



## EPISODE 47: A Good Day for Stopping a Judicial Election - Bowen Turner's Latest Ride to Jail + Texts Expose Volatility of Michael and Sara Lynn Colucci's Marriage

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**Mandy Matney** 00:02

I don't know what may David Miller, the prosecutor in the Bowen Turner rape case withdrawal his name from consideration for judgeship this week. But I do know that the work we do here to get justice for victims and make our system better matters. I realized this week just how much it matters. To keep that momentum going to expose the mini Boland Turner's of the world. My name is Manny Matney, this is True Sunlight, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production written with journalist Liz Farrell. This week was an absolute roller coaster of emotions. And thankfully, we landed in the sunlight. My trip to Kansas was healing. I know we talked a little bit about this on last week's show. But I was still feeling the rush of emotions as I was trying to finish the episode last Thursday. So I want to go back to last Wednesday, Sandy Smith, David and I all woke up at 5am to go to the airport. It was Sandy's first flight ever, and I wanted it to be a great experience for her. But you all know airports, they are rarely great. We barely made our first flight. I was low on sleep. Stress from finishing last week's episode and stress about prepping for our speech at the Kansas governor's crime victims conference. Throughout the day. However, I learned a big lesson from Sandy. She smiled and laughed through every hiccup, including an incredibly rude American Airlines flight attendant. Well, right before our connecting plane took off from DC Luna Shark journalist Beth Braden texted us that the South Carolina highway patrol had just sent the Bowen Turner dashcam video, which we had been waiting over a month to receive. Turner is the thrice accused rapist who got a sweetheart deal in 2022. Thanks to lawyer lawmaker, Attorney Brad Hutto, Turner screwed up that deal almost immediately, and was thrown in prison under the youthful offenders act for violating his parole. He served over a year in prison before he was released last

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November. And by March, he was already back behind bars for a DUI crash and Florence County, South Carolina. We filed a FOIA request for the video because it was the first opportunity for the world to see who Bowen really was and how he treated people specifically how we treated the female officer. We will talk about this in a minute. The video was a big deal, and I was so proud of our team to be first release this video, working with a few shreds of airplane wifi David and I managed to direct our amazing Luna shark team to get the video up and out. I contacted Sarah Ford and Dallas Stoller's family and warned them that the videos were going to be triggering but validating from the bits I could see through all the chaos. The video proved them right. Bowen was the monster that they warned the world about. So our team Liz Farrell, Beth Braden, Sam Berlin, Ali Pavlik, Kate Thomas and Erin Frey worked together while we were in the sky to blast the video out to our members and to the world. They did an incredible job, and I was proud and relieved when I landed. Then I took a deeper look at the numbers on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and I'm not gonna lie, I got a little angry. The video had everything showing that Bowen Turner was an entitled monster who was dangerous to society. We no longer had to describe who he was. It was all right there, everything we needed for every single person who protected this man to feel deep shame and regret. He was racist, sexist, homophobic, aggressive, arrogant, disrespectful, and downright disturbing. I wanted this video to be everywhere. I wanted the world to be as outraged as I was. Unfortunately, I've learned that we need that level of universal outrage here in South Carolina just to get justice for people who don't have connections. And that is a cold hard fact. But I put my outrage to the side, and I focused on her speech at the Kansas crime victims conference on Wednesday night as I was very low on sleep, defeated from the day and increasingly concerned that I was going to bomb my

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speech. I asked Sandy if she was nervous, nervous. No, Sandy said with a beaming smile. We are doing this for Stephen and for victims, they matter. There is nothing to be nervous about. And just like that, my nerves calmed and Sandy put everything into perspective. For me, the work that we do matters, inspiring people to fight for victims that matters. I remembered, the crowd isn't going to focus on me stumbling over my words, or whatever small thing I was afraid of. It was the work in the mission that they wanted to hear about. It was truly an honor in my lifetime to be able to speak to a roomful of justice warriors in my home state of Kansas with Sandy Smith, the fighter of all fighters at my side. I cannot wait to share the full video with premium members. Sandy was incredible. She got a room of 500 people crying, laughing and cheering her on in her fight for justice for Stephen. I lost count of the amount of standing ovations she received. It was empowering. And it left me feeling all sorts of good. So I got back to work on Monday ready to fight the good fight? Well, sort of. I spent Monday and an angry and slightly depressed days. Why didn't more people care about Bowen Turner? Are people so used to this kind of injustice that they just don't care anymore? Why aren't more people freaking out about the ages lack of concern for the upcoming Colucci murder trial? Why did it take Maggie and Paul to be murdered before the world started paying attention to Alex Murdaugh and his web of crimes? My thoughts got deep and dark. And then I decided to do something. I did what I do best on my least favorite social media platform. But the best for situations like this, I tweeted a thread about Bowen Turner. I laid out every maddening detail between a sweetheart deal. The victims tragic side of the story. His state senator attorney, Prosecutor David Miller, in his quest to become judge in the amount of times that the system gave this man a pass. Finally, my social media world seemed to wake up. People from all over were sharing Bowen's story and the outrage. Quickly, over 3 million

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people saw those tweets. On Tuesday. A few hours after I posted about Bowen on Twitter and Instagram. A fan reached out and told me that the legislature was going to vote on David Miller becoming a judge on Wednesday. Sidenote, I am slightly annoyed with the South Carolina State House schedule and how confusing it is. It is like you have to be an insider to figure out when important things are going on. And something tells me that is by design. Anyways, listen, I fired off a few tweets begging people to call their lawmakers and vote no on David Miller, because the system simply cannot afford to promote a man who appeared to care more about what Brett Hutto thought of them than he did about public safety. I texted a slew of State House sources who told me that David Miller had this in the bag pretty much. They told me it was a done deal that the legislature would vote him in as a judge. I started to prepare for a depression spiral. I started thinking that maybe honestly, South Carolina just wasn't the place for me. I didn't want to live in a state that allowed someone like David Miller to become a judge. After everything that we have exposed. I was thinking of starting a new career somewhere else and saying goodbye to Luna shark. I know you'll call me dramatic. But I take these things personally. And I want you to know that. Then, like universal magic, Sarah Ford texted Liz and me with big news. David Miller had dropped out of the race. He was no longer in the running to become a judge. I felt a wave of motivation and energy, like I hadn't felt in a long time. This work this mission to expose the truth wherever it leads, give a voice to the victims and keep the story straight. It truly matters and it does make a difference. I spoke with Dallas's sweet dad last night, and he said miracles do happen. We agreed to income urge each other to keep fighting the good fight, because every once in a while, the good guys win. And that win means making our state a better place. I kept thinking last night of the butterfly effect of David Miller's decision to drop out of the race, how it

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sent a message that this business of prosecutors trying to be judges giving it a lawyer lawmakers dirty deals. Those days are over. I thought about how horrifying it would be to be a rape victim in David Miller's court, knowing what he agreed to as a prosecutor for Bowen Turner. And I was scared to think about all of the what ifs for a guy like David Miller and a judge's robe. I don't know if and how our work had anything to do with Miller's drop out. But I realized this week, what matters is that we fought, we stood up, we raised our voices, and we won. That is a victory we must celebrate. And I want to thank every person who made phone calls and noise and post on social media about this case, because I am more motivated than ever, right now. And I am ready to keep shining the light on other cases.

