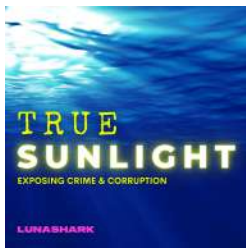


## EPISODE 32: FOIA Around And Find Out... New Videos Shed Light On Murdaugh Murders

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### **Mandy Matney** 00:02

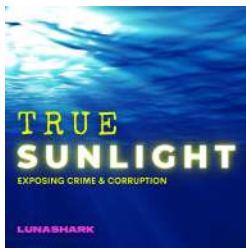
I don't know if Team Murdaugh really wants us looking closer at the murder investigation, but since they now are demanding a new trial we FOIA'd around and found out. After examining exclusive documents and videos from the early days of SLED's case, we are wondering if there's more to what happened after Maggie and Paul were killed. My name is Mandy Matney. This is *True Sunlight*, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. True Sunlight is a LunaShark production written with journalist Liz Farrell. Happy New Year from all of us at LunaShark. It is wild to me that this is the third year we get the privilege to say that to y'all. It is truly an honor every week I get behind a microphone to tell y'all about stories that matter. And I hope that I'm starting to sound like a broken record by saying, "Thank you," because I'll never take this for granted. And I want you to know that. I have been especially grateful for our supporters in the past week, as all the hate and vitriol we have seen in the past two years came to an ugly peak. And finally, everything became clear as we uncovered the two main culprits behind an online hate campaign targeting myself, Liz, David, Sandy Smith, our team, our friends, our supporters and so many others. I don't want to get into the details. The details are on our personal Instagram accounts if you want to know more about what's going on there. But we want to say that we know who it is and accountability will come. We are working on that. I feel like the final cloud has lifted after a very dark period of time in my life and we can finally feel safe enough to do our jobs again. We think, well, we hope that y'all will start to see positive changes in our work now that we close that dark chapter. Also, I'm taking a hiatus from Twitter as I noticed the hate campaign lived largely there and on Reddit and it was severely damaging to my mental health to even log in. So my new year's goal is to stay off Twitter as much as possible and spend more time in safer places like LunaShark Discord, Threads and Instagram. So boy, brighter days are ahead starting with this episode. In November, the Murdaugh murders was the subject of an episode of *Dateline* and before the episode even ran, when just the promos were airing, our group chat at LunaShark was on fire. Why? Because in the teaser, we saw that



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*Dateline* had gotten recordings of SLED's interviews with Randy, John Marvin and Buster Murdaugh which had never been aired before. We didn't know they existed nor did we think that they would be available for FOIA. So naturally our reporter, Beth Braden got right on that and FOIA'd for them. In the meantime, *Dateline* actually ended up running very little of that footage. Right before the new year our FOIA came in. And just as we suspected, there was a lot more to this story. There always is. These videos are important because as much as the bad guys want us to move on from this investigation there are a lot of unanswered questions about what happened in the immediate hours following Maggie and Paul's murders. We know who murdered Maggie and Paul, but do we know exactly what Solicitor Duffy Stone's role was in the investigation before he recused himself? Do we know for a fact that no one helped cover up the murder? As Team Murdaugh funds the expensive quest to get Alex Murdaugh a new trial I'm wondering if they actually want the eyes of the world on this investigation again because, like we said, there are a lot of questions. Like what exactly happened during the investigation that made SLED reopen Stephen Smith's case? How did that come up? As we brace for the worst case scenario, meaning another Murdaugh trial because Alex Murdaugh still will be running the justice system, I would imagine Dick and Jim will rely heavily on the sloppy investigation defense, which was pretty much their best argument in round one. But was the investigation intentionally sloppy because some people made it that way? The videos also provided unmatched insight into the Murdaugh's mysterious world and who these people are. In the same way that the jailhouse phone calls gave us a deeper understanding of the players involved and the games that Alex plays with them. In the videos, naturally, the family looks beleaguered. They weren't just mourning Maggie and Paul. They were also mourning the impending death of their patriarch Randolph Murdaugh III, who would die mere hours after the three men sat with SLED separately. It was June 10th, just three days after Maggie and Paul were murdered and all three were dressed neatly and though they each broke down in tears several times, they seemed like we said, coached, or at least aware that there was someone to protect in this. Before we get into it, we want to point out a few things to pay



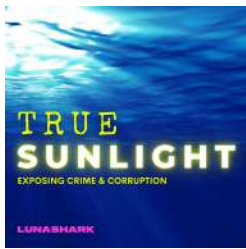
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attention to throughout. There was a lot of footage hours, so we tried to limit it to the most critical moments for the public feed. And we will be posting the full videos and access to all the reports that we received in the FOIA request to the LunaShark Premium feed on January 4th For Soak Up the Sun Members only and we will publish for all members later on. LunaShark Premium Members will also hear an extended version of this episode. We are posting this content only to Premium because we want to continue to grow LunaShark because we believe in the future of journalism and the more members who can join, the more journalists we can hire to dig into new cases around the country where crime meets corruption. This year, we have exciting plans for Premium featuring fresh and exclusive content and access to our growing live events schedule. Essentially, LunaShark Premium is going to be the place this year for all things truth, justice and sunlight and this full video release is just the beginning.

**Liz Farrell** 07:02

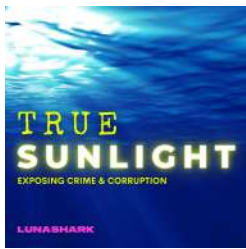
Some of what we left out includes the full scope of examples in which SLED was not just being careful with the family, meaning being respectful of their losses, but they were being deferential. At one point in his interview, John Marvin even had to tell the SLED agent, "Look, I don't need the gentle touch. Go ahead and ask me whatever you want." Now that's also a common strategy with the Murdaugh family. Give the appearance of being an open book, of being cooperative, of being understanding that these people have a job to do while in the meantime there are strings being pulled in the background and considerations being paid every step of the way. Another thing we learned in these videos is just how privileged and chaotic Paul and Buster's lives were. They traveled across the state extensively following college sports and hanging out with friends. Staying in the upstate, staying at the beach, staying at Moselle, staying at the apartments that each young man maintained in Columbia. They also each had at least two vehicles that they considered theirs. And they didn't really work. There was one point when the SLED agent asked Buster about his job at Wild Wing and Buster was like, "I don't know. I made calls and then I had to go to Party City. And then this happened." Meaning he'd only worked one day before the murders. The



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SLED agent was like, “Oh, did you work before that?” And Buster who had graduated college three years earlier with no awareness was like, “No.” During the interviews, we also got a closer look at just how present 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffy Stone’s team was in the investigation. Remember, Duffy is a prosecutor. His investigators are supposed to be prepping cases for prosecution not to be conducting boots on the ground investigations into murders. This is the only case where it seems that Duffy and his entire investigation team were on the scene for multiple days. In one video we can even see his investigator Dylan Hightower exit one of the vehicles next to where Buster was being interviewed. At the end of Buster’s interview, he gets out of the car and Alex is right there. And so is Jojo Woodward, who was another one of Duffy’s goon squad members. Another thing to note is that Buster was the only person to have a lawyer present during his interview. I think you’ll understand why by the end of this episode. Who was his lawyer? Well, that was Danny Henderson, the PMPED partner who had sat in the back of the vehicle when SLED was interviewing Alex on the night of the murders and who Mark Tinsley had said Alex feared the most when it came to complying with the subpoena for his financial records and the boat crash case. Danny, as you’ll see, had much more input into Buster’s interview than he did Alex’s. Another thing we noticed is that Buster’s videos seem to be much more redacted than Randy’s and John Marvin’s in terms of the gaps of silence in which his responses about friend’s names and locations were muted. This could be because different people did the redactions, but we couldn’t help but wonder if it was more in line with what seems like a consistent response to Buster, which has been to treat him, a grown man, like he’s a child. Or they might have just gone to greater lengths to protect the information. And lastly, beyond the deference paid to the family, the repeated apologies for asking basic investigatory questions, the repeated times SLED agents assured the family that they were checking out other leads, there were multiple examples where John Marvin and Randy seem to be setting the scene for future accusations of a sloppy investigation by SLED and the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office. It’s almost like they knew then that Alex would for sure one day be standing accused of killing his wife and son. So the interviews were with Randy, John Marvin and Buster but in each one there was



