



## EPISODE 48: Michael Colucci's Volatile Marriage in the Days Before His Wife's Death + A Member of Colucci Family Speaks Out

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**Mandy Matney** 00:03

I don't know what if anything made Michael Colucci snap on May 20, 2015. But after taking a closer look at the gathering storm leading up to the moment that Sara Lynn was killed and learning more about Michael's troubling history, I hope that the Attorney General's office can communicate these compelling details to this second jury more effectively than the first because right now I am worried. My name is Mandy Matney. This is True Sunlight, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murder's Podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production written with journalist Liz Farrell. Well, hello from California. The sun is finally shining in LA and we are excited for today's episode. We are less than four weeks away from the Colucci trial and I am getting worried. While we are hearing the big media will be covering this trial starting May 13th it appears like the South Carolina Attorney General's office doesn't seem to be preparing for the war that's ahead. For example, the Attorney General's Office still doesn't appear to know where accused killer Michael Colucci is staying on house arrest. Despite the evidence we have presented showing that he is not living in the home that his bond paperwork says he is. The Attorney General has not filed any motions for bond relocation. While it is possible that they have been communicating with his attorney Andy Savage about his whereabouts. I am still skeptical. Shouldn't the public know this man's whereabouts shouldn't his neighbors know? Shouldn't there be public documents stating where this man is? Who is awaiting trial for the murder of his wife? We have been screaming about this on social media for weeks. And Attorney General Alan Wilson's lack of response is concerning. How many people do we have to care about this case so that he cares. This case is winnable, that's the thing. But do they care about winning when it comes to defendants like Michael Colucci who can afford attorneys like Andy Savage? Or will they lie down and roll over like they did last time and let the defense dominate

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every witness? We will see next month and we will be watching closely. Also, we'll be watching key witnesses from Court TV's coverage of the first trial. All Premium members are invited to join us this Friday at 11am as we dissect the opening statements from the 2018 trial and testimony from forensic scientists, Dr. Lee Marie Tormos. Premium Members also get access to detailed timelines, police reports and even photos from the aftermath showcasing shocking damage from one of the homes that Michael was kicked out of and Premium Members will get access to all of our live coverage starting May 13th. Learn more about how you can fund FOIAs, dive deeper into cases and experience the investigation firsthand as a premium member at [lunasharkmedia.com/membership](https://lunasharkmedia.com/membership). Or at [lunashark.supercast.com](https://lunashark.supercast.com). Remember how Alex Murdaugh's co-conspirators slash bestie Corey Fleming is appealing the almost 14 year state sentence he got from Judge Clifton Newman in September of last year? The sentence he essentially tried to out run by pleading guilty to a single federal charge of conspiracy first and hoping to God that His short federal sentence would be enough to satisfy the state. Well, the South Carolina Court of Appeals has kicked back his appeal to the circuit court so that a decision could be made about restitution. At the time he was sentenced, Judge Newman deferred any decision about restitution? The state argued that quarry wasn't eligible to appeal his sentence because restitution had not been yet decided. Meaning how can you appeal something uh, you don't have the full scope of the Court of Appeals has agreed. So now y'all can get super excited for a another hearing for Cory Flemming where you will hear reasons why he thinks that he has suffered enough. Cory, by the way, remains in federal prison in Jessup, Georgia and is due to be released from there in September 2026. No hearing has been scheduled as of yet but we will keep you updated. And now for his buddy Alex Murdaugh. Well, he has filed notices to appeal both his federal sentence for their financial crimes and his murder conviction. Nothing has been filed so far by his

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team on those fronts, but we will keep you posted because I am sure they will be absurd. Meanwhile, Alex's attorney Dick Harpootlian is campaigning like he's never campaigned before. In his fight to stay in the State Senate aka keep his power as a lawyer legislator Dick is facing a competitive opponent in the primary, a state representative named Russell Ott, who has raised over \$100,000 in his race against Dick so far. This race matters because her Puli and represents the good ol boy lawyer legislators that most of us in this state are sick and tired of. We are tired of being represented by millionaire men who make their money off suing the government and fighting for monsters while holding on to their positions of power, which they weaponize in the courtroom. Russell Ott is a farmer and a small business owner. And best of all, Dick is clearly threatened by him. My new favorite thing to do is to watch Dick or let's be honest, whoever is running Dick's campaign on social media go at it on Twitter. The other day, Dick posted a thread to Twitter. That alone makes me giggle picturing Harpootlian in his wood laden pipe smoke filled old man steady, stomping around in his grandpa shoes while telling Siri to post a thread to X. A thread is a series of tweets, by the way. It is not something that people who use the word blogosphere typically do. So he posted this thread saying basically his opponent was getting money from gasp, the other party and that means he's horrible. And well, that backfired immediately. There were more replies than retweets. I'll have David read some of my favorite replies.

### **David Moses** 07:36

How's the search for the real killers going Dick? Who is funding your fees to represent Alex Murdaugh? Says the attorney who handled a shotgun in the courtroom and pointed it at prosecutors. You fought for a guy who killed his own family. We don't want nor do we like you in Lexington County.