**Liz Farrell** 11:27

Last week, we gave you a little bit of a preview about what was in that FOIA that we've gotten back right as we were finishing up through sunlight. It was the dashboard camera footage from Bowen Turner's March 9 arrest after he flipped his father's Chevy Silverado on Papermill Road in Florence, South Carolina. Baldwin was charged with DUI open container, not wearing a seatbelt. And surprise, surprise, resisting arrest. I say surprise surprise, because last time when Bowen was arrested in 2022, he threatened to bite the finger off of a deputy. And he called the female employee of the bar where he had just been drinking under age a quote unquote bitch because she wouldn't drive him home. Also, we had heard that this dashboard camera footage in this class was particularly egregious, so falling for it was a no brainer for us. Plus, we wanted to save ourselves whether the boy who keeps getting second chances has made good on the grace that has been given to him. Spoiler alert, the answer is a hard No. Before we play the audio of this, we want to warn you that it's intense. If you've ever been in an

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emotionally abusive relationship or any situation involving sexual assault, this could be particularly difficult to listen to. Obviously, this doesn't involve an assault. But as you all know, rape is about power. And on this car ride to jail. Bowens sole objective is to gain power over the situation specifically, over the will of the female patrol officer. To achieve this, he uses all the tricks. He's loud, he's belligerent, He's insulting and then immediately apologetic. He acts like a child having a tantrum, he lies he gaslights, and he tries to play the victim. He asks for favors, and he acts like he's being wronged because he's not being extended any sort of special treatment. Anyway, it's a lot. And we just want you to know that before we get into it, but that said, Boy, were we all right about this guy. He is exactly who we thought he was. And since we posted the full video on YouTube last week, we've heard from a lot of you telling us that he's exactly how you imagined him to be. This is what we mean when we talk about two systems of justice. This is a monster who got created because of David Miller's willingness to cut a secret plea deal for a powerful lawyer legislator, and because of that powerful lawyer legislators ability to move mountains for paying clients like this guy, so let's start with Bowens first goal on the ride to jail. He wanted out of those handcuffs.

### **Bowen Turner** 14:15

Can we undo these cuffs please. Can I please have a cigarette? Or excuse me, ma'am because you're arrest me for something that you don't have paperwork for. So let's be honest now. Okay. Nowhere, I'm not worried. You haven't breathalyzed me. You haven't.

### **Mandy Matney** 14:42

Wow. That is just the first 20 seconds and it is horrifying. The tone that this man uses while he speaks to the officer who arrested him. My



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mother would disown me if I spoke to anyone like that. let alone an officer of the law. Let's be clear here. Baldwin was lucky to be alive at that point, he was lucky to be sitting there in the front seat of the highway patrol vehicle with the energy of an obnoxious five year old who just got a boo boo and wants their parents to feel bad. Several of y'all have asked why he was in the front seat. And while we explained this on COJ, but I'll explain it again. Apparently, Highway Patrol doesn't have cages to transport people. And it is safer to have a potential defendant riding next to a police officer than riding behind them. I don't understand why they didn't have another officer in the car for safety reasons, especially when it comes to this female officer. And I hope that the Highway Patrol looks at this policy and changes it. So Bowen should have been grateful in that moment. Not only did he make it out of a DUI crash alive, but unlike a lot of defendants who resist arrest, he didn't appear to have a scratch on him. He sat there with a shirt completely unbuttoned in a very white belly hanging out with the confidence of Well, a good old boy. A good old boy who has learned nothing after the system gave him chance after chance. Then he started complaining about his head hurting. I'll skip that part because they had already taken him to the hospital. And his scans were clear. Then, Bowen Turner the man who should have been on his knees thanking the good ol boy gods for just giving him another chance. He actually had the audacity to escalate his complaints about his hands about his head and about get this how they didn't have enough to arrest him.

### **Bowen Turner** 16:59

And what are you arresting me for exactly again? But do you have any evidence? Let's be honest what is your evidence please. Do you have evidence? No worries. We'll be alright and I'll be honest with you man, I

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feel like I'm choked with knees and handcuffs if you don't mind and that she is crazy ma'am. I called the police because I flipped over in this How y'all treat me is really what you're about to do. Be honest no ma'am I'm sorry man my hands bought the damn tote that ma'am please on hold he's got damn ankles ma'am man this shit right here crazy man we really cuz you got a vendetta and it's really how you bought and resisted arrest and you're gonna tell me that I got a vendetta. Yeah, how am I resist arrest ma'am. You said hey, I got my Goddamnit goes on. For what you got you got me in handcuffs hammers isn't risk Please don't worry. Don't worry. You got him date bitch. I know you. Don't worry about it. And I apologize. I didn't mean to say that. You say you say would you feel? Well, I didn't feel that but Well, no, it is reason to apologize. And my cousins are my cousin. He kind of does what he does. I've been trying to do better. So I apologize. I really do. You know what's gonna happen is go ahead, but I really do apologize. My cousin he's taught me trying to do better and I really do apologize. I didn't mean to say what I said. You know what I mean? I know you think what you think about me and you know what I'm saying? But I do apologize because you didn't deserve deserve to say that. You know what I mean? I really do apologize.

### **Mandy Matney** 19:25

Bowen Turner sitting cushy in the front seat of a cop car after drunkenly flipping his truck and resisting arrest. actually thought that the police had a vendetta against him. He said that. It is like he is completely unaware of people everywhere who get killed by police officers in similar situations. It is horrifying how someone could have done a year in prison and had so many brushes with law enforcement, and yet still be so cool. painfully ignorant in the homophobic slur was hard to listen to. But gosh was it telling. The other thing I want to point out is his

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frightening switch from verbal abuse to apology back to verbal abuse. It is a pattern that many abusers know and use to their advantage. We will unpack more of this video right after this short break. So honestly, we shortened this video to avoid repetition and fear that everyone would just turn off their podcasts because it is so hard to listen to. His whining is excruciating, and repetitive. He says the same few things over and over and over again. In fact, he said the word ma'am more than 120 times and he just kept going.