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someone else present and that was the Murdaugh family name. Here is SLED Agent Charles Ghent interviewing Buster:

### **SLED Agent Charles Ghent 10:55**

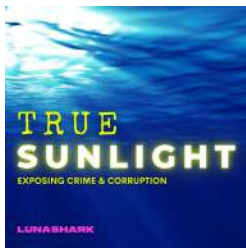
*I'm gonna have to ask a lot of questions and you got, you've got your attorney here with you, and I'm sure he'll pipe up if ever he needs to, I'll expect him to. But for you, what I want you to understand is I mean, your family is, in some ways, no different than mine or different from Katie's. We have our good, we have our bad. What makes your family maybe a little bit different is that your family is very well known, and other things associated with that. And because of that, people talk, people put rumors out there, people make things up if they don't have anything to talk about.*

### **Liz Farrell 11:30**

It's kind of surprising to say this, but there was no elephant in the room. The family status was not only acknowledged by SLED, the family was aware of it too. And they used it when they could but in the most polite of ways. Now, most families who were in this situation where a loved one, nevermind two loved ones, have been murdered - they want answers. They want investigators to keep them in the loop as much as possible. They want assurances that investigators are working the case to the fullest extent. But that's not the vibe here. The vibe is, keep us in the loop so we know where your heads are at and maybe we'll keep you in the loop about what we're finding. Here's Danny Henderson toward the end of Buster's interview:

### **Danny Henderson 12:15**

*And we understand y'all got an investigation to do. We're not trying to impede that or asking you give us any special favor. Any...anything y'all could share, you don't...and share just with the family, or share just with Alex. You don't have to do it to a crowd.*



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### **SLED Agent Charles Ghent 12:31**

*And we'll get into that, but I can tell you that we have been working nonstop on this. We are considering every single possibility, every aspect of it. As these things are coming up, we're sending people to track down leads and run down and just like every investigation, you get something a lot of times follow up on it doesn't necessarily pan out to be something but it doesn't mean we don't look into it.*

### **Danny Henderson 12:55**

*We jumped off a bridge for two hours, Tuesday night. You have all that?*

### **SLED Agent Charles Ghent 13:04**

*And I have seen some stuff and I've seen stuff that was attributed to law enforcement that is absolutely false. It is absolutely speculation. Absolutely.*

### **Danny Henderson 13:12**

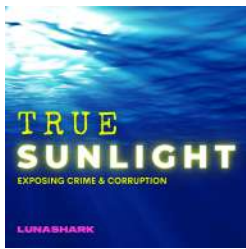
*We're grateful for y'all being upfront with Alex about that.*

### **Liz Farrell 13:17**

*Jumped off a bridge. That is quite the expression. Okay, what happened the night before these interviews? Well, a local news agency, citing unnamed law enforcement sources, said that Alex Murdaugh was considered a person of interest in the murders. Additionally, they posted a story saying there were two different weapons used in the murders. I should note though, they had also published an unnamed source as saying that Alex had an ironclad alibi. Ahhh memories.*

### **SLED Agent Charles Ghent 13:47**

*I can't prevent it either if somebody makes a comment. Somebody who doesn't have the same...*



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### **Danny Henderson** 13:54

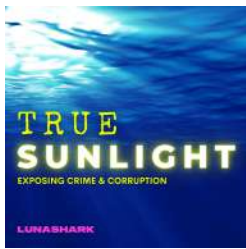
*The other...the other comment that's been extremely troubling and I will just tell you that we've talked about it and they were concerned about it, there was a statement, from either SLED or the Sheriff's...I apologize. I'm not being coy, I don't remember which, that there was no reason for the public to be concerned.*

### **Liz Farrell** 14:13

Team Murdaugh really did not like that the Colleton County Sheriff's Office had told the *Post and Courier* that there was no danger to the public. The SLED agent told Danny that it was a poor choice of words. But again, from the moment Alex engaged law enforcement the night of the murders, he was telling them that Paul and Maggie were targeted for something related to the boat crash victims. Targeted. That means there's no danger to the public. So I'm really sick of law enforcement not making that point, by the way. That info came from Alex and it was their responsibility to pass it on to the public so that they wouldn't worry about their own safety. You'll also remember during the trial, Alex's team used the quote, "no danger to the public," remark as proof that SLED had tunnel vision early on, and had zeroed in on Alex Murdaugh and only Alex Murdaugh as the suspect and considered no one else. Well, you'll see a whole lot of proof today that that wasn't at all the case. John Marvin also tried his hand at getting more information from SLED. Here he is talking to SLED agent Ryan Kelly:

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 15:22

*Yeah, and I respect that part. I understand you can't give but so much. But just what you just said is, you know, when you said, you know, we've already met with some of the folks from the boat. That's, you know, that's some of the questions that are in our minds. I mean, of course, we know you do a good job, and we know you're doing it right. But hearing you say that, you know, we've we've we've made...that comment is, it's reassuring.*



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**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 15:44**

*Yes. And so, I mean, just like, like you said, there is the situation with a hit-and-run, there's the situation with the boat.*

**Liz Farrell 15:50**

A hit and run? Are they referring to..? Don't worry, we'll get to that.

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 15:57**

*Unfortunately, there are a couple instances where, where Paul has, you know, kind of been involved in circumstances, whether he's responsible or not, whatever, that's not for us to decide. But there's a lot of strings for us to pull on, right. And sometimes that takes time.*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 16:19**

*I know y'all are gonna do your best and just as much as y'all can do to help us heal, I guess is the way to move through this...*

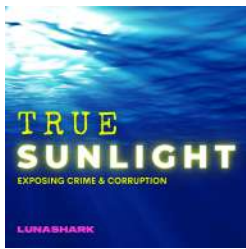
**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 16:25**

*My heart breaks for Mr. Alex and for the rest of the family.*

**Liz Farrell 16:31**

Mind you, the family wanted SLED to give them information. But as you'll see in a bit, the family really has no information to give to SLED, it was a constant back and forth. They would point law enforcement away from them, but not toward any one person specifically, at least not in any meaningful way. Ultimately, the family's main issue seemed to be with public relations and how they were being viewed by the public. Here's Randy giving us some real insight into how they see themselves and what a threat social media was to them. They wanted to get ahead of more rumors.





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### **Randy Murdaugh** 17:08

*You know, and if you read the media, you would think that our family has a bunch of enemies. You know, our family has done well. But it's because of the respect that you earn. It's not because of some weapon you wield or you've got a sword or sword of justice. You do a good job and you treat people with respect. And it's these people that hide behind a computer screen. You know, it's the minority voice.*

### **Mandy Matney** 17:37

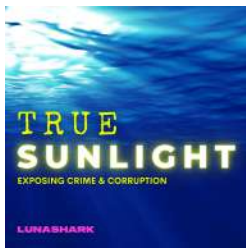
Oh, Randy, your family was in charge of the Solicitor's Office for 100 years and you honestly think y'all have no enemies? Come on, man. So, in John Marvin's interview Agent Kelly seeks to assure him that SLED will help the family get their answers as soon as possible.

### **Ryan Kelly** 17:58

*At this point, every little bit will help. You know, we can't, ugh I wish it was like it is on television, you can just you know, take a picture and have it examined and boom, you get it solved in a nice little 44-minute episode. But if someone out...this person's hiding in plain sight, you know. They're driving around, they're walking around right now. Probably paying close attention to this and anything we can do to help identify that person would be helpful.*

### **Mandy Matney** 18:30

And there they were paying close attention indeed. Right outside the vehicle Buster was sitting in was none other than Alex Murdaugh waiting to do a little meet and greet with Buster's SLED agent. Here he is greeting SLED Agent Katie McAllister. She's the agent who allowed John Marvin and at least one PMPED partner to accompany her on her search of the house at Moselle. Like that was totally normal.