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**Mandy Matney** 08:02

This is a big deal because five years ago, people in South Carolina simply did not talk this way to Harpootlian. He was nearly untouchable. Now, people can't separate him from his classless and bullish defense of a man who killed his family, nor should they. Harpootlian wants and needs as a criminal defense attorney directly conflict with his duty to serve the people of South Carolina. Maybe he will finally realize betting on Alex Murdaugh was a bad move for his career. We still believe that he was paid a sizable fee to defend Alex Murdaugh and we still question where that money came from. Voting Harpootlian out of office is hitting the good ole boy system where it hurts. It is disrupting their power and shaking the ground that they have stomped over. So the primary is this June. While we typically stay out of politics, we hope Dick's district makes the right choice this June. Hashtag No more Dick's in the Senate. Hashtag done with Dick.

**Liz Farrell** 09:19

So today, we want to continue sharing the text messages between Sara Lynn Colucci and Michael Colucci in the days leading up to Sara Lynn's death in May 2015. In about three weeks, Michael will be retried for her murder. And jury selection starts on May 13. Now, as you know, this case bears an awful lot of resemblance to the Murdoch case in terms of the amount of influence that exists behind the scenes. Before we get into the text messages. Let's talk a little bit about that. Michael Colucci was born Michael Antonio. When he was 18 years old, he legally changed his last name to that of his stepfather Ivo Colucci. Despite not having been adopted by Ivo, why? Well, that's a question for Michael to answer. But when you look at Michael's history and his connections to Charleston Area law enforcement, lawyers and judges as well as his forays into the jewelry world and real estate investment, a safe assumption would be that this name change allowed him to capitalize on Ivo's reputation. The





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Charleston Area is particularly focused on pedigree perhaps more than any other area of South Carolina. And that's saying something because Charleston is also probably the most open to newcomers. Although I'm sure there are plenty of newcomers in Charleston who would disagree with me on that point. Michael's own Father John Antonio died at age 36 in December 1974 In Wycoff, New Jersey, according to news reports from the time, it's not clear what his cause of death was reported, Beth Braden checked into getting a copy of his death certificate, but a cause of death would not be listed on it. John was a hairdresser and he owned a beauty school with his wife Doris, who was Michael's mother, John and Doris had two sons. Michael's older brother's name is Johnny in 1965. Five years before Michael was born, John and Doris legally changed their last name and Johnny's last name from Jochum Antonio to Antonio, the law firm that handled their name change belonged to Doris his family. Her father, Martin Marya was a well known attorney, judge and politician in Lodi, New Jersey. For a while he was also the town attorney for Lodi. He died in 1979 and his obituary describes his career as quite colorful. D'Amario was apparently involved in a number of controversies during his career, including accusations that he was overcharging the town for representing them. Council ended up capping his retainer. Then there was an attempt to remove him as town attorney after he was accused of withholding information about a tax settlement that the town had received. In 1949. Council then fired him as part of an overhaul related to a dispute over veteran housing and contracts. After that he once again became a magistrate judge and was hired as a consultant for the Lodi Redevelopment Agency. If you fast forward more than 20 years, you'll find the Marya still a judge and now a mayoral candidate locked in a battle with the Lodi redevelopment agency who sued to have him removed from his law offices so they could build a post office and a grocery store there. D'Amario fodder for two years and they decided to move out on his own. In the meantime, a

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developer accused him of preventing the women of Lodi from being able to shop for their groceries downtown. This is all just to say that Michael Colucci, formally Michael Antonio comes from a family accustomed to positional power. He is the grandson of an influential New Jersey judge, which obviously doesn't mean much in South Carolina, practically speaking, but it means something socially, it's something he gets to claim about himself in a part of the state that values social capital like that to a sometimes comical degree. Again, if you don't believe us about this watch southern charm or southern hospitality on Bravo, that will give you a glimpse. Anyway, what we have here is a man who changed his name to Colucci once he was old enough to do so. And while there might be emotional and personal reasons for Michael doing this, there were also economic reasons one would imagine because again, like the name Murdock in the 14th circuit, the name Kochi means something in the Charleston area. To better understand this, we spoke to one of EVA Colucci, his daughter's Kim Colucci Lizzie who owns her own jewelry store Kim's Fine Jewelry in Summerville. We wanted to give you a little more perspective about the Colucci name because we believe like with Alex the name and the reputation that comes with that name matters. Not only has the name afforded Michael a stellar legal team, it helped contribute to the year long delay in him being charged. His case was soft handled by the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office at first until pressure from Carolyn's family finally resulted in the agency recusing itself and handing the case over to SLED when SLED found that it did indeed have probable cause to arrest Michael for sterilants death. There was another problem. The Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office is the prosecutor for that area, but it too had to recuse itself because of a conflict of interest related to prosecutors connections to Michael sound familiar. Beyond that, in testimony during Michael's first trial, it was clear that some of the first responders who were called to the scene that night knew Michael, from

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where we sit. It looks like he was given the immediate benefit of the doubt and was treated as a grieving husband instead of a potential suspect. And because of that the initial investigation suffered to some degree giving Michael's attorney plenty of fodder during the trial. After speaking with Kim, we got a better understanding of what it means to be a member of the Colucci family.

### **Kim Colucci** 15:24

My name is Kim Colucci. Lizzy is my married name. And I am the middle child. I have an older sister and an older brother, and a couple of younger brothers. My dad is originally from Naples, Italy. And he came to the United States when he was 18. And he married my biological mother and they had five children. And he met my stepmother. And then he divorced my mom. And he moved the three of us. My oldest sister and brother stayed in New York and the three younger of us moved here in 1975, with my dad and my stepmom and her two children, Michael and John Antonio. He was fired by a company called Sam Salomon, which was like a mini Walmart at the time. It was before Walmart and all of that even existed here and he ran their jewelry department. He made all the jewelry for their doing department and did all of their repairs. And when they got bought out by Service Merchandise, I think it was probably the early 80s. My dad bought some land down the street and he built what everybody knows is Colucci jewelry factory.