### **Bowen Turner** 21:00

So are they about to charge me a DUI? Yes, I am. For what? But you don't have any evidence you saw me right that's all you saw are you Did you see me re Ma'am, can I be honest with you real quick. Well I will tell you what you want to know. If you let me be honest with you real quick. And then also me and I'll 17 times. No ma'am, I promise you I will really be honest with you. I don't like how we're going to deliver. And I promise I'll be I'm in handcuffs, man. There's somewhere I can go. Ma'am, what do you want to know? But anything? Ma'am, I was coming home from Carolina venture world I have not been drinking. I came home and I took that left turn. And damn, whatever it was a waterhole caught my wheel. And I slipped. Okay. But I can tell you whatever. Anywhere in Florence, I can tell you what's going on. Just basically. But my I have not. I try and do my best. Okay. I've really been trying. So why are you going to arrest me? Or what you haven't breathalyzed me or anything. You're gonna get a breathalyzer Ma'am, why are you doing this? Hey breathalyze me right now pull over let's take breathless we'll pull over the gentleman's breathless Alright, I'm gonna take you to jail and you won't be breathalyzer what I want you to breathalyzer. Do we have a deal? Do we have a deal? Yeah, we got a deal. Okay. Can I have a cigarette? Cigarette for you? I'm gonna be random. And see ma'am. I

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thought that the hospital's records were close so why are you taking me from the hospital because I feel pretty sick myself. Why are you acting like this man? What you got to get me say what you got against me go ahead and let it be known against you. I've treated you fair this year you have not Don't Quit fucking lion. I'm sorry. Hey, can we please loosen up his ankles because well, I don't want to pull him to jail because once I bought in jail, you know, you can't you can't arrest me for something that I have not done. You have to breath. For what? Already? For What? What? You haven't breathalyze me. So how does that make sense? Don't worry, I know my rights. Okay, that's good.

### **Mandy Matney** 24:14

Okay, so in South Carolina, we do not have roadside breathalyzers. Instead, they test BAC levels inside the jails. This has become a problem because it gives people time, in this case, a lot of time to sober up. South Carolina is one of the worst states for DUIs. According to the South Carolina Mothers Against Drunk Driving group. South Carolina is one of the worst states for DUIs. In fact, we had the fifth most DUI deaths in the country while just being 23rd in population. But that shouldn't be a surprise to anyone. Given the amount of lawyer lawmakers like Brad Hutto, who make their money getting paid to get people out of DUIs. Notice how much he's fighting the DUI charge. It's interesting given that he ultimately refused a breathalyzer and pleaded guilty weeks later, which we will talk about in a minute. Also, I get sick to my stomach watching Bowen accused officer Sierra Calomiris of lying, when in reality, she deserved a gold medal for the way she stayed calm and didn't escalate the situation. I thought about how Bowen and his supporters called Dallas and Chloe liars for all of those years, and how little that word means to him. Then, Bowen's begging and pleading escalated. And he got more aggressive.

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### **Bowen Turner** 25:47

Ma'am, can I please go home? Can I please go? What do you arrest me for? What do you have? Okay, I'll pay my mom. Ma'am. Can I please go home? Oh, my grandma. I promise you I will go home. I will do what I'm supposed to do, ma'am, please. You can meet my parents, ma'am. Please. Can I please go home? Ma'am, I can't do this is okay. Will you please listen to me? Ma'am, I can't do this again. Okay. Please, ma'am. Again, go to print. Go to jail again, ma'am. I can't do it again. My grandma here before she passes away, man, please. I will do whatever you want me to do. Okay, please, ma'am. I will do whatever you asked me to do. Okay, I will. Please, ma'am. I can't do this again. I can't watch her go through that again. Behind Bars, man. Please. That's all ask me. No, ma'am. I won't get a bomb. Because I'm already on probation. Ma'am. Please, please let me get probation. I'm on probation for assault battery. Man, ma'am, please let me go home, ma'am. I promise you. I will never be back over here again, ma'am. I promise. Please let me get a bond and let me see my grandma. Okay, please. Ma'am, I'll do whatever you want me to do, ma'am. But ma'am, will you have the decision right now, ma'am? I promise I will do what you want me to do, ma'am. You know, and again right now for what? Are you haven't proved me guilty yet. Ma'am. Please, ma'am. I promise I will do what I'm supposed to do, ma'am. I can't send her off like that. Ma'am. Please, Ma'am. Ma'am. I'll do whatever you want me to do. Ma'am, please. Please, Ma'am. Ma'am. No, this man. I promise I'll do whatever you want me to do, ma'am. I promise. Oh, my soul. I promise. Please don't do this right now. I promise. You can. You can take me to grandma's house and we'll we'll go there together. Ma'am. Please, Ma'am. Ma'am, will you please ask me ma'am? I cannot take you to your grandma's. Oh my I'm taking me to orange room. Ma'am. I cannot do this. Ma'am. I can't.

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Please don't do this. May have however, ma'am. I've always been respectful to you. Please don't do this. Ma'am, ma'am, please don't do this. I've been respectful. Please don't do this. Ma'am. Ma'am, please. What have I done to deserve this? Will you give me a chance? Can I at least speak my story before you take them to the jail? Can I do that?

### **Mandy Matney** 28:44

I'm sorry, but what story would he tell how he has been accused of rape three separate times? How the victims were bullied so badly that one of them actually killed herself. How he didn't serve a day in prison for Dallas's assault. How he violated his bond condition over 60 times including that one time when he visited Dallas his grave that story how we got a plea deal. Only up the good old boy still managed to screw that up twice. That story. It is unbelievable that this man actually thought his story would work in his favor. Notice how he gets to say that he was convicted of assault and battery not rape. And how much better that sounds? The temper tantrums peppered with memes continue. And then the racism sets in.

### **Bowen Turner** 29:44

Ma'am, I am a white boy. Okay, can I please speak to you? Ma'am, you can stop five minutes before the jail. Can I please speak to you? Ma'am it is important that I speak to you Yes, ma'am. I cannot go there. Okay, I feel unsafe. Can I please speak to you? Ma'am, I will tell you whatever you want to know you Ma'am, I cannot go there Ma'am. Ma'am. I cannot go here. Ma'am. I can't go here Ma'am. Ma'am, ma'am, ma'am. Ma'am, I feel unsafe Ma'am. Ma'am, I can't go here Ma'am. Ma'am, can I please speak to you? I will tell you what you do. Ma'am. I'll tell you what you want to know. Ma'am, please don't take me here. Ma'am. Ma'am, I'll tell you what you want to know. I cannot go here. Ma'am, please. Can I



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Speak to you? Ma'am, I'll tell you what you want. No, ma'am. I can't go here. Ma'am. I can't go here. Ma'am. I can't. Ma'am. I can't go here. Ma'am. I'm not joking, ma'am. I'm in PC. I cannot go here. I cannot go here. Will you please give me a chance, ma'am. Please give me a chance. I can't go here Ma'am. Ma'am. I can't go here. Ma'am. I can't go here. Please give me a chance. Please give me a chance. Ma'am. I can't go here. Ma'am. Ma'am. I'm asking you, ma'am. Just go forward, ma'am. I promise. I'll give you a chance. I can't go. Ma'am. I really can't go here, ma'am.