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### **SLED Agent Katie McAllister 19:01**

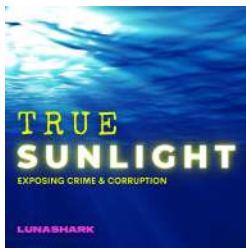
That is under the circumstances. Yes, sir. That's me. The red hair gives me away. That's something y'all look for in this family.

### **Alex Murdaugh 19:01**

That's right. That's right.

### **Liz Farrell 19:11**

And Dick Harpootlian wanted us to believe that these deferential tiptoeing agents were out to get Alex when it was more like they were meeting a celebrity for the first time. So one of the biggest bombshells to come out of these interview tapes is something that has been whispered about for a long time. How did John Marvin get to Moselle? When did he go and why was Yemassee Police Chief Greg Alexander involved? A reminder as to who Greg Alexander is. Remember when both Alex and John Marvin made a point to let the jury know that their family was close personal friends with Greg? Remember how greasy that felt? How pointed? As if they were talking to one person in particular even? In 2010 Greg Alexander, then a captain with the police department, was accused of stealing \$10,000 and \$748 from the agency's evidence safe in two separate incidents. He was one of two employees who have had access to that safe. Though he denied taking money he failed a polygraph administered to him by SLED. He was later charged with one count of misconduct in office and two counts of breach of trust by the Attorney General's Office. And his trial was held in Hampton County where Alex and his father apparently sat behind Greg for support. That's right Alex and Randolph, two badge carrying members of Duffy Stone's 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office, whose family had decided who would and wouldn't be prosecuted in five counties for nearly a century. They sat in a 14 Circuit courtroom to support a man being prosecuted. The Hampton County jury found Greg not guilty of two of the charges and the AG's office dismissed the third charge. Greg was then reinstated by the police agency. He then became chief. Shortly after the murders he received a \$5,000 payment from Alex that Greg said was a loan to his father. He was just the pass through guy. Greg insists



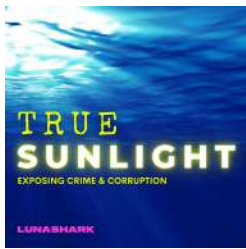
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there was nothing improper going on there. Then he ran for sheriff of Hampton County, but lost. Among his donors were several members of PMPED. Speaking of PMPED you might also remember Greg Alexander's name from Nathan Tuten's testimony during the trial when he told the court that as a runner for PMPED from 2019 to 2022, he would frequently cash checks for Alex and bring the cash back to Alex's office where sometimes he'd encounter Corey Fleming, Alex's best co-conspirator and Greg Alexander. When Jim Griffin cross examined Nathan he, in the words of *The Daily Beast* which covered this very aspect of the trial, quote, "waited no time to shut down any notion that the money was going to Greg." Greg wasn't on trial. So I'm not sure why Jim cared so much about that. It's worth noting that the \$5,000 loan isn't the only loan that Greg has taken out in the last few years. According to record searches. Greg Alexander also appears to have taken out two Kubota loans after the murders. Kubota is a brand of farm equipment like the kind John Marvin carries at his equipment rental shop, for instance. Okay, back to the videos. During his interview with SLED John Marvin described the very strange game of musical cars he played the night of the murders. We'll have him explain it for us before we break it down:

### **John Marvin Murdaugh 22:24**

*So Monday morning, it gets a little bit...so my brother Randy calls me. My dad has a doctor's appointment in Savannah, and long story...he's been battling all kinds of issues, cancers and just got out of the hospital on Sunday. But he has an appointment, a follow-up appointment Monday. And it turns out it's earlier than we anticipated and I was scheduled to drive him that afternoon. Randy calls me and says, "Meet me in Ridgeland. I'm going to have Daddy and we can swap cars and you take him on to Savannah." So we did that. We met at Palmetto Co-Op in Ridgeland and I drove him to his Savannah doctor's appointment where the doctor checks him out and says, "Man, we gotta get you in the hospital." So we spent all afternoon getting him checked into the hospital. As the evening...later in the evening, I probably left Savannah 5, probably 5'ish, in my mom's car, because my brother had given me my mom's car with my dad. My brother took my truck back to my parents house right here at Almeda. So I leave*



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*there, I call Paul. And I said, "Man, you know, you going back to Hampton tonight?" He said, "Yes." I said, "If you can wait, take my mom's car to Alameda, drop it off, get my truck, bring my truck in in the morning. And then you know, I'll drive your truck to work and we'll be back in our own vehicles."*

**SLED Agent 23:49**

*Okay. And did that happen?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 23:50**

*Yes. Well, well, so all that transpired until not swapping cars back the following morning. So, so he took my mom's car dropped it at Alameda, Alameda is where my parents live. Okay. Yeah. Got my truck drove it to, presumably drove it to Moselle.*

**SLED Agent 24:12**

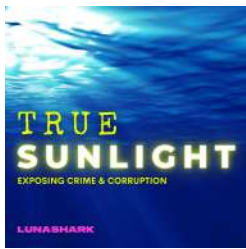
*Okay. And your truck was at Moselle?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 24:13**

*My truck was at Moselle and his truck is at my house when I got the call that night from Alex. Of course then the only car that...I don't have my truck so I get in Paul's truck and start driving it back to meet Alex.*

**Liz Farrell 24:26**

So this is the very first time we're hearing that Paul went to Alameda before he went to Moselle the night he was killed. There is nothing in SLED's timeline to suggest that Paul did this though, meaning there's nothing in the records that shows Paul picking up John Marvin's truck at Alameda that night, but the truck was at Moselle. And there was also no indication that Miss Libby's car was at Moselle, as far as we could tell. During the trial, John Marvin was asked to explain how Paul's truck ended up on the side of the road. Now, this was his beater truck. It was a 2008 Ford F250 Diesel that he used when his regular truck was in the shop, which his was at the time of the murders:



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**Creighton Waters 25:08**

*Did the farm truck break down?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 25:10**

*It did.*

**Creighton Waters 25:11**

*So how did you end up getting to Moselle?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 25:12**

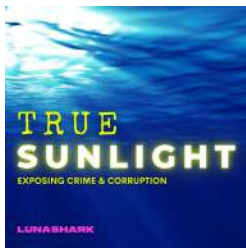
*Well, so let me back up, so to the route from my house down in Okatie Beaufort takes me to Coosawhatchie and I get on 95 to go to Yemassee, getting off and coming up that way. Well, another close family friend, his name is Greg Alexander, he is the chief of police in Yemassee, I reached out to him and I just say, "Greg...", you know, I gave him, I said something bad had happened. Again, I don't know when I was told about the sheets, but I told him I said, "Listen, something bad's happened. We got to get up there. And when I get to Yemassee can you please help make sure I get to Moselle because this truck sputtering," and I knew it wasn't good. And he met me at Yemassee. And he, you know, he fell in behind me and we started driving until he finally passed me in Varnville.*

**Liz Farrell 26:03**

Now let's hear from David who is going to read to you from one of the incident reports in the murders investigation. This is a supplemental narrative from a Colleton County Sheriff's Office. A deputy named William Polk:

**DAVID MOSES 26:15**

*On June 8, 2021, I, Lieutenant Polk along with Lieutenant Crosby located one of the victim's vehicles, Paul Murdaugh. 2008 Ford F250. White over tan bearing license plate IZF 269 in front of 4736 Highway 63 Hampton County unoccupied. The vehicle was facing in the direction toward Walterboro, South Carolina.*

