't when I go over there. And I think I texted her. And she's very good about answering the phone, so that was odd, or calling me back, so that was odd. But it wasn't that big a deal.

[00:32:38] **Laura Rutland:** What time was that?

[00:32:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** What time was what?

[00:32:42] **Laura Rutland:** That you sent her a text message.



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[00:32:44] **Alex Murdaugh:** Alright. I checked. Texted her at 9:08. Going to check on M. Be right back." And then I texted her at 9:47. That must be when I started to come back. I think I called her before that but let me make sure. I'm pretty sure that I called her at 9:45 and then I tried Paul. And then — no, I think that was riding. I think that might have been riding over there.

[00:33:45] **Mandy Matney:** So, SLED Lieutenant Britt Dove testified about the phone data this week in court and it sort of matches what Alex is saying about his communications. Maggie's last text was at 8:49 PM. Her phone's last recorded steps were at 8:55 PM. Her phone changed orientation, meaning it moved at 9:06 PM — the exact time Alex started up his Suburban to head to his mother's home. And seconds after Maggie's phone orientation changed, she missed a call from Alex Murdaugh. And at 9:08 PM, she got a text from Alex saying, "Going to check on M. Be right back." Alec called her again and she didn't answer. Then, Alex texted Maggie Murdaugh for the last time at 9:47 PM: Call me babe. It was never read. Chilling, right? Also, Dove's testimony never mentioned that Alex tried to communicate with Paul during that timeframe. But Dove did tell us about the last text messages that Paul Murdaugh sent. He was texting with a girl who he was going to the movies with. She said that she didn't wanna see a sad movie. Paul wanted to see *A Star is Born*. "No. I need something happy," she said. It was the last text he ever read. Also chilling: that same agent testified that Alex had two phones and his calls appeared to be deleted between June 4th and 10:25 PM on June 7th, 2021. We'll be right back.

[00:35:34] **Liz Farrell:** Alex's second interview with law enforcement was on June 10th, 2021 — the same day his father, Randolph Murdaugh III, died. This interview was conducted before his death at John Marvin's hunting grounds in Barnwell County. SLED agents David Owen and Jeff Croft took Alex into a SLED vehicle and interviewed him there. Attorney Jim Griffin — Paul's lawyer at the time, by the way — was in the car representing Alex. As Eric Bland has pointed out, Jim Griffin probably should not have allowed Alex to sit for this or any other interview with law enforcement. At the same time Alex was being interviewed here, Randy Murdaugh, John Marvin Murdaugh, and Buster Murdaugh were in separate vehicles with SLED agents also being interviewed and asked for their phones. Alex's interview started off in typical Alex style with him on the phone. When he gets off the phone, SLED asks Alex for



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details about his day before discovering his wife's and son's bodies. He, again, does not mention the confrontation over the missing \$792,000 fee at PMPED earlier that day nor does he mention his father's health, which is the reason he left PMPED, which is supposedly the reason he left PMPED earlier that day right in the middle of a confrontation. Instead, he seems to have drawn a blank about what his Monday was like.

[00:37:03] **Jeff Croft:** Alright, sir. So, when we spoke the other night, I got kind of a basic overview.

[00:37:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:37:11] **Jeff Croft:** And it was pretty traumatic.

[00:37:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's okay. I know you need to ask me. You ask me what you need to.

[00:37:17] **Jeff Croft:** So, I just, I want you to — let's start Monday morning and take me through your day.

[00:37:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** Monday morning, you know, what did I do Monday morning? My wife and my older son had gone to the baseball games that weekend. You know, I really can't remember what I did Monday. I know I went to work.

[00:37:44] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:37:44] **Alex Murdaugh:** But, you know, I think I was dragging a little bit from the weekend and — but I went to work. I usually mess around on my farm and then I go to work. I was at work.

[00:37:56] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:37:58] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know —



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[00:37:59] **Jeff Croft:** You got an office in Hampton or —

[00:38:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. Yes, sir. So, I was at my office in Hampton. You know, I mean, I was just at my office doing —

[00:38:12] **Jeff Croft:** Legal work.

[00:38:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. I'm sure I can go back and probably recreate some specifics if you need me to but I can't like sit here and recall on the top of my head exactly what I was working on. I know one thing I was working on was we had some, we had some big motions coming up in Dominion Energy case. I was getting ready for those. And I was getting ready for some motions. I'm a defendant in a civil case involving my son. I told you about the boat wreck.

[00:38:43] **Jeff Croft:** Yes, sir.

[00:38:44] **Alex Murdaugh:** And there were some motions coming up in that on Thursday and I was mostly just getting ready for those things.

[00:38:51] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:38:53] **Creighton Waters:** Questioned as to what he was doing the day of the murders?

[00:38:55] **Jeff Croft:** That is correct. Yes, sir.