**Liz Farrell** 31:30

Then he mentioned that he's under protective custody, which he is absolutely not. And he never was reported about Braden confirm this but the South Carolina Department of Corrections on Tuesday, Bowen was sentenced under the youthful offender act and luckily for him, received a suspended sentence and a secret plea deal which he now has to serve only because he keeps messing up, which was predictable when you consider that he had been accused of brutally raping three different girls in three different counties, and was allowed to plead guilty to a single charge of assault and battery. When he was last in prison. Again, for messing up his plea deal. He was housed in the youthful offender dorm away from the general population of adult prisoners. Somehow in Bowen's mind, he thinks that means he had some special designation that makes him above being taken to jail for DUI. It's like he wanted this patrol officer to think he's some sort of VIP inmate. You know, those privileged good ol' boys. Always looking for an upgrade.

**Bowen Turner** 32:38



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Give me a chance, ma'am. I can't go here, ma'am. May I believe, ma'am. Just give me a chance, Ma'am. Ma'am, I promise I will do what you want, ma'am. I cannot go here. Ma'am. I'm out in protective custody, ma'am. I cannot go here ma'am. Please. Ma'am, please, ma'am. I promise I cannot go here. Ma'am. Please. Please, please. Ma'am, I cannot go here Ma'am. Ma'am, ma'am, ma'am, I cannot go here. Please listen to me. Please listen to me. I cannot go here. I'm under protective custody. I'm on parole. As my probation officer I'm under protective custody. Please. Ma'am, please. Ma'am, please listen to me. Why are you got Why are you acting like this? You're supposed to be police officer.

**Liz Farrell** 33:45

At one point in the ride, it was about 12 minutes in, Officer Calaveras quietly radioed into the jail to let them know that she would need help at the sally port of the jail. It's the area where patrol officers pull into the jail with their arrestees. She told them she had a combative subject. Bowen didn't like that one bit. He accused her of being soft and of lying.

**Bowen Turner** 34:11

When you solve this bug now are you lying like that? Why are you doing on a line and now you won't think you are because you would ever Why are you lying like that? Because I didn't come back. Ma'am, I promise I will not just please undo these goddamn handcuffs. No, they're digging into my wrist please. No Ma'am. Ma'am. I'm not lying. I'm not lying. No, you are saying I'm line ma'am. I cannot keep doing this ma'am. Please. Ma'am, ma'am. I'm not lying to you. Please undo these handcuffs because they are digging in my wrist. Man, please, man, please. Please, Ma'am. Ma'am, ma'am, they are digging into my wrist Please, Ma'am, please.

**Liz Farrell** 35:17



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So now I have to tell you about the most frustrating part of all of this. Unbeknownst to us, and unbeknownst to everyone it would seem. About two weeks after his arrest, Bowen was allowed to quietly plead guilty to three of his four charges, and was sentenced to time served, time served. That's the 17 days he had spent in jail in Florence County, which is kind of weird when you consider an episode 42. We told you about how he was given a bond of \$2,500 for those charges, meaning the only reason he was not released from jail that day. The only reason he served those 17 days before his quickie plea deal was because victims advocate attorney Sarah Ford, and Dallas Stoller's father Karl made an effort to be there in Florence to tell the judge that Bowen is a menace to society, and ought not be let out on bond because of his current parole violations. After a very long day, they were able to finally secure a hold for Bowen. So the Timmons ville magistrate judge, Donna Kim Hudson sentenced Bowen to time that he wasn't technically even serving for the charges he was pleading to, though he obviously didn't post on when he knew he was being held on the parole violation. So I guess an argument can be made otherwise. But most people arrested on a DUI charge, don't spend 17 days in jail after their arrest. They get a bond just like Bowen did. And they leave and then they work it out with the justice system. Often they lose the ability to drive except to certain places. Here is the thing. We're trying to wrap our heads around. One of the things anyway. Bowen's crash, and his arrest happened in Florence, which is almost 30 miles away from Timmons ville, the town where he was able to enter into his quickie plea deal. Additionally, we're not clear on who represented Bowen in this plea deal. There is no one listed in the Public Index, who is his attorney? C 17 days is an abnormally fast turnaround on a DUI plea deal. Neither of us have ever seen one move that quickly. And people we've spoken to who know about the system and specifically how it works with DUIs have confirmed our thoughts on

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this. It is a rare thing to see. Beyond that, it's clear that Bowen took advantage of the situation, the situation being that he was already serving time because of his parole. So he finagled a way to apply that to his DUI sentence because again, most DUI arrests don't spend that kind of time in jail after their bond hearings. But here's something interesting. We FOIA to find out who else FOIA'd for Bowen's dashboard, camera footage thinking we'd find out who his attorney is that way. The list of people who had voted for it was short, it was us, a true crime Facebook page researcher, a couple of reporters all of whom we knew, plus a guy named Chad Plateau. Who's that? Great question. We can find any Chad Plateau in South Carolina, not in the background check. Not in the South Carolina bar directory, not in a newspaper archive search. The only Chad Plateau that comes up in a Google search is a California man described as a luxury wristwatch aficionado who helps put victims in touch with the FBI in a luxury wristwatch scam. So it seems like we might have a fake name here. State Senator Brad Hutto used to be Bowen's attorney, but there's no Brad Hutto on the list. Just a Chad Plateau. Anyway, let's summarize this for you. Bowen Turner was given the gift of all gifts back when he scored his Brad Hutto begotten David Miller assisted Judge Mark Lee Dennis approved a secret plea deal where he pleaded guilty to a non sexual assault charge, got a five year suspended sentence meaning he got to stay out of jail and not having to register as a sex offender. And Bowen immediately turned around and got caught being a jerk while out drinking underage. So he ruined that. But then he got another chance. Instead of serving those five years in prison. Bowen served about a year and a half and got released on the anniversary of Dallas Stoller's death within four months of that he was right back here showing all of us once again that second chances are lost on this guy. But no, this is Jim is not done giving him more chances. You know those chances he thought he could get by