### **Mandy Matney** 16:49

This is when the Colucci family name became very well known.



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### **Kim Colucci** 16:54

He had built a wonderful reputation he did, probably most everybody's engagement rings, custom orders. He was just a fantastic jeweler. And very creative. So he just created a lot of custom pieces for all the people in the Tri County area around here. And he had a very, very good reputation. He was fair. And he was honest. I can remember as a kid, customers coming to our door and asking my dad that they didn't have enough money to buy their children gifts. And my dad would give them money and they would come try to pay him back. And he would never, he would never let them pay him back. Like he was just a really giving person.

### **Mandy Matney** 17:45

Ivo gained even more notoriety because of some high profile jewelry he was commissioned to design, including a piece for Miss South Carolina and some local artists. He designed all of his jewelry by hand, sketching out customer's hopes and dreams on paper, and then making them come to life. His jewelry store was a busy place, employing a number of jewelers to help fill orders.

### **Kim Colucci** 18:13

He was just a really creative guy.

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

Ivo made an impression on the community. And soon his name carried the weight of his reputation.

### **Kim Colucci** 18:25

Everybody knew him and if we got in trouble or told namely, like, are you Ivo's daughter, you know, it's kind of kind of that small town thing. Then you'd be like I mean, my dad was such a respectful person. And he





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was just so good to so many people. And he ran his business. He taught. I run my business exactly like he did. I haven't changed a thing. I do everything like he did. And he was successful. And he used to say you don't...a lot of jewelry stores have big markups and he used to tell me, you don't have to do that you just used to be fair, you make a living, you don't have to make a killing. And so I think he just lived by that. And he was as fair as he could be in his business and everything he did. He was so successful. He bought old homes in downtown Charleston that were you know, falling apart and being condemned. And he was very handy, who could do a lot of the work himself. So he would buy these buildings and he'd be in there ripping down walls and putting up in a sheet rock and he turned them into apartments. So you know, by the time he passed, he had all this real estate that he had built. It had grown into I think we had 20 something apartments. Yeah, he did really well.

**Mandy Matney** 19:53

Then it came time for Ivo to pass his legacy on to the next generation.

**Kim Colucci** 19:59

When he retired, he left the store to two of my brothers, one brother and one step brother. And he went to Key West to retire. And then they decided, well, I think at that time, my brother Bobby, he kind of separated. And Michael, I guess I don't know what they did bought him out, and then so the store became Michaels. And then Michael actually opened a second store in Summerville.

**Mandy Matney** 20:29

At this point, Michael owns two jewelry stores. But neither is where Sara Lynn's body would later be found. That was a place called the Gold Standard.



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### **Kim Colucci** 20:39

The gold standard wasn't actually a jewelry store. So it was Colucci Jewelers of Summerville, I think, was the name of the store in Summerville, the jewelry store. And then when Michael met Sara, they opened the Gold Standard, just to have a place for people to come and sell gold. They didn't actually sell jewelry there. It was like a gold place. A lot of people were selling a lot of gold back then. And so you would it was just a place you could go just to sell your gold. People were kind of not wearing yellow gold anymore in white gold was becoming popular. So people were like selling all of the yellow gold. And like, you know, getting everything remade and white gold and gold going up.

### **Mandy Matney** 21:24

Michael's handling of Ivo's legacy was a cause of consternation for Ivo, we will talk about that after a short break.

### **Liz Farrell** 21:42

Now, Ivo, and Michael had different visions for the jewelry business, that Ivo built.

### **Kim Colucci** 21:48

He never wanted the second store. And he didn't have anything to do with the Summerville store or the gold standard.

### **Liz Farrell** 21:54

Because his jewelry store was now failing under Michael's leadership, Ivo had to come back from Key West and out of retirement.

### **Kim Colucci** 22:03

The store was doing very poorly in North Charleston. And according to my dad, he had to basically come and rebuild it back up. So I went with



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him. And my son was there and some of the old employees and we all work together to build the North Charleston store back back up, you know, to a good working condition again.

**Liz Farrell** 22:29

The store thrived once again until tragedy struck in 2017.

**Kim Colucci** 22:35

The courts actually made us sell that when my dad had dementia, and as everybody knows, you know, he unfortunately shot my stepmom in that store. So it was pretty horrific time. And so the store had to be sold. And eventually the whole he owned the whole shopping center. And eventually the whole shopping center was sold. And I own my mind. It's called cam. So I didn't go with Colucci because I just wanted to be on my own and do my own thing.

**Liz Farrell** 23:08

In 2016, Michael was charged with killing Sara Lynn. At the time, which was a year after her death. Michael was already living with Ivo and Doris. Soon after Sara Lynn's death he was evicted from the home she built with the help of her parents who still owned the home. When he was charged in her death, he was put under house arrest and lived with Ivo and Doris, which is something that troubled Ivo and ended up sealing his fate with Doris.