[00:38:57] **Creighton Waters:** And he said he was working on some motions in the Dominion Energy case and then also where he's a personally a defendant in the boat case, is that correct?

[00:39:04] **Jeff Croft:** That is correct, yes sir.

[00:39:05] **Creighton Waters:** And that's what he said he was doing the day of the murders. Is that right?



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[00:39:07] **Jeff Croft:** That is correct, yes sir.

[00:39:08] **Creighton Waters:** Thank you.

[00:39:10] **Jeff Croft:** What time did you leave the house to go to the office?

[00:39:13] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm not sure.

[00:39:14] **Jeff Croft:** Who all was at the house when you left?

[00:39:22] **Alex Murdaugh:** To go to my office that morning?

[00:39:24] **Jeff Croft:** When you got up, who was at the house?

[00:39:27] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm sure my wife was. And I can't remember if Blanca had made it out there yet or not.

[00:39:33] **Jeff Croft:** And who is Blanca?

[00:39:34] **Alex Murdaugh:** Blanca is our housekeeper.

[00:39:36] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. Okay.

[00:39:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** And she comes different — she doesn't have set hours but she comes most days. She'll be able to tell you if I was there when, when I, when she left or not. I just, I can't remember.

[00:39:51] **Jeff Croft:** And so, you went to the office. You did, you know, some motions. What time did you leave the office?

[00:39:58] **Creighton Waters:** What was the name of the housekeeper?

[00:40:00] **Jeff Croft:** Blanca.



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[00:40:04] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yeah. When, when I, when she left or not. I just, I can't remember.

[00:40:08] **Jeff Croft:** And so, you went to the office. You did, you know, some motions. What time did you leave the office?

[00:40:14] **Alex Murdaugh:** I left a little bit earlier than normal because my son Paul was coming home.

[00:40:18] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:40:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** 'Cause he had not been with us during the weekend and he was coming home. We were going to, we were going to replant some sunflowers the next day.

[00:40:31] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:40:31] **Alex Murdaugh:** And so, he was calibrating, doing and getting everything ready. So, he got home a little early. I left a little early so he and I could knock around and we knocked around for, you know, just doing the things we liked to do out there.

[00:40:48] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:40:48] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, we're riding around looking at food plots, looking, you know, look, looking for hogs. Little bit of target shooting. Just bullshit.

[00:41:06] **Liz Farrell:** While playing this interview for the jury, Creighton would stop it every now and again to ask Special Agent Croft to clarify or repeat what he heard Alex say. It is around this point that Creighton stopped the recording with Croft to ask him to repeat what Alex was doing with Paul that afternoon. Then Creighton asked: do people often use 300 Blackouts to shoot hogs? Croft said they do. This is when Creighton started to place the rifle that the State says killed Maggie near or with Alex on the day of the murders. We'll



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talk more about that in a second. Here Alex starts to build a timeline for SLED. He says Paul got to the house around 5:00 PM and the two rode around for about 20 to 30 minutes or maybe an hour.

[00:41:53] **Jeff Croft:** So, after y'all got finished riding around, try to take me through the rest of the evening.

[00:42:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** Alright. You know, at some point, we were all back at the house together. Maggie had gotten home and, you know, we sat down. We ate supper, which we usually supper together. So, the one thing I remember. I don't know how much detail y'all want, so if I start talking about something that you don't need, just tell me and I'll move to something else.

[00:42:26] **Jeff Croft:** The more detailed, the better, sir.

[00:42:27] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, Paul has been having high blood pressure. And his mama was worried sick about it. So we were actually, you know, this was a direct thing getting him. He doesn't like to go to doctors. Making him go get his blood pressure checked. His feet had swollen up recently.

[00:42:50] **Jeff Croft:** Wow.

[00:42:50] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, you know, that was, that was a, that was a big, huge deal.

[00:42:56] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:42:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, we hung around the house for a little while. I know that Maggie went to the kennels. I don't know exactly where Paul went but he left the house, too.

[00:43:06] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. How did Maggie get down to the kennels?



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[00:43:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't know exactly. But on normal occasions, she would drive, drive a buggy, drive a four-wheeler or very common for her to walk.

[00:43:20] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. How about Paul? What's — ?

[00:43:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** Paul wasn't much of a walker but he would use all of the others.

[00:43:27] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:43:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** But it, I mean, it could be anyway, you know? I don't know exactly. I wish I could help you with that.

[00:43:38] **Jeff Croft:** So, so they left and went down to the kennels.

[00:43:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, Maggie went to go to the kennels.

[00:43:43] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. Paul — and Paul left.

[00:43:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** And I'm assuming, you know, I'm assuming Paul left.

[00:43:48] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:43:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** Because of, you know.

[00:43:51] **Jeff Croft:** Gotcha.

[00:43:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** What happened. I mean, I'm assuming Paul went to the kennels.

[00:43:55] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. And what did you do once, once Maggie and Paul left?