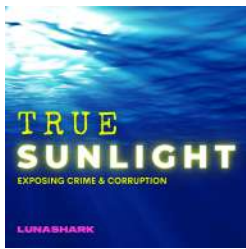


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**Liz Farrell** 26:43

LunaShark journalist Beth Braden mapped out all of this for us so that we could try and understand all the routes. And good news for Premium Members, this map is another feature that's available for you. So let's talk about why getting this straight was important. But first, I want to note that John Marvin Murdaugh has not been charged with anything and there have been no formal accusations made about his actions on the night of the murders. But there have been questions since the very beginning. In fact, both Randy and Buster were asked about the truck John Marvin was driving that night. Why? Well, the whole thing is very confusing. Again, there's no evidence of Paul going to Almeda that night and yet, John Marvin's truck was at Moselle. This is not something that was brought up at trial. By the way, at no point did the prosecution point out that there was any discrepancies here. We're just saying we don't see where in the testimony or in the documents we've received from our FOIA, which included the full timeline of events for the evening, which plotted out every move Paul seemed to make that night, it says that Paul went to Almeda. Another reason there have been questions could be because there are three suggested routes to Moselle from John Marvin's house and Okatie. John Martin didn't take any of them. Instead, he opted for a route that did not significantly lengthen his trip, but it did take him past Almeda. We know where Paul's truck was found broken down and that's between Almeda, where Alex's parents lived, and Moselle and it was pointing towards Waltherboro. Which means it was traveling northeast. To get to Moselle, John Marvin would have taken a left off of that highway had he not broken down. Now, John Marvin lives southeast of Moselle and would have been traveling northwest to get there, meaning the fastest most direct route does not pass by Almeda. And in fact, he has to travel more westward to get there. So why did John Marvin take the Almeda route? That's the big question. Also, can we talk about how adorable it is? That John Marvin wants us to believe that he called the chief of police for an escort but that the chief of police drove behind him. Come on now. Alex was driving all over the 14th with two solicitors' badges and a set of blue lights on his car for no official on the books reason, but sure, Chief Alexander drove behind you to escort you to the murders. Now, what does all of this mean? We do not



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know. It could mean nothing. But it explains the questions we kept hearing behind the scenes over the past few years. Questions that included the notion that John Marvin or Greg Alexander could be in some sort of trouble. But this is all we know. It's merely an inconsistency that we're obligated to note. Another inconsistency we need to note. Here's a line from Colleton County detective Laura Rutland's report from Tuesday, June 8, 2021. The day after the murders:

### **DAVID MOSES** 29:39

*I reviewed the body worn cameras of the first responding deputies and listen to Alex's 911 calls in great depth. I also drove back out to 4147 Moselle Road to get a look at the scene in daylight. When I arrived there was a News 4 van parked out front recording. When I drove up to the driveway, I observed a company cleaning the shed, so I departed the area after seeing no more law enforcement were at the scene.*

### **Liz Farrell** 30:06

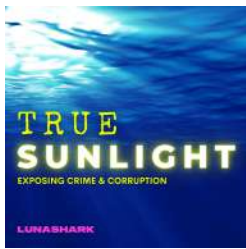
This seems to contradict what John Marvin and PMPED partner, Mark Ball testified to during the murder trial about how SLED had egregiously left them to clean up the mess of the murders. Or at least provides a fuller picture of what is true. The truth was the family, as it goes in cases like this, was given information about crime scene cleaning companies. According to Rutland's case file it looks like not 24-hours after the murders the family had hired someone to do that.

### **Mandy Matney** 30:34

Okay, let's talk about what the family had to say about Alex because, again, it appears that they were very consciously trying to point SLED away from Alex. Which makes sense given the media coverage from the night before. However, knowing what we know about Alex, their renditions of him did not age well. Here is our favorite characterization of Alex from John Marvin:

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 31:03

*He's rock solid.*



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**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 31:06**

*And now let me ask you, I don't know him, but anytime you have someone who's...obviously something happened on this property. You know, and it's has, has Alex behavior the last couple of months...you said he seemed rock solid. Has he ever voiced any concerns about being in fear for his safety or anything like that?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 31:33**

*Nothing that I would remember, it must not have been significant. No, he would have said something. He's, he's just not that type. He's, he's strong, strong. He's a strong one.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 31:45**

*Any...any issues with alcohol, medication, anything like that?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 31:55**

*Not that I'm aware of. I mean we all drink but...*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 32:00**

*Well sure, but you're all adults. I mean, it's like it's one thing to...but any drinking to excess? Is he a liquor drinker? Is it um a beer, is it?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 32:14**

*You know he drank...Like, if he were on a boat, he probably would drink beer. If he were... in the evening he would have a drink possibly.*

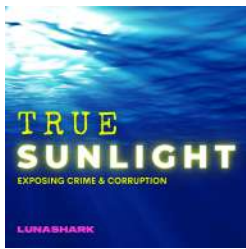
**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 32:25**

*Would you ever...would you ever think that he would drink in excess?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 32:28**

*No, I mean, no more than I would.*





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**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 32:33**

*Sure. And again, I know, it's tough. You know, but we just want to get a better understanding.*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 32:37**

*No, he does not have a drinking problem at all. I mean, that's without a doubt.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 32:43**

*All right. And no, no medications or anything like that, that he's been taking? Or?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 32:47**

*No.*

**Mandy Matney 32:50**

*Ah, yes, he was a rock solid man without a substance abuse problem at all. Another big question, Randy, John Marvin and Buster were asked, how was Maggie and Alex's relationship?*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 33:14**

*Were there any issues marital issues between Alex and Maggie?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 33:18**

*Not that I'm aware of.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 33:20**

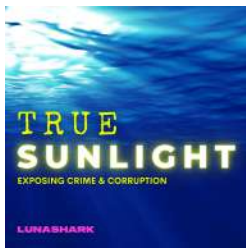
*Any issues that had developed between Paul and Alex?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 33:23**

*Not that I'm aware of.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 33:25**

*Any issues that may have developed between Paul and Maggie?*



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**John Marvin Murdaugh 33:28**

*Again, not that I'm aware of.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 33:33**

*And I know that we've talked about this before...any issues between any of the three? Alex, Maggie and Paul, any issues that may have developed with anybody that we haven't talked about...anybody? I mean, I know that...*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 33:47**

*Not that I'm aware of. Paul was pretty open with me about most things. And if Paul knew something I probably would have known.*

**Mandy Matney 33:55**

When SLED Agent Joe Albayalde asked Randy about Maggie and Alex's relationship he seemed to bristle:

**SLED Agent Joe Albayalde 34:04**

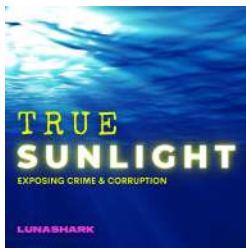
*I'm treading lightly. I don't want to ask too many questions or get too far in the weeds with the things but about Alex and his family, particularly his relationship with Maggie. I don't have it straight. Or...I don't have it straight. Is Maggie and Alex together still or are they...like are they still married? Are they like...do you know anything about, you know, their family situation?*

**Randy Murdaugh 34:44**

*Before this event? Yeah, they're still married. They're still living together. As far as I know they don't have any problems.*

**SLED Agent Joe Albayalde 34:04**

*No marital issues or anything like that? I'm sorry, probably a question...but we got to ask them.*



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### **Randy Murdaugh 35:02**

*None that I'm aware of at all. And I would know.*

### **SLED Agent Joe Albayalde 34:05**

*Yeah, absolutely you would know. It was I mean, yes, we've only met once, first time we've met and it's obvious that you and Alex are very close. So I would expect him to, you know, if there were any issues with the family, he would probably share that.*

### **Randy Murdaugh 35:19**

*I think you would see it too.*

### **SLED Agent Joe Albayalde 34:05**

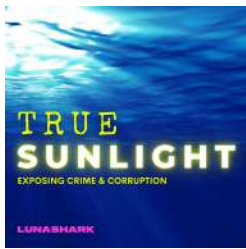
*Yeah. So not none of that. Obviously, Paul had his own set of problems and I'm not we're not here to add, you know, bring up old events or talk about, you know, the troubles he was in or anything like that. Paul had his own set of issues. We know that.*

### **Randy Murdaugh 35:19**

*Yeah. I don't know if I call it that. Paul made some bad decisions one night that led to a grave set of circumstances. He put his friends in a bad, bad situation. And with events that I don't fully understand, that accident happened. I don't know exactly how it happened. But I know it happened because of what he had done earlier. So you know. So it was...it became issues. And Paul's a wonderful kid who would give you the shirt off of his back.*