**Kim Colucci** 23:38

I think the whole incident has just put such a dark shadow over everything is it's like, I feel like the root of the demise of of everything that incident happened and it financially was really, I don't want to say it was devastating my dad but he was not happy about the financial aspect of all of it and how much money it was going to cause to just



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keep attorney fees and all of those kinds of things just to keep Michael, my guess is out of jail or I don't know, we'll keep them afloat. I don't know exactly what the term is. But it took a toll on his marriage. And so in turn, they just got kind of volatile and he is also suffering at this time starting to disintegrate mentally and he was diagnosed with dementia. And I just think he couldn't handle it. He probably had a hard time handling it, you know, in his right mind, but I don't know if you know much about dementia, but it causes paranoia, and it causes a lot of fear that you wouldn't normally have. And I think it really caused my dad a lot of hardship and just me and Michael never really got along that well, to begin with. And then he was also rest there. And I think they fought a lot. And it was very upsetting to my dad to live like that. And he, he just wanted peace is really all he wanted.

**Liz Farrell** 25:21

Fundamentally Michael and Ivo were very different people, Michael valued the appearance of wealth. And Ivo didn't really care about that.

**Kim Colucci** 25:29

My dad drove a Suburban that was probably 12 years old, but it was fine, it ran fine. And he doesn't need a new car. You know, he just, he didn't need fancy things he didn't, you know, he just was very simple. And he, you know, he would rather buy me something, oh, well, I'm gonna buy you a washer and dryer, or, you know, those kind of things make him happy to do for other people. He came here from Italy with, like, I think literally five bucks in his pocket.

**Liz Farrell** 26:03

But ultimately, Ivo built the life he did for his children.



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### **Kim Colucci** 26:09

So because we lived on a lot of land, we had a lot of parties. And we had a lot of when I say we, I don't mean my, my dad, he didn't really have a lot of parties or anything. But we did as kids growing up. And so people that we grew up with always have memories of the parties out there, because my dad would just be like, What do you want? And I'd say I want a party and I want to be in and I want this. He's like, okay, you know, and eat because like, find me a band to be out there and just, you know, whatever would make us happy, he would do it. And he just wanted us to be happy. And he was happy that we had so many friends and people would come over because Sunday dinners are big. I had one yesterday. And I had my brothers who were 17 people here I said yesterday. And it was nothing. It's just that's just what we do. And it was my dad's every Sunday. And so it didn't matter who came over he would have enough food and he would sit down and he would eat. And he was just inviting everybody. My dad still had kind of an accent, kind of New York kind of Italian kind of southern it was very funny. And so yeah, I mean, people just love to listen to him talk. And he was always, you know, giving them advice and wisdom. And he's like, but anybody you talk to that knew him will say, and people still come in my store, I have customers that are his friends. And you know, your dad was just a lovely man. And we just loved him so much. And he made these rings for me. And he did this. And so it's kind of it's kind of cool that I get to experience that.

### **Liz Farrell** 28:01

After Ivo killed Doris in his jewelry shop, the reputation he had built became that, at least to the public at large.





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### **Kim Colucci** 28:10

I wish people would remember and I think most of the people that actually well at least say to my face do remember who he was and what he did. And for so many people. And I think it's sensationalized a lot because, you know, the media, they, you know, were very obnoxious when that happened, and just following us and trying to get us to say something. And it's like, you know what, this is my dad. And this is not who my dad is. My dad loved her. And he would have never hurt her in a million years. And people that know them and knew their relationship, knew how much he loved her. And I just think the pressure of everything that was going on. And I think him losing, he felt like all of his properties and everything were being lost to other tip from him. He felt like they were taking from him, everything he built in his life. And I think he just couldn't take it anymore. And that's why he shot her. But he was very, very, very upset that day. That that happened, but I just think that for the news worthiness of it, if you will, I think oh, this jeweler is accused of murdering his wife and then his dad goes and shoots his wife and it makes her sound like a bunch of crazy people. But we're not crazy people. I think that my dad was a very good role model and he was a very good person hardworking, and all of us, his kids. US colleges are hardworking people. We you know, we learned from him and me and my sister and my other two brothers. So, we work and we work hard.

### **Mandy Matney** 30:06

The night Sara Lynn died set off a series of events that ultimately led to Ivo Colucci's demise. After he killed Doris, he was deemed not fit to stand trial because of his dementia. His charges were later expunged. But despite the Colucci name becoming synonymous with Michael Colucci, his murder trial, and Doris Colucci's murder. It still carries weight in Charleston. How much weight remains to be seen. So jury



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selection and Michael's retrial begins in less than three weeks, which could get really interesting. Remember, Michael had enough connections in both the local Solicitor's Office and the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office for both of those agencies to recuse themselves. Any savages team has already submitted a proposed your questionnaire with the court on April 15. And that was very Hmm. What's the phrase like a dick move? We will cover this in a later episode because it's extensive. But my favorite part is Andy Savage's intro that says this.

### **David Moses** 31:21

Social media coverage has been extensive, including websites and blogs totally dedicated to this event. And there have been podcasts, which are ongoing about the case on social media. Opinions of the circumstances surrounding the manner of Sara's death have been ubiquitous. Rare is there a report or statement that is factually accurate?

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### **Mandy Matney** 31:59

Blogs, podcasts social media the horror. It reminds me of the time Dick ranted about the blogosphere. Again, and we will discuss Andy Savage's slew of recent filings in an upcoming episode. But from what we can tell, jury selection could take a while in this case.