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[00:44:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** I stayed in the house.

[00:44:02] **Creighton Waters:** What did he tell you he did after Maggie and Paul went to the kennels?

[00:44:06] **Jeff Croft:** He stayed in the house.

[00:44:08] **Liz Farrell:** This is a big deal. Again, Alex insisted he was not at the kennels that night. It wasn't until SLED was able to crack Paul's phone that they found out this was a lie. And when I say "lie," I mean lie. Dick and Jim are almost laughing off this discrepancy as a minor issue. So, what? A man who just lost his family isn't going to remember the timeline perfectly. And that's true and understandable. But this isn't just a matter of forgetting that you went outside to talk to your husband before cooking dinner and having a normal night together. Alex doesn't just say he wasn't at the kennels. He appears to be concocting an entire reality about how Maggie and Paul were there but he was not.

[00:44:52] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean, I'm assuming Paul went to the kennels.

[00:44:55] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. And what did you do once, once Maggie and Paul left?

[00:45:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** I stayed in the house.

[00:45:02] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:45:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** And I was watching TV, looking at my phone. And I actually fell asleep on the couch.

[00:45:09] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. And what time did you —

[00:45:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, I don't know exactly what time I woke up but when y'all get my phone, you know, I think one of the first things I did when I got up was call Maggie because I was going to my mom's. And I know



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I texted her 'cause I checked my phone. And what time did we say the text was Jim? Like 9:06?

[00:45:32] **Jim Griffin:** I didn't see it.

[00:45:33] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah. I got it written down from the other night.

[00:45:34] **Alex Murdaugh:** I showed you the other night, didn't I?

[00:45:35] **Jeff Croft:** Yes, sir. I got the —

[00:45:36] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, you know, I texted her, so I called her just before that. And, I mean, she, she didn't answer at that point. And I left to go to my mom's.

[00:45:49] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:45:53] **Alex Murdaugh:** Y'all will just have to look. I don't, I'm not sure if I called Paul.

[00:45:56] **Jeff Croft:** Well, and, and that, and that's why we're getting the phone so we can nail down the times and everything.

[00:46:00] **Liz Farrell:** Next, Alex tells SLED that he thought he heard Maggie and Paul pull up to the house, introducing the idea that maybe what he was hearing was the real killer. But then it gets kind of weird. First, he admits that people don't just come to Moselle randomly. And second, he suggests that maybe instead of Maggie and Paul pulling up, it was a wildcat that hangs out on the property. The thing to understand here is that after 9:02 PM, Alex began calling Maggie frantically — five times in an hour. He also texted her. So, after thinking he heard them pull up and seeing that they hadn't and then not being able to get them on the phone, he drives past the kennels to his mother's house without stopping to check in.



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[00:46:44] **Alex Murdaugh:** But I really don't think, you know, I'm just throwing that out because it was in my mind.

[00:46:49] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah, no. That's fine. That's totally fine.

[00:46:52] **Alex Murdaugh:** I left. I drove to, I drove to my mom's. I checked on my mom.

[00:46:59] **Jeff Croft:** She lives right out here, correct?

[00:47:01] **Alex Murdaugh:** She lives at Alameda. Checked on my mom. Talked with Shelly for a few minutes, you know?

[00:47:08] **Jeff Croft:** You said Shelly is —

[00:47:09] **Alex Murdaugh:** The caregiver.

[00:47:10] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. So.

[00:47:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** Alright, so where are we? So, then, I left.

[00:47:14] **Jeff Croft:** You left your mom's, making phone calls.

[00:47:16] **Alex Murdaugh:** I left my mom's and I went back home. I got to the house. I went inside. Nobody was there. I got in the car. I went back to the kennels and, you know.

[00:47:33] **Jeff Croft:** And you, when you went back to the kennels, besides Maggie and Paul, did you see anybody, any cars?

[00:47:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** I didn't see anything right then. No, sir.

[00:47:40] **Jeff Croft:** Take your time.



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[00:47:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, I saw Maggie and I saw Paul laying down. I knew, you know, I didn't know, you know? I knew it was bad. I went over there and, you know, I saw it.

[00:47:53] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah.

[00:47:54] **Alex Murdaugh:** And, you know, I called 911.

[00:47:58] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. And what, what made you decide to go back to the house and get a gun?

[00:48:11] **Alex Murdaugh:** I, I, I just think the whole scene had me freaked out.

[00:48:13] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. Did you, you take your car back up there or did you run up there?

[00:48:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I drove.