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being the world's most annoying man. He got yet another chance when he was allowed to plead guilty, just 17 days after his arrest, and got time served. It's a spectacular failure. And it's insane to us how many times we're back at square one with this guy. Whether it's this or finding out that David Miller had enough votes at one point to become a judge. It seems like these guys don't ever get discouraged by their own failings. They just keep going. Speaking of guys who don't give up when it comes to avoiding consequences, guess who's back on past patrol? All Alex Murdaugh. Last week, Alec filed a notification with the South Carolina Court of Appeals saying that he plans to appeal Justice Jean Toal's ruling against him getting a new trial back in January. And on Monday, he filed a notification with the US District Court citing his intention to appeal Judge Richard gurgles 40 year sentence, say what he's going to appeal his federal sentence, the one he got after striking a plea deal with the US Attorney's Office, a plea deal where he agreed he couldn't appeal his sentence. What is happening here? I mean, okay, this is 0% surprising, because, of course, of course, Alex Murdaugh isn't just going to accept his fate. He still thinks he's getting out of this murder conviction and then getting his state sentence on the financial charges drastically reduced, probably by providing some nonsense, substantial assistance and getting a shady prosecutor and judge to agree to it. Allah, Todd Rutherford, drewed price special. And then Alex thinks he's going to get transferred to a federal prison where he then wins what a major reduction in his federal sentence on an appeal that he's not even supposed to be allowed to do. I can almost feel him thinking that he'll be back on the South Carolina streets when he's 65. And maybe he needs that hope to make it through the day. But I have to say, we've read Justice Toal's 25 page order where she put to paper what she said in the courtroom and late January. And I think she's sealed the whole thing up pretty tight for a state appeal, and maybe

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even a federal appeal. So remember, this case is so unlike anything in the annals of American legal history, it's a story that inevitably starts with a fear a deep sigh and a warning to whoever you're telling the story to justice gentle was tasked with finding order in the chaos here. And even though there's nothing surprising in the order, it basically follows what she said in court that day when she made a ruling. There are some parts we want to know. The first is that after Justice Toal ruled, we saw a lot of outrage from the crowd of people who seemed to really want a new trial for Alex whether that's because it helped them financially or because they were so rightfully outraged by Becky Hill's behavior that they couldn't see the facts straight or whatever the reason. The resounding conclusion that came from that crowd after Justice Toal ruled against Alex motion for a new trial was that her ruling might survive the South Carolina Supreme Court. But that hurt knowledge meant that parts of Becky's testimony were not credible, could end up helping get Alex a reversal on federal appeal. This seemed to be Jim Griffin and Dick Harpootlian hope in their press conference after the ruling that time, even though the timeline on this is fairly long, it could be five years before we even know where it lands. It's still a concern. Nobody here wants to see Alex get a new murder trial because no one deserves to have to go through that again, especially when he got an amazingly fair trial the first time around, which is what Justice told concludes. By the way, despite Becky Hill's foolish comments, they had no effect on the verdict itself. Beyond that, here's David with what Justice Toal wrote at the end of her order.

### **David Moses** 44:18

This was an enormously difficult criminal trial. Judge Newman began this trial only two weeks after he and his wife lost their son to unexpected heart failure. In the face of this personal tragedy, Judge



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Newman over six difficult weeks of trial exemplified complete command of the law and the facts of this very complex proceeding. His patience and professional manner exemplified the ideals of Fair and Equal justice to which all of his fellow judges including the undersigned aspire, it was an honor for me to complete this task.

### **Liz Farrell** 45:03

Okay so the pro new trial crowd thinks that Alex might see a win at the federal level. So it was interesting to note that Justice Toal didn't just back up her argument against using Remmer v. United States as a standard of review. by citing several State Supreme Court rulings, she included federal case law to renumber. Dick and Jim needed Justice Toal to agree that Remmer was the standard because they wanted the burden of proof to be on the state and not on them, after she ruled against using Remmer is when they were basically left with nothing but tap dancing and the smell of their own nonsense. That's that Justice Toal cites two federal cases that came after the rummer decision. One says that, quote, not every instance of misconduct warrants a new trial. And the test is whether misconduct has prejudiced the defendant to the extent that he did not receive a fair trial. So even if Becky's behavior was improper, it doesn't automatically mean it affected the outcome of the verdict. Okay, now let's talk about justice Toals findings. Justice Toal wrote that she believes Becky went into trial wanting to write a book that Becky told clerk Rhonda McElveen that she might want to write a book because she needed a lake house and Rhonda needed to retire. Justice Toal also believes that Becky told Rhonda that a guilty verdict would sell more books, which again, we think is the dumbest thing for Becky to have believed. Just as tall also believes that Becky made comments like quote, this is an important day and this is an epic day on the day Alex testified. And she also believes that that he told a small



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handful of jurors to watch Alec's body language. Here's David again with what Justice Toal wrote.

**David Moses** 46:57

Clearly, these comments were improper and should not have been made to any juror. Clerk Hill's denial under oath that she made these comments is not credible. Clark Hill was attracted by the siren call of celebrity. She allowed her desire for the public attention of the moment to overcome her duty to her oath of office and her oath as a witness.

**Liz Farrell** 47:25

So it's just this whole thing that Becky perjured herself on the stand. Justice Toal continues by saying:

**David Moses** 47:33

The court finds that there was no effect on the verdict of any juror from any such comments from clerk Hill. And this court specifically finds after conducting this evidentiary hearing that defendant Murdaugh's verdict was the product of a fair and impartial jury.

**Liz Farrell** 47:53

As for juror 630, or Juror Z as she was known in this hearing, here's what Justice Toal had to say:

**DAVID MOSES** 48:01

Court finds jurors Z to have been at first ambivalent in her testimony. However, this court finds credible that portion of her statements made both at trial and during the hearing before this court that her verdict was accurately announced as guilty during polling and that it was the product entirely of the testimony, evidence and law in the case. This



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court also finds credible Jersey's statement in her affidavit and at the hearing that any effect she felt was pressure from other jurors, which is a normal part of the given take of the deliberative process. This court also finds credible the jurors statement under questioning by this court that her statement in her affidavit that she voted guilty because of pressure by other jurors was the quote, more accurate statement and quote of how she felt. For these reasons, this Court does not find credible Jersey's ambivalent and self contradicted statements to the contrary, that her verdict was in any way affected by comments from Clerk Hill.