### **Liz Farrell** 32:22

Now let's talk about the weeks leading up to Sara Lynn's death and what her marriage to Michael looked like. Last week we told you about how text messages starting in April 2015. Less than a month before Sara Lynn was killed show that Sara Lynn seemed pretty set on divorcing, Michael. We also told you about how strange the exchanges were. The texts were presented during trial and the majority are from Sara Lynn. Michael barely seems to respond. And when he does, it's usually with an

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answer that stands in stark contrast to the vitriol of her texts where she says I hate you. He says I love you. It's this dynamic that Michael's attorney Andy Savage seized upon during the first trial painting Michael as a calm has been tasked with being a caregiver to his quote, mentally ill quote, alcoholic wife. I put those words in quotes because from what we could see, Andy Savage was playing up Sara Lynn's mental illness and an attempt to support the defense's theory that she died by suicide with a garden hose that night or, if not suicide, tripped and fell into a noose. But like we told you last week, evidence seems to point to Sara Lynn Having run of the mill anxiety and depression, nothing about her text messages points to any suicidal ideation. Instead, it all pointed to a woman who now had her eyes open and was very much planning to move on as soon as possible with her daughter. Of course, nothing in marriage is simple, especially not and one that is fueled by both parties, drug and alcohol use. Now, going back to what we told you about Michael's lack of response. Last week, we told you about how it sometimes seems like Sara Lynn is responding to a message that simply isn't there. It seemed like Michael was communicating with her possibly over a voice text. Another possibility they never rolled out in the last trial was that someone deleted several text messages. It's unclear but we believe the text messages presented at trial are missing parts of the conversations. We left off last week with Sara Lynn's texts from May 1 When she told Michael to stop kissing her when she was asleep. When she told him he was chasing his tail. And when she told him that she helped he died of a heart attack. May 1 was a particularly contentious day. That evening started off with Sara Lynn asking Michael for a valium telling him she already looked in the cabinet. About 40 minutes after that she told him he was a freak and that his immaturity makes her angry. It's not clear what if anything happened in that timespan. She told him she hopes he has a heart attack and dies and asks him about The Will he never made? Don't act so concerned about Milan now she

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wrote referencing his young daughter. In a span of minutes she told him to stay off the phone with a man named Rich and to leave her and her daughter Bishop alone. Then she repeatedly texted him. You are the biggest joke in Charleston after all. And when I say repeatedly, I mean, it looks like she copied and pasted the same message over and over. She did this several times with several other texts including and that makes me the biggest joke and Charleston's wife. A quick refresher about what was going on in Michael's life at the time. His jewelry stores weren't doing great. Like we said Ivo had to come out of retirement to help rebuild the business he had passed on to Michael. Michael had gone through foreclosures and a land deal had just bombed. He and Sara Lynn were suing their daughter's private school because of a notice of non payment of tuition that accidentally went out to the wrong family, exposing the fact that they were having trouble paying their bill and Michael owed 1000s of dollars to at least one customer who ended up calling the police after Carolyn's death to report Michael. Last week. We told you about texts in April that showed that Sara Lynn wasn't sure if they had enough money for her to take a cap. And we mentioned Michael's cryptic use of the word greenbacks telling Sara Lynn that he'd come home once he got some greenbacks. In response to that litany of texts from Sara Lynn. On May 1, Michael wrote back, Sara, please. And that's it. She responded by telling him to go away, and to leave her and Bishop alone. Then she told him his burned up coat was a joke. What burned up coat? No idea. She told him to just leave her alone forever telling him I don't want to be in your dumbass presence. Then three times in a row. She told him You ruined my life. She told them that she preferred for him to move out since they didn't have sex and kissing him made her feel nauseated. You and I are nothing alike. She wrote. Then she sent all these texts again. And in the middle of it wrote three times. I hope you play Joseph in the Christmas play, you hypocrite. Now, what does that mean? Again, I have no idea but in a few of the tech che

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references not believing that he was talking to a male friend on the phone as he was claiming three times she told him to get his stuff and leave now, three times she told him that she was not in love with him. Three times she again told him that he ruined her life. 16 times she wrote, but you won't ruin bishops. Two hours later, she texted him to say she couldn't find her car keys. A few minutes later, she informed him that she was going to keep looking, then chided him for taking all the cigarettes. He responded once telling her he loves her and that he's at the gas station, and will be home soon. We'll be right back.

**Mandy Matney** 38:08

So the state's evidence either does not include their text over the next four days because there was nothing relevant in them. Or Sara and Michael simply didn't talk over text again until May 5, two weeks before Sara Lynn's death. On May 5, Sara Lynn is clearly angry with Michael about how he spoke to her in front of someone and she texts him. I cannot lose my house, I will not lose my house. She tells him to expedite his visit with someone named rich. She says that if it lasts until after 8pm She will be upset. She then orders Michael to read his texts and emails and stop being a quote unquote pussy. I do not have anything positive to say to you. I will lose my home for you. You are in a lot of trouble Michael, she tells him he finally responds with Sara, please stop. You are not helping anything by your words. I love you and I am doing all I can. She responds that with you're doing the wrong things and again, tells him to read the text that she has sent him. She writes, I'll go to work tomorrow. Just don't lose the keys so I can possibly get there. I cannot believe how blind you are. You have zero sense of priorities. Then in a series of text over several minutes. And for this episode, just in case there are little ears listening. Whenever Sara Lynn or Michael uses the F word. We're just going to say F, Fing or F and their texts, they used the full word she wrote, have a great day and night getting effed up and