[00:48:19] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:48:20] **Liz Farrell:** The Murdaughs were known for driving around with shotguns in their trucks. So, it's surprising to hear that Alex had to return to the house to get a gun. It is also surprising that he wouldn't have thought to bring a gun with him in the first place because it was now after 10:00 PM and according to him, he had not seen or heard from Maggie or Paul since before his TV couch nap. Moselle is very remote and it is very dark outside at night. It's almost absurd to believe that he came home, saw that the house wasn't lit up, saw at least Maggie's car and that Maggie and Paul were not there, and didn't think to grab a gun before heading down to the kennels. Again, there is no right way for someone to react to the horrific and violent loss of family members but Alex's casual conclusion of he got the gun because the whole scene had him freaked out feels like the same kind of understatement he made to Detective Rutland two days earlier when he told her that he got the gun from the house and that might have been an overreaction. Next, SLED asks Alex what Paul was like as a son.



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[00:49:25] **Alex Murdaugh:** I can tell you this. In riding around with Paul, he was his normal, bright, you know, just — he was a really great kid.

[00:49:39] **Jeff Croft:** So, being a dad myself, what was the biggest issue you had with Paul when you had, when you had to call him down and, and scold him or correct him? What was the biggest issue you had with Paul?

[00:49:53] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, I mean, irresponsibility. You know? He was ADHD. He was bad about jumping from and he had so many wonderful qualities now but he was bad about jumping from, he'd start this, maybe not quite finish it, move, do something else. And, you know, you'll find out from his friends he had clothes strung out all over the state. He did that with clothes, he did that with guns. He did that with my boats. So —

[00:50:28] **Jeff Croft:** He lost weight.

[00:50:29] **Jim Griffin:** He would misplace stuff or leave stuff behind, right?

[00:50:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes. Everywhere. Everywhere. I mean, he would go off for the weekend. Sometimes, he wouldn't pack clothes 'cause he's got clothes in somebody's house. I mean, Paul, Paul was the one — he like, he, he wouldn't understand how you go out, you know, you and one, you and a girl go out on a date. He, he, he liked the crowd.

[00:50:58] **Jeff Croft:** And who is his girlfriend?

[00:50:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** He didn't have a girlfriend right now.

[00:51:01] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:51:02] **Liz Farrell:** Alex tells SLED that Maggie usually cooks for him and the boys but that she had their housekeeper Blanca make dinner that night. And he says that Maggie and he never argue. According to sources with direct connections to the family, Alex had a horrible temper. And over the years, his fights with Maggie had sometimes been known to get physical.



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[00:51:25] **Jeff Croft:** How is your relationship with Maggie?

[00:51:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** Very good. As good as it could possibly be. I mean, you know, we had our issues, but wonderful.

[00:51:44] **Jeff Croft:** And I'm just trying to understand the family dynamic.

[00:51:46] **Alex Murdaugh:** I understand. You gotta do what you gotta do. I promise.

[00:51:50] **Jeff Croft:** What was y'all's biggest arguments? Would, would what your biggest — the things that y'all would argue about the most, what would they be over?

[00:51:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean, we really didn't argue. But the basic, I'd say the really, the only thing that caused any friction between us is she was always wanting us to go. And I love her in-laws. I mean, they're wonderful people. I love her to death. She was always wanting to go there, stay there a little longer than me and the boys wanted to stay. That was really, and and it really, you know, she'd get really, she'd get ticked off.

[00:52:23] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah. You mean her family? You said her in-laws. You mean her family?

[00:52:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean her family. I mean, we really didn't argue about much. We didn't have much to argue about. I mean, I'm sure there was an occasional thing that came up that we argued about but I can't tell you what it is. I can't think of it.

[00:53:09] **Jeff Croft:** Take your time. Here. It's tissue.

[00:53:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm sorry. She was a wonderful girl, a wonderful wife, and she was a great mom. She, you know, she didn't work and, and, and she always said it was her job. She, she was privileged enough not to work.



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She was gonna make sure she took care of me and the boys and, I mean, she did everything. She did absolutely everything. I'm sorry.

[00:53:55] **Jeff Croft:** No, no. You have every right to do that.

[00:54:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm good. You go ahead.

[00:54:10] **Jeff Croft:** That afternoon, we're here, we're here in the time where you and you and Paul were riding.

[00:54:17] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:54:18] **Jeff Croft:** Did y'all, did y'all go up to around the kennels or anything? Did y'all do anything up toward the kennels?

[00:54:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm sure we did. You know, that's our main shop is, you know, right there. But, you know, we're normally in there for long times tinkering. And I will say that particular day, we did not tinker around there a bunch, you know?

[00:54:49] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. When y'all rode around the farm, what were y'all — were y'all in the truck or — ?

[00:54:58] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, we were actually in two trucks. We rode in one truck and then we rode in another truck something. One was the black one and one was the white one that was out there.