**Liz Farrell** 49:20

Toal further writes that every juror took their job seriously and rendered a fair verdict, and that the quote improper comments made by clerk Hill as expressed by Jersey, and P were limited in subject and not overt as to opinion, were heard only by at most three jurors, and were made in a case with overwhelming and compelling evidence. The court finds that any comments that occurred were cured by the trial court's extensive instructions. She then went on to cite all the times that Judge Newman reminded the jurors of their duty and the instructions he gave them right before deliberation, telling them that they were only to consider evidence presented during the trial and testimony that happened on the stand. Justice Toal also writes that quote, not every inappropriate comment by a member of court staff to a juror rises to the level of constitutional error. And that's an important thing for her to have written. That's something that could end up getting cited in future cases. She also wrote that, quote, jurors are presumed to follow the law as instructed to them, and such instructions are usually deemed to have cured the erroneous exposure to improper evidence or argument. So, once again, the conclusion is that Becky Hill, no matter what we

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think about her, did not tamper with the jury and that Alex Murdaugh, the murderer, got a fair trial.

### **Mandy Matney** 51:01

The last thing we want to talk to you about today is the Colucci case. We are now four weeks away from the start of Michael Colucci's retrial in the 2015 death of his wife, Sara Lynn, who he says either hung herself with a garden hose or tripped and fell into a loop of the garden hose and died. The evidence supports neither scenario. And yet here we are, nine years after her death, with no resolution. We've heard from so many of you who have gone back to watch the first trial, which is on Court TV's website. If you Google Michael Colucci, his name and Court TV, you will find a landing page for Southern Murder Mystery, along with 19 videos of the 10 day trial. We love hearing your feedback on this because it helps us know what questions we need to get answers for before the retrial starts. And we really love hearing from people who knew Michael and Sara Lynn, who have tidbits of information that help us fill in some blanks. So thank you and keep that coming, please. The retrial is going to be a big deal. And you will understand why when you see how the first trial went down. It is Murdaugh 2.0. But different. Both are circuses. But Alex was like one of those traveling shows that people protest at because of the animal abuse in Michaels is like Cirque de Soleil, where you're like, Whoa, how did it get twisted like that? One of the biggest things that Michael's high priced and highly skilled attorney Andy Savage was able to do with twist some of the jurors' perspective about Sara Lynn And Michael's marriage. Today we're going to talk about that in what the text messages show us about it. During the first trial, the state presented a month of text messages between Sara Lynn and Michael. There are a lot so today we are just going to cover the first half. And we will tell you more about the last two weeks of her life in

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next week's episode. But real quick, we want to do another update on Michael's bond situation. We've told you how the South Carolina Attorney General's Office seems to think that Michael is under house arrest at his parents house, and how that simply is just not the case. According to police records and other sources close to the situation. Over the past two weeks, we've been sent screenshots of several Facebook posts, with photos and a few videos that appeared to show Michael Colucci in Aiken, South Carolina, where his girlfriend reportedly lives. Nearly three hours from the house he is believed to be running on Edisto Island. We've also been informed that at least one of the people who had posts that appear to Joe Michael and Aiken has since taken those posts down. If you believe that you have seen Michael violate the terms of his house arrest, please contact the South Carolina Attorney General's office to report this immediately. Look to the description for contact information.

EXPOSING CRIME & CORRUPTION

**Liz Farrell** 54:30

Okay, now that that's out of the way, let's talk about Michael and Sara Lynn's marriage. As part of our research we have been watching and rewatching aspects of the first trial. And one thing struck me as funny this past week when I was rewatching Andy Savage's opening statements. He told the jury that they should pay attention to the fact that Michael had no prior incidents of violence. That's going to be very hard for him to say this go around knowing that we unearthed a lawsuit pointing to an act of violence. Michael admitted to committing and talking about the incident in 2005 When Michael came up on his friend from behind and put him in a chokehold, and caused him physical injuries that resulted in 40,000 to \$50,000 in medical bills. That's not even mentioning the fact that Michael's girlfriend accused him of doing something similar to her in 2019. That said, Andy Savage was intent on

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making Michael out to be this calm and loving husband who was simply a caregiver, just caring for a sick wife. Oh, what was her sickness? Well, Andy has a doctor's note that says Sara Lynn is having major depression. But the state says the doctor who had prescribed her medication for depression and anxiety was treating her for mild depression. Now, Andy is of that age where the word depression carries a lot more stigma. And he's relying on that stigma to ring true for the jury. He wants the jury to conjure up these black and white images of an unstable woman tearing her hair and screaming into the abyss before crying and throwing herself under her bed. He wants the jury to understand depression in the most extreme of ways because he needs the jury to believe that Sara Lynn killed herself that evening, that 20 feet from her husband's watching eyes. She wrapped a garden hose around her neck once without attempting to knot it into place that she just sort of let it hang from the fence and then leaned into it, I guess, and that her bodyweight wasn't enough to disrupt the loops of hose that remained at the top of the fence or the hose that remained on the bib hanger. He wants the jury to believe that the answer to any question the jury may have in their heads about why the hose looks mostly undisturbed to be depression. He wants depression to be the answer to every single question the jury has about the unlikelihood of this entire scenario. Why would Sara Lynn depression. But how did Sara Lynn depression as people who have had our own battles with mental health and who understand depression personally, it is always offensive to watch an old school elderly man use it as this label to hang around a person's neck. Andy Savage comes awfully close to saying that Sara Lynn suffered from hysteria. I'm not kidding. But that's part of the defense. He wants the jury to see Sara Lynn as crazy and Michael as the beleaguered but always calm husband who just had to roll with it. Now, remember, when we told you about how Ivo Colucci his family told

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police that Michael had a habit of getting him riled up and angry and then recording him being angry so that he could use the video or audio as blackmail material against Ivo, his stepfather? And how Michael preemptively sent a doctor's note about Ivo's diagnosis of mild to moderate dementia to the police department so that they'd have it on record. And how both of those things came paired with Ivo and his family telling police that Ivo was scared of Michael and did not want him living with him and Michael's mother, how he did not want Michael serving his house arrest at the house with them. Keep those things in mind because there are a few things that came out in the text messages that could have been a pattern with Michael meaning. It's clear to us that Michael is aware of the importance of documentation of staying calm when another person is expressing their anger at him in a documented way, whether over text or over video or over audio. So Andy's argument that Michael is calm demeanor over text is evidence of this selfless loving husband that he so wants the jury to believe Michael is, is nonsense in our opinion. Also, we're both women who've been in bad relationships, we know it can go down and we know what those text messages can look like.