### **Liz Farrell 36:23**

So two things here. One is the very careful way that Randy dances around Paul's guilt in the boat crash. You'll remember that while Alex was insisting that these murders had to do with the boat crash, he was more interested in clearing Paul's name in the crash rather than finding out who killed his family. Randy is sort of the unknown factor in this family. We've spoken to people who were close to



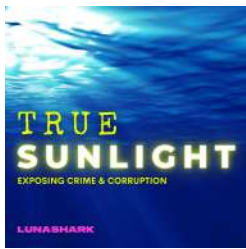
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Randolph and their take on Randy was that he was always polite, but kind of standoffish, not interesting or impactful the way Alex was in social situations. The word awkward was used a lot. But one thing we know about Randy is that his wife is related to Miley Altman, one of the boat crash survivors. Also we're told Maggie was not particularly fond of Randy's wife. That she viewed her as a townie of sorts. So when the boat crash happened, Randy and Christie reportedly stopped coming to social events with the family. So it's odd to hear Randy tiptoe around the thing that his wife's family knows to be true, which is that Paul was driving the boat that night and that the Murdaugh family, Alex specifically, seems to have tried to pin it on Connor Cook, Miley's partner. That brings us to the second thing. Randy is saying he was close to Alex. It's kind of funny actually because here's David with the first few paragraphs of a story about Randy that ran in the *New York Times* just mere days after Alex was found guilty. This story always struck us as a very obvious "save the law firm" story orchestrated by a public relations agency. Here it is:

### DAVID MOSES 37:55

*Hampton, South Carolina. On the surface the lives of Alex Murdaugh and his older brother Randy appeared to follow the same track. They were born two years apart. Both went to the University of South Carolina for college and law school and the two worked as partners at the family firm that had grown out of the century old practice founded by their great grandfather. But even in college, it was clear they were different. Alex was briefly on the football team and a regular at college parties. Randy, a self-described "hometown boy" would go back home to Hampton every weekend to hunt and fish. In recent years. Their offices were close enough that Randy could hear his brother's constant phone calls, but they rarely spent any time alone together. "It's not like there was some problem with our relationship necessarily," Randy Murdaugh said. "We just really weren't alike, so we didn't do stuff together."*



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### **Mandy Matney** 38:47

Brutal right? Another thing that struck us as odd and frankly annoying in the videos is how the three men seemed to be specifically trying to address various aspects of the investigation that could harm Alex. Remember, this was only three days after the murders. It's interesting to see what their thinking was. For example, Buster tried to downplay Paul's reputation of always having shotguns and rifles in his truck. Why? Perhaps because those weapons appeared now to be missing. John Marvin, the guy who told the world about his brother pooing his pants in a car did not appear to get the memo on this:

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 39:30

*And do you know if they kept any guns back at the kennels?*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 39:36

*I've never...you know, they don't have a gun rack that's obvious when you pull up or anything like that. Laying around? I would say it's very possible.*

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 39:48

*And did Maggie ever...do you know, Maggie, would she carry a gun?*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 39:53

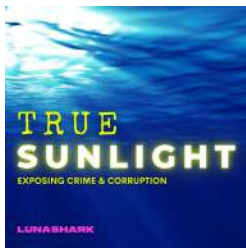
*I don't think Maggie was a hunter or shooter. I think she's a lady's lady.*

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 39:58

*But if Paul was coming from the house down to the kennel, you'd expect him to have a gun?*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 40:02

*He wouldn't carry a gun just because he was going there. But if he were in his truck, and he's riding the property, I would assume he's not gonna ride that property without a gun. You know, just not for safety reasons for you know, again, it's loaded with hogs and you know, it's just kind of what you do.*



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### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 40:21

*No, I understand, I understand. You have...you have 1,700 acres. You're gonna drive around and you're gonna have, you know, because if you have to get out for something.*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 40:29

*That's right, whether you shoot snakes or whatever. But yeah, it would amaze me, or it would...I would be surprised if he were in a vehicle riding the property and didn't have a gun okay. I wouldn't do it.*

### **Mandy Matney** 40:44

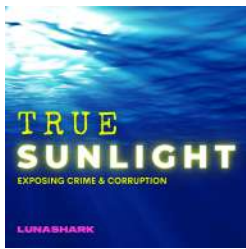
Now without getting into the play-by-play on the whole blackout lie again, you know, the lie that Alex initially told about there not being a replacement blackout belonging to Paul, here is Buster who sure can itemize each weapon both boys used. Also saying there was not a third blackout rifle and therefore no missing family weapon. He tells the SLED agent that he and Paul both got blackouts for Christmas years before and that Paul's went missing within a year of that. The SLED agent tries to get to the bottom of it:

### **SLED Agent** 41:21

*How about your brother? You have any idea what guns he owned?*

### **Buster Murdaugh** 41:32

*He had a little bit more than I did. I know he's got, I know he's got same thing, 12 and 20 gauge I think his are both Benelli. I know he's got... I think he's got a 20-gauge Benelli. Because a lot of them dad buys and we just use them as like communal. Yeah, but the ones that, I guess, you said what would be his, is I know he's got a 20-gauge Beretta the same one as mine. We just have two of them. And then he's got 12-gauge Benelli and he's got he's got a couple...he's got a 270 short mag, he's got a 7mm-08 and obviously he had one of the blackouts that is missing.*



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**SLED Agent 42:24**

*You know when that went missing?*

**Buster Murdaugh 41:32**

*No, I know it wasn't it wasn't far off from when we got them in Christmas. Maybe six months to eight months, maybe to a year after that. So it's multiple years it's been gone.*

**SLED Agent 42:42**

*You said one year at Christmas. Did you say what year?*

**Buster Murdaugh 42:45**

*It would have been the Christmas of...whatever the Christmas of 2018.*

**Mandy Matney 42:50**

Buster also tried to say they didn't shoot their guns next to the house. This is important because this is where the 300 blackout shells were found belonging to that missing third blackout that they tried to say that Paul didn't have but he most certainly did have:

**SLED Agent 43:08**

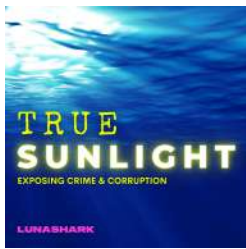
*Was anybody...was common or uncommon for anyone to shoot out like in the yard so forth just like out there on the property? I mean obviously there was shooting for all that stuff, but just out there in the grounds...*

**Buster Murdaugh 43:19**

*Like around the area of the shed?*

**SLED Agent 43:20**

*Around the area of the shed, around the house, around the processing area, any of those areas?*



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### **Buster Murdaugh** 43:26

*By the house we did our...that's kind of where we did our skeet shooting is over there by the house. But no we didn't fire many...I mean, I never shot anything real close to the shed or anything like that. It's more ever if you're going to try to shoot an animal or something somewhere else.*

### **Mandy Matney** 43:43

Buster also tried to say that his mom could have very well walked to the kennels. This is important because the family went down to the kennels together on a golf cart that night. Also, a source with extensive knowledge of the family's habits told us that Maggie did not like walking down to the kennels, typically took the golf cart and especially wouldn't walk down there at night:

### **SLED Agent** 44:08

*When she would go to the kennels, was there a set routine to how she did that or so forth?*

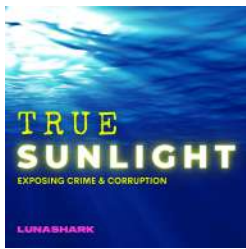
### **Buster Murdaugh** 44:12

*I don't think so. And I don't know. I didn't go with her all the time. I just think she, you know, and she also liked to she would...she would like to walk. She would walk from the house to the kennel. She would like to do that for exercise. And then when she got on there, I think she just kind of played with the dog. She would maybe feed a dog, spray out a kennel if you needed to... if it was dirty. She walked out there. Sometimes, I'm assuming, we used to get packages at the shed maybe she would check the packages.*

### **Mandy Matney** 44:42

Buster also wanted to portray his father as the not at all stressed about the boat crash guy which is interesting because at this same time it was not known by law enforcement or the public that it played such a critical role in the motive of the murders:





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### **SLED Agent 44:59**

*How was your father been with all this? Is he...I don't mean just since the death of your mother and brother, but between all the other drama with the boat and all the other stress. Has he taken it okay?*

### **Buster Murdaugh 45:18**

*No, I'd say if anything he has taken it okay. I mean, we're obviously all upset and we're all frustrated about how people say things and then turn things into what they turn them into. But as far as you know, he's you know, he was kind of the, you know, the I guess the platform is always one telling us not to worry about it. Always kind of the anchor and keeping everything straight and everything like that.*

### **Mandy Matney 45:43**

Now, one of the most interesting things is how John Marvin accidentally told on Alex. Here is what he had to say about the clothes Alex was wearing that night. He thought he was being helpful to his brother. But no:

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 45:59**

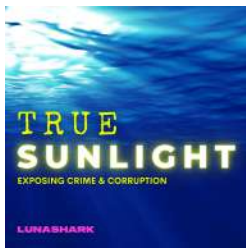
*Do you remember what Alex was wearing that night?*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh 46:04**

*Yeah, I do actually. Yeah, he was wearing a t-shirt. It was a t-shirt...for...I was amazed that he still had. I mean, I was amazed that it still fit him. Although actually I don't know if it fit him because I think I saw his belly. But it was a t-shirt that said Black Sheep on it. It was the name of my sport fish boat that I had. And I remember seeing it and thinking I hadn't seen those shirts in a long time. It's an old t-shirt.*

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 46:26**

*When did y'all make these t-shirts?*



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**John Marvin Murdaugh 46:28**

*I mean, shoot man, it'd have been 2009, '10, '11? Somewhere in there.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 46:35**

*10 years ago or so. What color was the t-shirt?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 46:39**

*It's a white t-shirt.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 46:35**

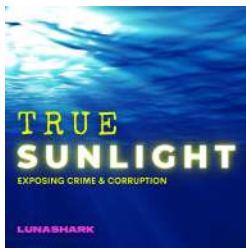
*Okay. And so he had that on...*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 46:45**

*And then I think he had shorts on.*

**Mandy Matney 46:48**

Those of you who watched every second of the trial will remember that Blanca testified that there was a pile of folded white t-shirts where it looked like someone had pulled a shirt from the bottom of the pile, which was odd to her. Could it have been because Alex was looking for an undershirt that he wouldn't miss? Investigators do believe that the shirt Alex was wearing that night was the one he had been wearing under the blueish button up fishing shirt he was wearing in the Snapchat tree video that Paul had taken shortly before the murders. Okay, so one big question everyone has is what exactly happened to Randolph that week? It went from Alex getting texts from his brother the day of the murders, saying that his dad's illness probably wasn't cancer, but rather pneumonia. The family seemed hopeful by that. But then just two days later, Randolph was not only released from the hospital, he had died at home. Here is Randy telling a SLED agent about what happened when Randolph heard about the murders:



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### **Randy Murdaugh** 47:51

*He didn't take it well, but he was so sick. He was so sick that he ummm...I could tell he was upset but he would not have known that you were sitting beside us. In fact you would think my daddy wasn't very intelligent because he said, "What happened to somebody?" You know, it's like he couldn't quite put it together. But when I told him he also had just come out of a procedure. He's coming off of anesthesia. And my dad is not an unintelligent person. He's like, he was like he couldn't believe it. Just like the rest of us, but also like he couldn't. He wasn't comprehending it. And, and later on you could tell he was upset. Later as he was able to comprehend it. Because he was off the anesthesia and maybe it was sinking in, I don't know. But in any event I didn't tell him when I first got there I was asked by a doctor not to tell him because he was in a fairly fragile state.*

### **Mandy Matney** 49:18

Then Randy told the SLED agent about the decision to bring his father home that Tuesday night:

### **Randy Murdaugh** 49:26

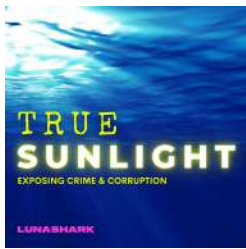
*Unfortunately, the procedure confirmed it. So he and I discussed whether he comes home to die...we decided that he would. So we came home that night on Hospice or knowing we would start Hospice. It's not a good time.*

### **SLED Agent** 50:32

*I appreciate you sharing that with us. You didn't need to, but thank you very much for doing that.*

### **Liz Farrell** 50:42

Lastly, we want to talk about other suspects. Like we said, even though the family was demanding that SLED share information with them, they weren't all that great at giving information to SLED. Not even the basic information about what Maggie was like or what Paul was like or who they talked to or where they went. More than that it was very clear that they did not fear for their lives generally



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speaking after the murders. In fact, John Marvin stayed at Moselle the night of the murders and he told SLED it didn't even occur to him that it was unsafe until his wife said something to him. But there was one Murdaugh family member who understood the situation to be very dangerous. Before Randy got to Moselle that night, his youngest daughter, a teenager, called 911 tearfully telling them that two people had been shot and that law enforcement needed to get to Moselle. She was scared for her father. She wanted to make sure that the police would get there first. Here is Buster answering SLED's questions about Blanca and what her involvement might have been:

**SLED Agent 51:50**

*Anybody else work out on the property?*

**Buster Murdaugh 51:53**

*Yeah, we do have a house lady that works inside the house cleaning the house.*

**SLED Agent 52:37**

*Who was that?*

**Buster Murdaugh 51:59**

*Her name is Blanca. I don't know her last name.*

**SLED Agent 52:06**

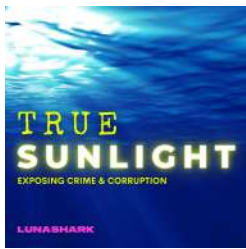
*How long has Blanca worked at the house?*

**Buster Murdaugh 52:08**

*Blanca's been working there now for about, I'd say, she's been there for a while. Maybe even...maybe even like a year or so.*

**SLED Agent 52:23**

*And so is Blanca there every day? A couple days? A couple days a week?*



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### **Buster Murdaugh 52:25**

*It depends. Her schedule changes. But she'll come, you know, either a couple of days in a row, a day, not be there and then come another day. It fluctuates.*

### **SLED Agent 52:38**

*Does she live nearby?*

### **Buster Murdaugh 52:39**

*I don't think...I don't know. I think she lives in Brunson maybe?*

### **SLED Agent 52:44**

*Anything you can say about her that you know of? Any issues with her?*

### **Buster Murdaugh 52:45**

*No, no, no issues with her. She's, you know, she's just a nice nice lady. She just, you know, she comes in and sweeps and mops and laundry and stuff like that.*

### **SLED Agent 53:09**

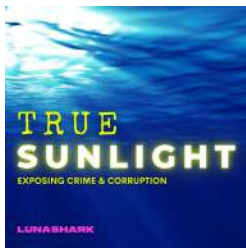
*Blanca ever bring any family members out to the property or...?*

### **Mandy Matney 53:12**

*Why is Randy specifically mentioning Mallory Beaches' parents as not suspects:*

### **Randy Murdaugh 53:19**

*You know, but as far as who would I say? I don't... I don't....I don't know. I mean, all the people in that boat were friends. I mean weren't strangers. I wasn't somebody swerving across the centerline and, you know, strangers involved or something like that. These are all friends. I don't know how they feel because all you hear is her lawyer talking and not them. Do I think that...do I think that Phillip or Renee could...no, no way. No, I don't think there is any possible way the two of them...is there some weird person out there, sick person that gets pumped up by all this crap that is said that might do? I don't know. There's bad people. I don't*



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*know. I don't who they would be. I don't think other people in a boat personally would...no. Honestly that didn't cross my mind. I don't really know.*

### **Mandy Matney 54:29**

As he did many times during his interview here is Randy giving the same old vague line about unspecified threats:

### **Randy Murdaugh 54:41**

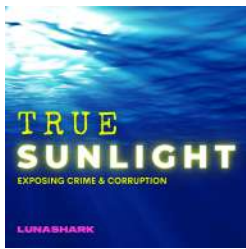
*So I don't know. I don't know of any, but I do know that Paul would get threats all the time. Lots of them is what I'm told secondhand. And I remember however long ago, eight months...a year...a year in a half, whatever I don't know how long it's been since the boating accident. You know, asking Paul about it he said, "Yeah." But it was pretty early on after, within the six months of the boating accident. I've heard Alex say that he continues to get them. But what does that mean? You know? What does that mean when somebody says...I don't even know, whatever they say. I don't know what that I don't know the context of any of them but yeah, threats you know. I learned after the fact...*

### **Mandy Matney 55:37**

One thing we kept hearing throughout these videos from Randy and John Marvin is that they were sharing information that they had just learned from Alex. Meaning this wasn't historical stuff. These weren't threats that had been plaguing the family. They were just threats lowercase "t". In the videos, we learned about a theory that was new to us. That one of Miss Libby's caretakers had heard a threat about their house getting shot up. Here is Randy with that:

### **Randy Murdaugh 56:07**

*I learned after the fact, I learned yesterday...I don't know how I learned it. But apparently in the last few months, one of the caregivers for my mom told Alex she had heard or somebody told her or somehow or another that somebody was gonna shoot up his house. She was upset about it. I don't know how she learned or what she learned why she believed that, but and I didn't know that until I heard*



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*it yesterday what is today? Thursday? Wednesday? I was gone all day Tuesday...so Wednesday. But I'll tell you so apparently she's been interviewed by SLED. When I learned of it, she'd already been interviewed by SLED. And I was like, "Why are they interviewing her?" She was at a caregiver and I assumed it was because it was the caregiver that was at home when Alex went and visited my mom before he went back out and ultimately found Maggie and Paul, but it was the wrong one. That's why I..."Why are they interviewing her?" And then that's when I learned that she had told Alex and she wasn't telling me like I'm going to do it, it sounded like she heard it.*

**Mandy Matney 57:30**

No matter how many times they were asked, no one could come up with anything specific other than gossip:

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 57:37**

*So, his only...his prior girlfriend was Morgan, was one of the girls in that boating accident. And has he dated anybody since?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 57:49**

*I think he's dated a fair amount, but he's not become in a relationship to my knowledge with anybody more than a few dates possibly.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 57:56**

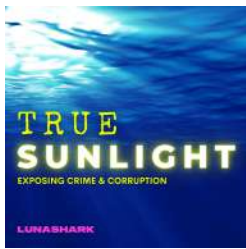
*Okay and you wouldn't know who those people were?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 58:01**

*There's nobody serious that I knew of and he probably would have told me if it was anybody of significance.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 58:07**

*That's what I'm saying like you know, you said he spends a lot of time at your house you know brings a girl over, a girls shows up at the shop, you know,*



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*whatever. Alright, so when...and can you think of anything...I'm gonna have to ask you some questions about Alex as well. Can you can you think of anything of concern that the family... I mean any any issues that Alex might be going through? Any changes in his behavior recently? Last couple months?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 58:40**

*You know, again, he's been dealing with same issues with the...*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 58:45**

*For the purpose of this interview, what issues are you talking about?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh 58:49**

*The gossip that's been going around about the boating accident.*

**Mandy Matney 58:54**

*There was nothing. Nothing. And John Marvin even come close to saying as much:*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly 59:00**

*No threats, nothing like that that have come in? Nothing?*

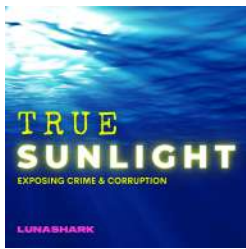
**John Marvin Murdaugh 59:03**

*You know, no. And again, I want to be delicate in how I answer because none of it is anything that stands out in my mind. We always will...on the street will have somebody say, "Well somebody posted such and such on social media." And you know, we over the over the time, we just kind of shrug it off, so nothing stands out that is significant to me. We have not sat down and said, "Listen, we feel like there's a credible threat we need to, you know, we need to report it."*

**Mandy Matney 59:33**

*Then there was CB Row, the groundskeeper. The man who killed the sunflowers, which they talked about a lot. All three Murdaugh men gave SLED similar stories*





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about how there was an issue with him, but they didn't think it was anything. John Marvin knew there was a story he was supposed to share about an employee. He couldn't remember the name. Pay particular attention to the last thing that he says.

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 1:00:00

*Are you aware of any other employees that you have suspicions of?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh** 1:00:05

*Well, I don't want to use...I wouldn't say suspicion but the only, the name and this is all coming up since Monday night is the guy that's working for him out there now and I've never met him. I don't know his name, I've heard it. And if you said it, I would probably recognize it, but you know, that would be the only person.*

**SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 1:00:28

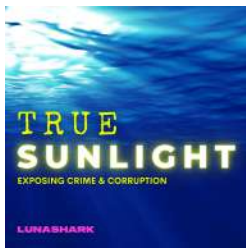
*What would your concerns be for that person? Just I mean, what...has that person done anything recently? That would...?*

**John Marvin Murdaugh** 1:00:37

*Well, yes and no. So, I guess it's easier just to kind of tell you what I know about him and all this is coming since this is not prior to. You know, this is...we opened up these conversations after that accident, or after the incident.*

**Mandy Matney** 1:00:52

You heard that right? He said accident, then corrected it to incident. Now since the very beginning, but especially since the trial when we couldn't understand the families unshakable support of Alex at least publicly facing, we've wondered if Alex might have told one or more of his family members that maybe he accidentally killed Paul or had to kill Maggie because she witnessed it. And maybe he didn't want her to have to live with that. Or maybe he told them that Paul had killed Maggie. So Alex in a fit of rage had shot and killed Paul. The reason we've thought this is because it is a story that would allow Alex to come



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close to the truth while enlisting the loyalty and help of his family. It is a story that would get Alex sympathy, just like the story of his opioid addiction. For his part, Buster did his best to point SLED towards the boat crash. But like with the others, the theory fell apart very quickly when SLED asked for examples.

### **SLED Agent 1:01:56**

*Okay, so let me just run some specific stuff by you here. We all know about the boat incident. I'm not trying to assume too much. But I'm guessing that a lot of these threats and so forth are coming as a result of that boat incident as one of the primary things. Am I wrong in that? That's been 100% of what you think or are there other reasons or nothing.*

### **Buster Murdaugh 1:02:22**

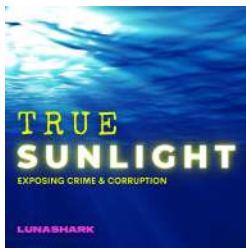
*I think that's been the cause.*

### **SLED Agent 1:02:27**

*As far as the other passengers on that boat, Anthony and Connor and then the girls and so forth on there...did you ever have any or did he ever express any specific concerns about any of them posing a threat? Threatening? Frightened of them? Anything along those lines specifically related to those people? Did Paul have any other, that you're aware of any other enemies, rivals, anybody else you've considered or thought about or that he's directly told you about?*

### **Buster Murdaugh 1:03:08**

No. I mean, I know there's a lot of people that you can look up on Facebook to say all these terrible things and whatnot, their names I couldn't relay to you. I just, you know, I know there are a lot of people out there that were upset about the things that had happened and expressed that to him and in public situations. Now, I don't know any of them by their name.