[00:55:11] **Liz Farrell:** As you can tell, there was a lot of vehicular action at Moselle and vehicular action tends to leave a lot of different tire marks. Next, SLED asks Alex if he knows what kind of weapons he has. This goes back to what we told you earlier about Creighton's exhaustive inventory of guns. Creighton not only was showing the jury that this is a family with a lot of expensive weapons that have scopes and lights and all sorts of gadgetry on them, they were also easily accessible and loaded and ready to go. They had a ton of ammo and they did a lot of shooting for fun. Just outside the family's



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gun room, in fact, SLED found at least five cartridges that the State says matched the cartridges from the 300 Blackout that killed Maggie. On Wednesday, we found out those five cartridges were from April 2021 when Paul and a friend shot that weapon, the one that would later kill Maggie, outside the family's gun room. Another thing: Creighton is showing how there were potentially guns all over the property the night of June 7th, 2021, including at the kennel. When Alex talks to SLED about the 300 Blackouts, he says he doesn't remember if Paul had one or not. The defense wants the jury to believe that the only 300 Blackout the family owned was confiscated by SLED that night. They also want the jury to believe that Paul's habit of leaving guns laying around and at friend's houses is what ultimately led to the real killer getting their hands on that gun and using it to kill Maggie.

[00:56:44] **Jeff Croft:** Did y'all keep any guns out at the kennels?

[00:56:47] **Alex Murdaugh:** We didn't keep guns out there but there were always guns out there.

[00:56:51] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:56:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know? I mean — and I'm gonna be honest with you, we were all a little bit bad about it, but Paul was the worst, you know? He was the worst.

[00:57:03] **Liz Farrell:** So, this is where I'd like to stop for the two gunmen theorists — people who have based their opinion that there were two gunmen simply on the fact that two different weapons were used that night. And one person two guns is hard to understand. But in Alex's own words, there were generally guns but down at the kennels, which again adds some mystery as to why he needed to go back to the house that night to retrieve a weapon.

[00:57:29] **Jeff Croft:** He, he would leave a gun out there?

[00:57:31] **Alex Murdaugh:** He would leave anything anywhere. And, you know, it was not unusual for there to be guns out there.



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[00:57:46] **Jeff Croft:** Did y'all take the —

[00:57:48] **Alex Murdaugh:** But like I can tell you that, I mean, they told me that the 300 Blackout was used in this. I — that 300 Blackout, you know, it was, it was not out there.

[00:58:01] **Liz Farrell:** Interesting, right? The man who just said that Paul left guns everywhere; who just said that there were generally guns at the kennels and they were scattered about; who said earlier that he had been out riding with Paul, looking for hogs, which Paul tended to hunt with a 300 Blackout; who said he can't remember being at the kennels that night at all and only, quote, maybe we were out there during the afternoon riding around but he wasn't sure; who said he was at the ball games that weekend with his family; and who we heard stayed at the Edisto beach house that weekend was suddenly certain that the weapon that killed his wife was not at the kennels that night.

[00:58:42] **Jeff Croft:** So, Paul, Paul said that one was stolen or, or lost and it was some time ago. Did — was that reported anywhere?

[00:58:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** It wasn't officially reported 'cause I wasn't totally convinced it was stolen.

[00:58:56] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[00:58:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know? As opposed to lost. But, I mean, you know, I mean, I — there was people told about it.

[00:59:05] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah.

[00:59:07] **Alex Murdaugh:** I noted. I told John Bedingfield about it. I know that I told some other local officers about it, you know, just in case it turned up in a drug thing.

[00:59:21] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.



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[00:59:21] **Alex Murdaugh:** But I didn't do an official report.

[00:59:24] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. The — and the, the two that you, you bought for the boys, that each one of 'em had one and the one Paul lost, is that the only ones that you ever, you have, you have?

[00:59:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, I'm gonna tell you this. I thought we replaced — I thought that Paul got another one replaced but Buster said we didn't. But I was certain that we did. But, I mean, my memory is — it's been gone for a substantial while, too.

[01:00:18] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[01:00:19] **Liz Farrell:** Remember there were three 300 Blackouts. Alex purchased two of them around Christmas 2016 — one for Buster and one for Paul. But Paul's went missing in 2017. There was another 300 Blackout purchase for Paul in 2018, which Maggie picked up. To keep me straight, let's do this. Buster's 300 Blackout is the 2016 gun. That one is black and had a thermal scope on it. It is now considered State's evidence. The one Paul used is the 2018 gun. And sometimes, he did use his brother's gun. The State said that the 2018 gun was the one that was used to kill Maggie. That one is now missing. On Tuesday, DNR officer and gun salesman and Murdaugh cousin John Bedingfield testified to the existence of the 2018 gun. But it turns out that Cousin John could not find the paperwork for that third 300 Blackout sale — the gun that killed Maggie. But investigators were able to trace the sale back to him through a canceled check of Maggie's, meaning Maggie appears to have bought the gun that was used to end her life. Alex's equivocation on this is either because he truly doesn't remember or he's not sure what records existed to show that the family did in fact have two 300 Blackouts.

[01:01:44] **Jeff Croft:** When you say you, you thought you replaced it after he lost it but Buster says you didn't.