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pretending to do something. If you think I'm Camilla stuck here without a car, no money, nor means you're as crazy as I thought you were, I am not living in la la land. I am going to take your phone from you or have it suspended. You have gone off the deep end, dude, refocus, sell something we already actually own. I'm ready to separate. I can't stand you anymore. I am not going down with you. Sorry. You are a very smart man. And I cannot be around you for another minute. Bring me to the car and I'll drop you off wherever you want to go. You and I are through. I'm taking steps to move forward. I can't take your ignorance. Michael finally responds with Sara. What are you talking about? I'm talking about you. She says then talk with not about me. He responds. Okay, she writes, you are insane. Everyone knows it. But you follow Shane's lead. You have lost your mind and family. Great job. We don't know who Shane is, by the way. Michael then writes thank you in response. Over the next 15 minutes Sara writes in a flurry of text, bring me the car, get off the phone and bring me my car. Do not call George or anyone else. Bring the car home now. Throw the phone out of the window. I am going to suspend it if I have to. Someone has to help you and you don't listen. Well. This has gone to an extreme that I won't live with. I do not want to live with you any longer. Get it? I am going to call your mother and father also. I am not qualified to help you. I just text your mom. Hope to see you soon. Michael, finally responded, Sara, great. I'm doing whether you believe it or not everything I can. Let's pause for a second here. Remember how we told you that Andy Savage challenged any notion from the state that Michael was having financial issues? It sure seems like something was going down there that Michael was in some kind of a pickle that involved the potential of Sara Lynn Losing her house. Also, they appear to have been sharing one car for some reason. That doesn't scream well off or wealthy. As Andy Savage claimed Michael to be immediately after Michael's text telling Sara Lynn he is doing everything he can. Sara Lynn responds and what ended up being

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a series of 31 texts over the course of an hour and a half. She texts are you driving home? That's all anyone wants you to do at the moment. I think your day is over. You are out of options. My friend, mark this day on your calendar. Are you driving home Michael? Are you driving home? We have children and I need my car. Not your excuses. No more of those. I am finished. Krell is calling now. Please call me please call me Please hang up and call me now. Now, what is wrong with you? Call me back. You were just here What the eff is going on? Nevermind. I'll handle it. Just like I'll be handling all the issues and problems created over the last six years that I've known you. Thanks a lot, buddy. You were just here. What the eff is going on? I'm calling Verizon. Goodbye. What happened? I thought you just answered. WTF is going on? Where are the keys? I can take you to a hotel, your parents, my parents or a friend of your choosing? Let me know because the clock is ticking. I have kids, unlike you or Camilla realize some people are not meant for being married or becoming parents. Congratulations. You are the point three 0% Out of the 100% of the population. Wow. You and she are made for each other. I am tired of being paraded for what you have tried to turn me Into You are a problem, but not mine anymore. Stupid bastard. Paid Connie lately paid anyone lately. I hate you. I will leave with the kids, but I need the keys. There's a lot to unpack there. Again, Camilla is Michael's ex wife, who he was divorcing at the time he got with Sara Lynn. Last week we read you the text that seemed to indicate that Michael was pawning his daughter off on a woman named Connie, who was not happy about it. We found out from sources that Connie was likely a woman who was friends with Michael's mom and who did childcare for Sara Lynn and Michael. After those texts. Michael responds, have you open the house, I will gladly give you the keys. She responded. I will leave with the kids. But I need the keys. Now. If you think I'm playing some drunk ass man's game, you are wrong. He writes, you can have the keys. I never said otherwise. Saracens, another 22 texts over the next

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two hours, Michael, I am so sad that you would rather be right than have a family. Good luck to you. I am coming to get the store card or any cash you don't have. And I will race you to the bank tomorrow. I've already called Verizon. Once again, you call yourself a husband and father. I'm filing for divorce. My parents are not going to pay for you to live in their house. As a man, it would seem that you would make other plans. Sounds good. I'm calling Carell back. Bishop needs to go to my parents and I'll take Milan to yours. I'm stopping by to get their school clothes. I'll call anyone who calls me enjoy the house. It's all yours to lose. Don't threaten me. I will handle the kids and myself. You aren't very smart. I know how you operate. I am filing for divorce. You got what you asked for another failed marriage. That wasn't your fault. And another business down the tubes. Stay out of my things. Get your own house and go through your things not mine. I do not love you any longer eats and beans and get out of my house and my life. You are making your situation a lot worse than it needs to be. Put the effing cats in the house for your children. If not for anything else, you selfish bitch. One day, I'll never have to see you again. I cannot wait. Why don't you lie in the middle of the road. Because you are too scared. Ha ha. Find an attorney now. So again, it seems like Sara Lynn is responding the things that he is saying. But there is no corresponding text messages that they presented in court. And it's not clear if Michael was using voice messages, or if some messages have been deleted.

### **Liz Farrell** 48:26

But you note the themes, right? They clearly were having money problems. There were pressures involved in the care of their children. Another business was down the tubes. These are all complaints from a setup wife. While they might seem over the top to people like Andy Savage, who attribute them to her, quote, mental illness. From our perspective, Sara Lynn seems pretty consistent and clear about what