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### **Mandy Matney** 1:03:30

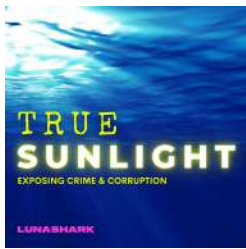
Now, something that really shocked us, but also not really while watching these videos? John Marvin was the first person we have seen to bring up the Smith family and potentially point the direction of the Murdaugh murders investigation toward them. Remember, at this point, there wasn't a single article that mentioned that the Murdaugh name was all over the Stephen Smith file, and no one had written about Stephen Smith at all since 2015. After the boat crash, though, people on social media started talking and posting memes that said, "Justice for Mallory, Justice for Stephen". A certain subset of listeners out there want to say that the Murdaugh family name was only associated because of a story I wrote shortly after the murders in 2021. But look here at John Marvin bringing it up himself before that story was published. Oddly enough, my story was published later that night and I swear none of my sources told me about these interviews at that time:

### **SLED Agent Ryan Kelly** 1:04:39

*Have you got any questions? Any questions for us?*

### **John Marvin Murdaugh** 1:04:43

*Not so much questions, but one of your agents...the female that I walked the house with at Moselle, what's her name? Red hair? McCallister...McCallister, she...Katie McCallister. Yep. So and I asked her then, I said...listen, I said, you know, when something like this, when this happened, you know, I've kind of gotten a little bit of tidbits of information. I had a guy call me and I wanted to tell her about it and she...and I thought she was gonna call me back. And anyway, I had a guy call me. His name is Lawrence Murdaugh, we're not related. And he felt he said he read somewhere where there was anything suspicious to the general public, please let us know or let somebody know. He called me and said that he saw a black SUV off of...he lives I don't know what road it is. But he described it as when you're leaving Hampton, you turn left at Crockettville? I believe he said. And there was some reference over the past several years about a hit-and-run. Supposedly they tried to say that...that Paul had something to do*



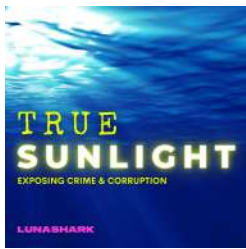
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*with or Buster had something to do with. Lawrence Murdaugh said that he saw a car, a black SUV sitting there at the site where I assume there's some type of a marker there. And he said, "John, I don't know whether it means anything or not. But it stood out to me and I wanted to let you know." And, and so that's...if you maybe could get more information from him about it, but that's what he told me.*

### **Mandy Matney** 1:06:24

Now as we said before, we are getting back into the Stephen Smith case soon. And we are still asking the public to submit tips to [answersforstephen.com](http://answersforstephen.com) to help us with our investigation. But it's really interesting to note that John Marvin brought this up on his own account. Not sure who Lawrence Murdaugh is, but we are interested in trying to figure out what they were actually saying here. SLED did follow through with this direction. Remember, a few days later, I wrote a story about how upset Sandy Smith was that SLED called her and she thought that they were reopening Stephen's investigation, but really they were just wanting her and her family to come in for questioning in the double homicide. Well, something happened between June 10th And June 20th when SLED reopened the Stephen Smith investigation. Sandy was never questioned for the double homicide. Instead, they told her that they were investigating Stephen's death because of something they found during the course of the double homicide. What's weird is that John Marvin and Buster were interviewed pretty much at the exact same time and separately SLED brought up Stephen's death with Buster which again is before my piece ran about the Murdaugh's and Stephen Smith's death which was published that night. We want to know that Buster uses a slur here. He's using it in the context of what people were saying to him after the boat crash. We are leaving it in because we think it is important to understand the harassment that Buster experienced. Remember this was before my piece, the first published story that associated the Murdaugh name with Stephen Smith, ran. Stephen Smith's case was already on SLED's radar:



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**SLED Agent 1:08:15**

*I want to ask you about something that...and I want to preface this by saying this is based purely on rumor and it's not something we're investigating as an agency but it's the incident with the Smith family.*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:08:32**

*I got it...*

**SLED Agent 1:08:41**

*Has anything about that incident come into play in terms of threats, in terms of your thoughts on this, is that...in terms of...any factions or any part of that? Rumors you've heard, accusations and any threats you've had related to that. Anything you want to elaborate on. I mean, has anyone ever questioned you about that?*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:09:11**

*Yeah, well, I mean, I've read the articles and the rumors and saying that you know. I've had people I understand that think...that think that's what I did. And I've had people message me and stuff and call me a piece of shit and murder and faggot and things like that. But I've never received a, what you call it, a formal threat and I haven't heard a lot about it in a while either.*

**SLED Agent 1:09:40**

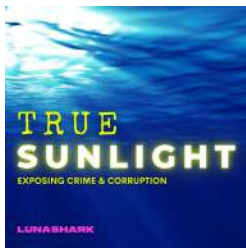
*It's pretty much died off?*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:09:39**

*I would say that, yes.*

**SLED Agent 1:09:40**

*You say message you. I mean it's like social media messaging or?*



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**Buster Murdaugh 1:09:43**

*Yeah. This would be Facebook. And um, Facebook...I think I got a couple off Instagram as well.*

**SLED Agent 1:09:54**

*Did you receive any of those kinds of messages after the boat incident?*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:09:57**

*I did. Again, very similar. But again, never a formal threat.*

**SLED Agent 1:10:06**

*Anyone you would recognize?*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:10:08**

*No sir. Never anybody that knew who they were.*

**SLED Agent 1:10:11**

*Did you ever do any kind of looking to see if there was somebody who might have at least been, if nothing else geographically able to figure out a threat or something like that...*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:10:20**

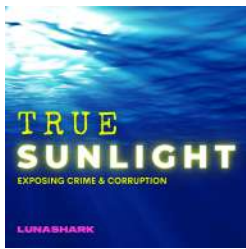
*I didn't. I didn't take much away from it. I figured that people just saying stuff.*

**SLED Agent 1:10:26**

*And you save any of that stuff? Screenshot of any of it?*

**Buster Murdaugh 1:10:29**

*I haven't saved any of it, it might still be in the, you know, in the far lowers of my messages. But actually, to be honest with you, I think I probably deleted some of it, because I just didn't enjoy looking at it.*



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**Liz Farrell** 1:10:41

This is very understandable. At the end of the interview, though SLED asked to download Buster's phone noting that they might be able to retrieve some of the screenshots showing the abuse he received. Danny Henderson agreed to this only if Jim Griffin, a criminal defense attorney, would be allowed to receive a copy of what was downloaded from Buster's phone. Finally, Danny Henderson wanted it known that the Smith case was not the boat case. The insinuation being there's no need to resurrect this again. It's almost like he was trying to manage SLED away from it. Agent Ghent tells them that they have to look at all possibilities. Which is funny because isn't that what Team Murdaugh wanted? Isn't that what they accused SLED of not doing?

**Danny Henderson** 1:11:27

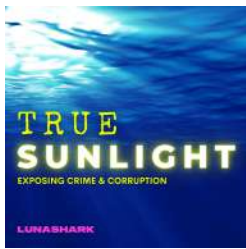
*I have been involved with the family primary, trying to keep Alex's chin up since the boat. There was a time there, about a week in, that two week period where the line between the boat and the Smith thing really got blurred and all mixed up in social media. But then that that sort of calmed down. But there was a period of time within several weeks after where people were associating one with the other and...*

**SLED Agent** 1:11:58

*And that's an important distinction to make. As we sit here, you certainly have a family resemblance to your brother. And while I'm certainly not saying this was the case, I mean, if someone were angry about the Smith case, is it conceivable they could have found out about your property came out looking for you and some kind of scenario like that? I'm not saying that. I certainly won't give you the kind of bad feelings but it's a possibility, like all possibilities that I have to consider. That's why I want to talk to you about if you had any specific people you were concerned about along that avenue.*

**Buster Murdaugh** 1:12:33

*No sir, I wouldn't say concerns about that.*



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**Mandy Matney** 1:12:39

We have a lot more to uncover when it comes to the Stephen Smith case. And again, we're excited to start a new investigation. Please if you know anything about Stephen's death, send us a tip at [answersforstephen.com](http://answersforstephen.com) and of course please contact law enforcement at [tips@SLED.sec.gov](mailto:tips@SLED.sec.gov) for a \$30,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and a conviction. We want 2024 to be Stephen's year and hopefully the year that Alex Murdaugh stops clogging up the state's resources and authorities finally start holding Alex Murdaugh's accomplices accountable. Speaking of, a flurry of documents were filed in Alex Murdaugh's quest to get a new trial on Wednesday. Be sure to check your premium feeds tomorrow for a story on the latest there and also where you can see all of the new documents. We will be broadcasting the hearing on January 16th to the LunaShark Premium feed so be ready for that one because it'll be a doozy. Stay tuned. Stay pesky. Stay in the sunlight. True Sunlight is a LunaShark production created by me, Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell. Learn more about our mission and membership at [lunasharkmedia.com](http://lunasharkmedia.com). Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.