[01:01:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe that we did.



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[01:01:51] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[01:01:52] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean, there'll be a record of that, won't it?

[01:01:54] **Jeff Croft:** Should be. Yes, sir.

[01:01:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** I know we replaced it but, you know, I wouldn't, yeah, I know we replaced it 'cause I wouldn't replace it again or maybe I just think that now. I don't know. But I'm certain we replaced it.

[01:02:17] **Liz Farrell:** Next, SLED asks Alex about C.B. Rowe, the groundskeeper he told Detective Rutland might be a suspect in this; the same groundskeeper that Curtis Eddie Smith had told investigators that he had heard was having an affair with Maggie and had gotten into a gunfight with Paul and Maggie the night of June 7th, 2021. Alex tells SLED that he hasn't yet fired C.B. Rowe but also that he doesn't think that C.B. Rowe is the suspect. SLED then tells Alex that they don't believe these shootings were random.

[01:02:50] **Jeff Croft:** And, you know, and, and I'm just — being in law enforcement for so long and, and working in these type cases, and I don't know the Islandton area but talking to Colleton County and seeing the property and how isolated it is, signing somebody that's just gonna randomly come up there that late at night that doesn't know the property, you know? That's — so, of course, I have to look within and then start working my way out.

[01:03:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, you feel like it's not random. You feel like it's intentional. I mean, planned.

[01:03:33] **Jeff Croft:** I, I don't know what to feel right now. And I, I, I hate to say that. I, I don't know what to feel right now.

[01:03:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, do y'all have any good clues?



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[01:03:48] **Liz Farrell:** SLED tells Alex that they're still waiting on the autopsy report, that they've taken a number of DNA swabs, collected a number of cartridges and shells and weapons from Moselle, and interviewed about a hundred people so far. Alex thanked them for all the work they were doing. They get a DNA swab from him in that car and then they ask if he knows Paul's passcode. Now, we found out in testimony on Tuesday, it took until March, 2022 for investigators to access Paul's phone. They used the latest technology to crack it but ultimately, a member of the Secret Service decided to try something. He tried Paul's birthdate and it worked. But here's Alex on the passcode and how super, super secret it was.

[01:04:32] **Jeff Croft:** And that's why, you know, who, who Paul was with.

[01:04:36] **Alex Murdaugh:** I want to tell you one thing while I'm thinking about it.

[01:04:38] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah.

[01:04:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** Paul was really an incredibly intuitive little dude. And, I mean, he was like a little detective and, I mean, Paul would, you know, he — you know what I'm trying to say?

[01:04:58] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah. Which leads me to, let's go back to Paul right quick while we're on him. So, we have his phone. Do you know his passcode?

[01:05:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't and I'm gonna tell you this right now. There's a few people I can point you to.

[01:05:16] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah.

[01:05:16] **Alex Murdaugh:** But I can tell you that he was super, super, super secretive with that, I mean, cell phone. I asked his brother if he knew it. Did, did the ones that they got the other day didn't —

[01:05:36] **Jeff Croft:** Did y'all get any the other day?



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[01:05:38] **David Owen:** Not for Paul's phone, no.

[01:05:40] **Jeff Croft:** Okay. I know they got, I know they got Maggie's code.

[01:05:43] **Alex Murdaugh:** I know Maggie's, yeah.

[01:05:44] **David Owen:** And, and, and it works or it worked.

[01:05:47] **Jeff Croft:** Yeah.

[01:05:49] **David Owen:** I, I've not gotten it but there's a lot of people out moving parts that, you know, may have gotten that information, so we'll follow up on it. If you, you believe somebody gave us a code for Paul's — possible code for Paul's?

[01:06:03] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, maybe it was Maggie's. I don't.

[01:06:07] **David Owen:** Okay.

[01:06:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** But I'll find out. I'll, I will try to find out Paul's code.

[01:06:11] **Jeff Croft:** Okay.

[01:06:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** But it will surprise me greatly if somebody knows it.

[01:06:21] **Liz Farrell:** Alex tells him again about his nap and when he last saw Maggie and Paul.

[01:06:26] **Jeff Croft:** When, when y'all, when you and Paul got back to the house, Miss Maggie's there and y'all eat supper, which has been prepared. And you say, you said you laid down and, and took a little nap. And when you got up, Maggie and Paul was gone. Or did they leave when you laid down?

[01:06:46] **Alex Murdaugh:** I, I, I believe that — I, I'm not, I'm not sure.



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[01:06:57] **Jeff Croft:** But they weren't there when you woke up around the nine o'clock mark or so when, when you made the call to Maggie to, to let her know you was going to your — ?

[01:07:05] **Alex Murdaugh:** No. Nobody was in that house when I, when I left.

[01:07:15] **Jeff Croft:** So, I'm just trying to narrow that the, the last time that Paul — and you saw Paul and Maggie when y'all were eating supper.