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she wants. Now, here's the weird thing. Here's how Michael responds to all of that. He says, I am inside, the girls are inside. And you are outside in the car telling me whatever. You know, when you're watching a hallmark or Lifetime movie, and the writers need to convey information to the audience that the audience needs to know for context, but wouldn't otherwise know unless a character just out and out says it. But in saying it the character is saying something in a way that no actual human talks. Something like, Oh, you're going to see your father. How's he doing after losing the family's land after three generations? That's the kind of vibe that Michaels text has right. It's almost like he's establishing that thing for the record. Because again, like we've said in previous episodes, Michael is aware of the record. He knows she's angling for a divorce. He knows she's angry, and that her behavior is unpredictable right now. She texted his mom, despite whatever he's going through. He's smart enough to know not to put things in writing that could be used against him. For her part. Sara Lynn does not miss a beat. She says, I will sleep in the car tonight while you look for drugs or whatever you're doing. Michael, the guy who rarely responds, immediately responds and says I am not looking for anything. The texting ends around 10pm and picks up again the next morning around 1130 Sara Lynn asked Michael, how's it going? He responds within five minutes. To be honest, it looks very very realistic that they are buying the property. He flew in from Miami yesterday just to see it. He verbatim said they want it. Exclamation point. Jeff quoted them 8 million he was blown away when they walked on the marsh and it was sand based. I'd like to believe it will be signed by weeks end \$200,000 non refundable. They were quoted Sara Lynn writes back, let's keep our fingers crossed. Then she writes Philip is a crackhead. Did you realize that we are keeping Callie and Amber Kelly is really sweet, so I'm okay with that. Probably the nicest cat will have. I'm supposed to meet Karen with the two kittens today. I don't know how to let the mom or Amber say

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goodbye. Sounds stupid, but it's true. Michael responds seven minutes later. I love you. Sara Lynn tells him that's sweet. Four minutes later, Michael responds with you're sweet with four exclamation points. So yeah, you're feeling that whiplash? Well, brace yourself. Two days later at 1:44am Sara Lynn. Text Michael. I'm ready to do something else. We are not on the same page of life. Michael responds within seconds. I'm with you. Come to our room. Sara Lynn writes back I love you. But I think only as a friend. I'm going to the chapel in the morning and go into sleep now. Good night. The thought of waking up to the same day makes me ill. I'm sorry, Michael. We just aren't alike. I'm giving you this phone back. You have two phones now. That afternoon, she texts him Dr. Frey just tried to call me and Michael responds. I'll handle him. Two hours later, she lets Michael know that she's headed his way. And she asks if there's any word about the property. Then over an hour later, she writes, I love you and miss you. I had to wait for the girls to get here in order to leave. Now let's fast forward three days, May 11, just nine days before Sara Lynn died. And she's texting this three times. in all caps. I hate you. The only thing you close in your life is your mouth. Enjoy getting effed over the next 15 minutes or so between 7:22 pm and 8:12 pm Sara Lynn. Text Michael 37 times with no text response from him. Here's what she wrote. I want out. Now, I'm leaving tonight and staying with Karen. Don't you ever look at me as if I'm an idiot when the only one I have to constantly be exposed to is you. Sleep on you, Michael? No real last name. Nothing is going into a trust by the way. Rely on your team. Sleep on you, Michael. I want nothing from you. But what I've worked for everything. She asks why? And again, it seems like she's in a conversation where we can't see or hear the other side. It seems that way during several points of this text exchange. She goes on. Have a solid team. Rock on you washed up Eph I want to divorce period. I do not like some hot, sweaty, needy weirdo asking to be held in the morning when another is trying to sleep. You grossed me out. You

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aren't the person I met. I am serving the papers tomorrow at 10 or 11 or 230. Or whenever nothing happens as usual. Good luck. You will need it. My mom was right all along. I have never loved you. Get your shit close and get out. I do not love you, Michael. I do not love you want to FU nor entertain your family any longer. I think you may not even be the guy I was referring to all this time. I wouldn't be surprised. I hope you make \$1 trillion tomorrow. Then you will leave and I can be young and happy again. There was actually another guy with a do monta. OMG I know who it was now. Not you either. I'm looking him up now. Thank God. Good luck and whatever you do. I had you confused that the man only saw you one time. You're not the guy at all. Nor are you man. I'm outta here. Thank the Lord for that revelation. I hope you make a mint tomorrow. Your partners are funny. My pay off has never seen you again. I'm getting Bishop now unreleased from your weird life. I appreciate it also. It was Gene's nephew. All along. I've been trying to connect with a guy who had a license plate. You weren't him. I'm shocked and relieved. I knew something wasn't right. Goodbye, lots of love, I guess whatever. I am free. So again, that was broken into 37 individual texts. There are definite moments there where she seemed to be responding to him in the moment, such as when she says, nor are you man, and I guess whatever. On May 17, three days before Sara Lynn's death, things get heated around 7 pm. Somebody appears to be at Sara Lynn's house and she's furious. Michael concedes that this is a problem. Wow, Sara writes to him. The stupidity never ends. I would death stop this infatuation with giving other people money and get him out of there before I get home. I'm already super upset. Get the warehouse key back now. Michael responds, Sara, you are 100% Right. All I asked was for him to pick up the trash period. Now his truck is stranded and on piste combined with what you just went through F everybody. You have been terrorized after I asked her multiple times. Philip is and he uses the R word here and done. Sara Lynn responds that she's going to Subway