### **Mandy Matney** 59:02

So when we saw Sara Lynn's text, we immediately understood a few things to be true. One is that she was absolutely threatening to leave Michael at the time of her death. Two is that their relationship was volatile. And Sara Lynn was aware of how bad it had gotten. Three is that Sara Lynn was making plans to leave and four is that Michael seemed to be careful with what he put in writing. His responses are few and far between, but always calm and usually loving. It's not entirely clear whether the state presented all of Michael's responses, but we highly doubt they kept any back. It's also not clear if he was using the



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audio message feature and iPhone where you record a message and once it's been listened to it disappears. We say that because in places it looks like Sara Lynn. He is responding to him in the moment. But the text messages that were presented at trial basically look like every scene in the movie Ghost. We're Demi Moore can see Patrick Swayze, but no one else except the audience can. Michael is Patrick Swayze. He is there, and she is reacting to him. But you don't see him. She seems like a woman familiar with the stick, who understands that you can get under his skin through texting, whether he responds or not. That said, this is the one thing that the Colucci case has that the Murdoch case did not proof of a bad marriage, one that showed the impacts of addiction and financial failings.

**Liz Farrell** 1:00:52

So let's start with April 22, 2015, which is less than a month before Sara Lynn stuff. In a series of texts from 8:04 through 8:15pm. Sara Lynn tells Michael, don't come back here and I don't need your shit. Another night. She tells him that she's going with a woman named Karen to see her attorney tomorrow because enough is enough for her. She tells Michael to quote get drunk and bleed out his ass to death. She wrote, I'm not playing with you anymore. Our marriage is over. Go away. Around two hours later, Sara Lynn texts Michael to tell him that she's leaving to go to Buy Low when she gets off the phone with someone named bread. 15 minutes later, she asks Michael, how long until your drunk ass gets home. And then in a series of texts, she says I need my car to go to Buy Low I am meeting with the attorney tomorrow at 10:30am If you come in this house running your loud, drunk ass mouth, you are done once and for all done. 10 minutes later she asks, you've come and gone then. I'm so sad of the day I met and finally married you. I want my car now. Then call me back. The liquor stores are closed

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you can pass out now. The next time she texts Michael is at 2:52 am Saying you piece of shit. Unlock the door. It's not clear if she's locked outside of the house or if she's locked outside of the bedroom inside the house. 15 minutes later she writes Where are the keys to my car? I am not coming back inside to speak to you or be recorded or hear you yelling etc. Recorded you say. Like I said there seems to be a pattern there with Michael documenting a person's anger with him while he remains calm. But then yelling at a person when he's not doing the recording. Sara Lynn then texts, look bitch, give me the keys to the car and grill up and give me the keys please. 30 minutes later. This is almost at 4am. Now, she texts Michael again. For some context. Bishop is Sara Lynn's daughter from her previous marriage to Michael Vieira after Sara Lynn married Michael Colucci, Michael adopted Bishop. According to Sara Lynn's friends Stephanie Merrill, one of the things that excited Sara about Michael was this idea that they'd raise their girls together and be a family, which is not what ended up happening. Additionally, because of this adoption, Sara Lynn's family had to fight Michael Colucci to get custody of Bishop after Sara Lynn stuff. It took Michael getting arrested for sterilants death in 2016. To get the court to agree. Here's what Sara Lynn wrote to Michael between four and 5am on April 23, a few weeks before her mysterious death. Quote, I am going to calm down for a moment before I go to Walmart. I already know that bishop and I will have to go to a quote woman shelter because you are not going to leave. I will see my attorney tomorrow at 11am. We can have an advocate escort Bishop and I while we get our things together. Either way you quote being in charge gives me no other choice legally. I hope you are happy with the way you found me and the persons you have quote molded me into with your controlling ways. I've got family to attest to the strain you have put me under making it impossible for me to function as I did 32 years prior to us meeting. Also the adoption can be

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reversed. It's whatever the attorney says I should do from here. I hope you're proud of yourself. feels like deja vu I bet. Lastly, as you do, I simply want out. I don't want to hear what you think of me any longer unless it's positive. I'll extend the same respect to you so we can get the situation behind the both of us ASAP and I can move on with my life. I'm not suggesting mediation any longer either. I don't trust your intent with anything. Never mind you being civil enough to waste time with mediation. So at the beginning of his opening statements, Andy Savage introduced his wife Cheryl to the jury, he said she's sitting at the defense table with Michael, and Cheryl works with him in his office. He also tells them that they've been married a long time and that she is the person who he has marital arguments with. Basically, he was trying to normalize Michael's marriage with Sara Lynn in that moment, which is super hard to reconcile when you read these texts. In that last series of text to Michael, we learned that Sara Lynn feels like Michael has changed her for the worse. It seems like this is a fight they've had before because she makes the assumption that even though the house belongs to her parents, Michael won't leave it so therefore she and Bishop will have to leave. We learn that Sara Lynn doesn't trust Michael or his intent. She also seems to be referencing a notion that Michael believes himself to be in charge. Additionally, we learned that Sara Lynn believes Michael has been here before likely in his divorce from Camilla which Sara Lynn was present for part of Sara Lynn's texts pick back up at 11 That morning, where she instructs Michel to call a woman who has an appointment at 3:30pm. It's not clear what this is about, but Sara Lynn writes you obligate yourself to \$1,900.05. \$100 is due today. I could tell you how to deal with it tactfully. But I'm not telling you what you could have or should have done ever again. Here we learn that the two seem to have had some sort of argument where Michael disregarded something Sara Lynn suggested doing and it ended up being worse. It

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also seems like Sara Lynn is pointing out another financial failing of Michael's and yes, all these texts from Sara, and still no written text response from Michael. But there are indications he might be responding in person or over the phone or like we said, maybe it's even in audio messages, which disappear two minutes after listening to them. 20 minutes after Sara Lynn's last text she texts Michael and says quote, and I'm not being a bitch in any way, shape or form. Before explaining that she went to search for a missing kitten. She tells Michael that he needs to call someone in Karen and tells Michael that he was rude to Karen the night before. A little after 4pm She texts Michael to tell him that his parents need to pick up Michael's young daughter Milan from school. She mentions quote, If Connie is still there, which she probably is. Then she notes that Milan Michael's daughter asked to see them this morning, then quote, and if it's 4pm now and you're going to start handling business, when are you going to pick up Milan from Connie's she doesn't live there. Obviously, we don't know the details here, but it seems like this is a sore point for Sara Lynn. And then she's indicating that she thinks Michael doesn't take responsibility for his daughter.