[01:07:26] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[01:07:27] **Liz Farrell:** SLED then asks Alex how he tried to turn Paul's body, whether it was away from the kennels, which Alex said it was. SLED also asks if Paul and Maggie were left or right-handed and where they usually stored their phones. Alex jokes that Paul stored his phone in his hand but then elaborated that he also kept it in his pocket and truck. For the question about Maggie, Alex pauses and doesn't answer. The agent fills in the blank for him and says "Anywhere she could?" Alex says, "Yes, sir," then immediately asks this next question.

[01:08:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** Did y'all get fingerprints on her phone?

[01:08:05] **Jeff Croft:** I haven't gotten that back yet.

[01:08:09] **Liz Farrell:** Finally, the June 10th, 2021 interview contains a moment that has caused quite a reaction from people. Some people hear Alex say one thing and other people hear him say another thing.

[01:08:22] **Jeff Croft:** And then you definitely saw a traumatic picture and, and I know it's not hard or not easy. I know it's hard. And sitting here talking today is, is tough.

[01:08:43] **Alex Murdaugh:** It is just so bad. I did him so bad.



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[01:08:46] **Liz Farrell:** This is where Creighton stopped the recording and asked SLED Agent Jeff Croft, who was present during this interview with Alex that day, what he heard.

[01:08:55] **Creighton Waters:** When you asked the defendant about the traumatic picture that he saw Paul and Maggie, what did he say?

[01:09:02] **Jeff Croft:** It is just so bad. I did him so bad.

[01:09:04] **Creighton Waters:** I did him so bad.

[01:09:06] **Jeff Croft:** Yes, sir.

[01:09:07] **Liz Farrell:** The debate over whether Alex says "I" or "they" raged on social media Monday evening. One talking head opined that Alex said "they" and that the confusion might be coming from his Southern accent. On Tuesday, Jim Griffin cross-examined special agent Croft, a man who grew up in the same area Alex did and has a similar, if not same Southern accent.

[01:09:30] **Jim Griffin:** And you testified that Alex said on the video captured by audio that "It was so bad. I did him so bad." That's what you testified to yesterday?

[01:09:45] **Jeff Croft:** Yes, sir. That is what I testified to.

[01:09:49] **Jim Griffin:** Now, are you 100% confident that Alex said "I did him so bad" rather than "they did him so bad?"

[01:09:58] **Jeff Croft:** I am 100% confident in what I heard and I interpreted him as saying.

[01:10:04] **Liz Farrell:** Jim asks him why no one followed up on what some might construe to be an unintentional confession. A number of people have told us that at this point in the investigation, SLED agents were trying to keep Alex talking and it would've been a bad idea for them to challenge Alex on



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that statement at that point in time. Jim continued to press Agent Croft on this and in an August 11th, 2021 interview, SLED agents didn't follow up on that alleged confession from Alex either. He mentioned to Agent Croft that after hearing Alex say this, they then moved on to have a seemingly casual conversation about funeral arrangements that day on June 10th. Jim asked Agent Croft whether he had prepared for his cross-examination today by reviewing the court transcript. Croft said "no." Here, again, the defense loses their narrative about SLED being aggressive and targeting Alex. Next, Jim replays the clip in real time and asks Croft whether he hears it their way.

[01:11:02] **Jim Griffin:** Did you hear now "they" or "I?"

[01:11:05] **Jeff Croft:** I will still testify that my hearing, I hear "I."

[01:11:10] **Liz Farrell:** Then, Jim slows the tape down in one of the creepiest moments of this murder trial.

[01:11:17] **Jim Griffin:** Your Honor, we'd like to play it again at one-third speed to slow it down at — it's just the same. Thank you, Your Honor. One-third speed.

[01:11:28] **Creighton Waters:** — the foundation late for who's manipulating it, how it's being manipulated. I think obviously we have it in real time but there would have to be some additional foundation.

[01:11:44] **Jim Griffin:** One-third speed. Did you hear "they" then?

[01:12:21] **Jeff Croft:** No, sir. I did not.

[01:12:23] **Jim Griffin:** Okay.

[01:12:25] **Mandy Matney:** So, like we said, a lot has happened and a lot is happening. On Wednesday as we were wrapping up this episode, SLED's cell phone expert testified. We will unpack a lot of those details in a later episode. But there were a few big revelations I wanna mention again. The first is, as we noted before, Alex appears to have deleted his call log from June 4th, 2021



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through 10:27 PM June 7th, 2021, the night of the murders. The second is that a video on Paul's phone sent to his friend Rogan Gibson places Alex at the kennels at 8:44 PM that night. This obviously contradicts Alex's alibi. The defense appears to have landed some points on cross-examination of this witness regarding the movement of Alex and Maggie's phone that night. Like I said, we have a lot to unpack there and wanna look at all of the data further before we tell you about that. But we can already see that this is information that the two gunmen theorists are happy to hear. Later that afternoon, Paul's best friend, Rogan Gibson, who has known the Murdaughs his entire life and considered them a second family, testified that it was Alex's voice he heard in the background during the four-minute phone call with Paul down at the kennels. He also testified that he was not aware of the replacement of the 300 Blackout that Paul got in 2018; that even though the guns were left around Moselle unsecured, he doesn't recall of ever hearing of anything getting stolen; and that Paul was never seriously threatened by anyone in connection to the boat crash.