### **Mandy Matney** 1:08:03

Two hours later, Sara Lynn texts Michael. No wonder we are getting divorced dude, a payment plan. I speak clear English. You don't listen to anyone ever. Then as you slept, I dealt with this shit for 40 minutes, give up. Your head is bad. Two minutes later, she writes. I'm coming by the store. I've got a key. I won't be back here tonight or tomorrow. I've got other things to take care of me. Again, there's no text from Michael during this time. But Sara Lynn seems to be referencing the ongoing and in the moment argument that they're having. There was also no indication that Sara went to her lawyer's office that day. It doesn't mean



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that she did it. But she doesn't mention it overtax around 630 That evening, she texts Michael, tell Camilla to never contact me again. I am not your messenger. I am going to the shelter. Enjoy the house I built by the way the house is in pre foreclosure status. My parents are not going to allow that to happen. But they are not going to allow you to live there either. Think hard and play your cards right Michael Game On. Camila is Michael's ex wife and the mother of their daughter Milan. A little after 10pm Sara Tex, Connie is being a bitch. I told her I had something to do and thought that she had spoken to you. She was very rude. What do you want me to do? Then 17 minutes later, in more than 24 hours into the string of text messages in which it is clear that there have been multiple two sided disputes throughout the day. My Cole finally has a response for Sara. He writes, nothing.

**David Moses** 1:10:04

I will handle it. Love You and I will be home soon.

**Mandy Matney** 1:10:09

Sara's response to that was I just thought that was handled. These people aren't into full time parenting for free. Again, an indication that Sara Lynn felt like Michael was irresponsible. When it came to his daughter. 20 minutes later, Michael writes again:

**David Moses** 1:10:28

Sara, I just took care of Connie. I'll be home when I have greenbacks. I'm done with all the pain. We are too good for this. I love you.

**Mandy Matney** 1:10:41



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Sara Lynn. Ask him when? Then she asked him where he is. Then she says Have a good night. And be careful making your deal with a devil. I'm leaving here ASAP. To which Michael responds:

**David Moses** 1:10:58

Babe. I love you.

**Mandy Matney** 1:11:00

She responds, where are you at? 11 at night getting greenbacks. It's important if you end up missing, but in all actuality, I don't care. I'm leaving in the illegal Beagle. See you later. So no idea what an illegal bagel is? Or even what they're referencing when they say greenbacks, do they mean money? If so, why don't they just say money? The main takeaway here is that it seems like Michael is doing something sketchy. Right? Why would you think that he would go missing otherwise? A little after 11pm Sara Lynn. Text Michael. I'm trying to have a cat pick me up. I'm literally too weak to drive. I hope there are some funds in the Store account. Michael response:

**David Moses** 1:11:51

Sara, please. I will be home soon. And you do not need to get a cab. I will have cash and you have a car.

**Mandy Matney** 1:12:00

Now, again, Andy Savage doesn't want the jury to believe that Michael and Sara Lynn, we're having financial pressures. But those text sure do paint that picture. It seems like Michael is imposing on a friend to take care of his daughter, that this friend isn't appreciating that, that Sara Lynn wants to take a cab, but can't be sure that they have enough money to do that. But the prosecution breezed through this narrative.



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And we can see how the jury missed that. This is just a window into what their marriage look like. Through their text messages and series last month alive. Those texts we just shared with you were over the course of a day and a half. The prosecution presented hundreds of text messages between April 22 and Sara Lynn's death, showing strife and their marriage at savage tried to get more text messages admitted into evidence, specifically three months prior to the text that the state chose to show. But the judge denied this request. There are several texts when Sara Lynn tells Michael to go away and leave her alone. On May 1, she wrote Stop kissing me when I'm sleeping. Stop trying to be in my presence. I do not like you scream at someone else because you can't talk to your male friend on the phone. You ruined my life. She repeatedly tells him he ruined her life. She repeatedly tells him that she hopes that he dies of a heart attack, and that she wants him gone. And she tells him she's not in love with him. And even though he ruined her life, she's not going to let him ruin bishops life after a litany of texts like that. Michael's only response was:

### **David Moses** 1:14:00

I love you so much. I have not gone far. I am at the gas station, and we'll see you soon.

### **Mandy Matney** 1:14:09

I mean, he could have deleted texts. That's possible. But guys from this that is the man's only response after dozens of text messages, telling him he's the worst man on earth. If you haven't been in an emotionally abusive relationship with a narcissist, you might think this is a normal way for him to respond. But a lot of times narcissists ignore their partners as a mechanism of control. And as another way to devalue their feelings. Ignoring is a way to show their partners that their worst





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words have no effect over them. It is maddening and exhausting to be on the other end. Andy Savage wants the jury to believe that Michael Colucci was just so used to handling his work. illness, meaning her depression, and according to Andy alcoholism, that he knew how to calm her down. But we see the potential for something else here, given Michael's apparent record with recording people in the middle of their outburst. At this point, Michael is well aware that Sara Lynn has turned on him and wants to end their marriage. He knows this game. He's been divorced before he knows that putting things in writing will not bode well for him. But again, there are signs of what was happening outside of the text messages. For instance, Sara Lynn texted Michael in late afternoon, two weeks before her death, saying Don't you ever talk to me in front of anyone like that again? You have a lot of nerve. I won't lose my house. Later that day, she tells him keep chasing your tail, meanwhile, losing your ass. It seems like Sara Lynn was trying to hit Michael where it hurts pointing out what a failure of a husband he was to her. Specifically, what a financial failure he was. Her text blatantly call him out for abusive behavior, such as yelling at her, and she appears to have suspected that he was unfaithful to her. Again, we will talk more about that in the next few weeks. For now, we will leave you with this observation. Sara Lynn made a number of threats about leaving. She insulted Michael, she called him names. She called him out. She even appears to have copy and pasted some texts and blasted him with the same thing over and over what she didn't ever do. And the text that we have read so far, is threatened to harm herself. There is no evidence of suicidal thoughts that we see no evidence of major depression, at least not in the way of inertia. She seems like she is raring to go, ready to leave, or at least ready for Michael to believe that she was leaving for good. She talks about the future with Bishop, not one time that we could see. Does she ever express a desire to leave this world? She just

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wanted to leave Michael. And she wanted to start her life over in the house that she built with her parents. The house she lived in with her daughter, the house that represented a fresh start for both of them. Before she even knew who Michael Colucci was. Sara Lynn wanted to take control over her life again. She had a plan to do that. She had a desire to do that. She was so close to getting that control again. And Michael was used to controlling the relationship and suddenly he was losing that control. Sounds like that is a pretty clear motive for the prosecution to present to the jury. Right? How did they manage to muck that up so badly? And will the AGs office learn from their mistakes when the case goes to retrial and May? We have a lot more coming with a Colucci case in the next few weeks. Luna Shark Premium members get ready for an action packed month ahead. Stay tuned, stay pesky and stay in the sunlight. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell. Learn more about our mission and membership at [lunasharkmedia.com](https://lunasharkmedia.com). Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.