[01:14:18] Then, Paul's close friend Will Loving delivered several bombshells. The first is that there were absolutely two 300 Blackouts and he had not heard that one was missing as the defense maintains before the murders. He testified that in April 2021, he and Paul went to Ace Hardware and bought a scope to put on Paul's 300 Blackout and that they stood outside of the Murdaugh's gun room at Moselle to shoot it. This is exactly where SLED agents found those spent cartridges that matched the ones from the gun that killed Maggie. Under cross-exam, though, Will said that he did not use or see Paul's 300 Blackout after that. On redirect, the State again played a Snapchat video of Alex and Paul driving around Moselle the night he was murdered. Will Loving said it was from around 7:00 PM. Creighton hopped on the opportunity and asked him about the clothes Alex was wearing that night. He said "Long sleeve and a shirt and those particular shoes?" Will said, "Yes, sir," meaning on the evening of the murders, Alex was wearing different clothes from what he had on when the first deputy arrived on the scene. We expect the defense will have a "Who cares?" response to this and we expect the prosecution will visit this original Alex outfit again. But we don't know where this will land with the jury because of right now, it doesn't appear that anyone asked Alex about whether or not he had changed his clothes that night.



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[01:15:57] Lastly, Wednesday ended with the biggest Creighton energy we have seen yet. In an effort to show that in May 2021, the Murdaughs were a happy and loving family with no murderous members, Jim Griffin played a video from Alex's birthday party. Chris Wilson was at that party and Creighton seized on that. In redirect, he replayed the video and here's what happened.

[01:16:25] **Creighton Waters:** Before you do that, go back to the to your video, please. Can y'all turn that screen around for me, please? Who's that guy in the green shirt? Do you know?

[01:16:42] **Will Loving:** That's Chris Wilson.

[01:16:43] **Creighton Waters:** Do you know Chris Wilson's relationship to Alex Wilson or Alex Murdaugh?

[01:16:48] **Will Loving:** Yeah, I think they're best friends.

[01:16:49] **Creighton Waters:** Best friends. Best friends should do each other right, isn't that correct?

[01:16:57] **Mandy Matney:** And then, he did this.

[01:16:59] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about Alex's finances?

[01:17:03] **Will Loving:** No, I did not.

[01:17:05] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about his law practice?

[01:17:08] **Will Loving:** No, I did not.

[01:17:10] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about where he gets his money?

[01:17:16] **Will Loving:** No, I did not.



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[01:17:17] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about where he was spending his money?

[01:17:20] **Will Loving:** No, I did not.

[01:17:21] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about what his bank account balances were?

[01:17:25] **Will Loving:** No, sir. I did not.

[01:17:26] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about the debt that he was carrying? Do you know anything about that?

[01:17:30] **Will Loving:** No, sir.

[01:17:31] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know the specific things that were going on in the boat case the week that Paul and Maggie were murdered?

[01:17:38] **Will Loving:** No, sir.

[01:17:39] **Creighton Waters:** Do you know anything about civil discovery and, and how it can expose financial information?

[01:17:44] **Will Loving:** No, sir.

[01:17:45] **Creighton Waters:** Do you know anything at all about him being confronted on June 7th, 2021, about — did you know anything about him being confronted on the morning of June 7th, 2021, about \$792,000 of missing fees from his law firm?

[01:18:06] **Jim Griffin:** Objection, Your Honor. Totally improper.

[01:18:09] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Objection's overruled.



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[01:18:10] **Creighton Waters:** Did you know anything about that?

[01:18:12] **Will Loving:** No, I did not.

[01:18:13] **Creighton Waters:** Do you know any of the facts of those things that I just asked you about?

[01:18:18] **Will Loving:** No, sir.

[01:18:19] **Mandy Matney:** Creighton took a chance, knowing that Jim would be there with a hot and fast objection, which Judge Newman overruled. And it looks like he was able to get Alex's financial crimes admitted on the record — something Dick and Jim fought hard against.

[01:18:39] And that is it for this week. We have a long way to go and a long list of witnesses to hear from, so it's hard to know where this trial might end up. But we will be there for every step of the way. Stay tuned and stay in the sunlight.

[01:19:24] **Outro:** The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, produced by my husband, David Moses. And Liz Farrell is our executive editor. From Luna Shark Productions.