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and tells Michael to call a tow truck. Babe, you do whatever Michael tells her. Then says get home so he can get this done. Then Sara Lynn writes in a series of text. If he is there, when I get there, I will flip my effing wig. Someone that keeps threatening and called DSS is at my house. Are you and then she uses the R word here? Yes, you are. I cannot believe the length of your stupidity. And then she says My mom is a bitch. Again, it seems like Sara Lynn is responding to Michael but we don't see text for him. And it's unclear whether this is one issue going on or two or if they're related. Michael writes, I'm physically going to take him to house. He needs to go. Yes, she does. No one needs to be around us right now. Nor help. Bullshit. Reminder. This is three days before Sara Lynn dies. Sara Lynn writes back I don't care if I ever see her again after today and I get to come home to Philip. Are you insane? If only I were Brett I may get a little respect or any other deadbeat that needs money. You have topped an all time record. I am pissed off bad Michael response at the station be home soon. It's not clear what's happening here. We do know that Michael has a friend named Philip who was mentioned in a police report as helping him pawn a customer's jewelry after his arrest in 2016. We also believe Brett could be Sara Lynn's brother. All we know is that from these texts, it seems like all hell has broken loose. just under an hour after this Sara Lynn text Michael broke us sloughed. My family not only hates you, they hate me too now. And why would I compromise my blood for a liar? Eff you. I'm going to start my own life. I am going to start my own shit up on the sides. I can be happy again. file now. I don't want to be around you. And I don't want to flaunt another man in your face. At least I'm honest. Michael responds. I'm sorry. I honestly just wanted the trash out.

### **Mandy Matney** 58:51

Well, it is hard to draw conclusions from these texts because we don't think that we are getting the full exchange between the two. And it is



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hard to know the full picture of what is happening to precipitate some of these exchanges. It does seem very evident that Michael is hitting rock bottom when it comes to Sara Lynn. He is out of chances. He messed up one too many times. She's now at the point where she is imagining a better life without him and with another man. Two days before Sara Lynn's death. Sara Lynn text Michael around 530 That evening, Sara Lynn sends about 15 texts over the course of 20 minutes. And about halfway in it seems to shift. It seems like someone else is now texting Michael from her phone. It starts with you are a whore of humanity. Then I hate your guts. I will call your 71 year old relative and speak to she or him in a negative light. I would expect divorce papers. I hate you. My friend is having my car charged tomorrow, he will have tags changed to one less expense off your plate to buy Coke with. Yeah, go get asked. My friend wants to speak to you anyway, please stay out of Sara Lynn's bed or Lynn. We think they meant to type life in there. Either way, answer my call and make it happen until you or I can get to her. You don't appreciate her. But I do want my number. Mr. Michael Colucci. Do you want my phone number be a man leave her alone. She has already suffered enough. Understand why en I love Sara get used to it. Michael responds at the end of the flurry of text with Yes, ma'am. Then someone again seems to respond from Sara Lin's phone. Haha, lipstick. Michael manda man, you are with Sara Lynn or Bishop needs. I am pretty damn sure that she has told you that enough. Am I right? Want to talk? Then it shifts to Sara. Michael, this is Sara. You need to leave. I don't love you like I did before. You are less. I need to be happy. Goodbye freak. Four minutes after her last text. Michael responds. It is not for me to answer. You keep doing and saying and everything else. I am no freak. What wife would say what you say? Cool boy in my bed. Took me on the phone with your family that is just as confused as you and them all. Call me a gay F word. Wake up, will you please. Less than five hours later Sara Lynn texts Michael. This is what he just sent me.

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With all the drug use. I'm really concerned about your kids. You guys need help, baby. I don't want any more fighting, please. Michael responds within minutes. I never started any fight or engaged in one. But now I'm being made out to be a piece of shit at home and everywhere else. This is not my doing. Then in texts unlike any others presented from April through her death. Sara Lynn writes, I am begging you to forgive me. Please. I am sick. I can't do it anymore. are fighting is my fault. I am sorry. Please, please forgive me. I am begging you. Within a minute Michael response. I've never had anything but love and compassion. I can't bring back the one you love. You can have any pool boy or girl you want. F Shane. He is next. f you all Sara Lynn writes back, Michael, please stop. He writes back immediately. Enjoy it too. In a series of texts. Sara Lynn writes back, Michael, please stop. I can't stop shitting or throwing up. I must be pregnant. Please stop. Baby. Please. Call me please. Immediately. Michael response. Chain can shove it up his ass. This deal is between me and Nolan. F everyone else. I promise you that. No trust no nothing. I'm going to squash it all Sara Lynn response Stop, please. I'm very sorry. I need you. I need you. Please don't hate me and please don't leave me. I will be the wife you deserve. Michael rights. Sara. No, you don't. I will not start anything as I have always. I'm not upon. My parents did that to me. No one else. I pray for all that attempt otherwise, may God have mercy on their souls if they have any. You will see soon Sara Lynn says I am not following you. Michael explains in two texts. I am no pool boy. No drug addict. Not crazy just upon. I am a great father husband in the realest man you and others will ever meet. No need to worry. Nor will my daughter's. I did find a gold ring that I gave you. I am grateful for that. She texts back what I'm very sick and I love you. I can't argue anymore. I think I'm dying. Will you consider forgiving me and come home? I love you. And I'm sorry for all the pain that I've caused. I want to make sure you're okay. Please, please stop. I respect you in our family and I will do anything to make it better. Please stop

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the rage just for tonight. I need you. I need you, Michael. I am begging you. And that's it. The texts ended around 12:30am The day before she died. Let's talk about those final texts. Sara Lynn made a complete turnaround on how she addresses Michael in on things. She says to him. Frankly, she seems to be talking him off a ledge. I want to make sure you're okay. She says she's clearly dealing with some stomach issues while texting him. Nevertheless, she seems focus on reversing whatever it is that got triggered and Michael, for his part, he seems maudlin. Like he's feeling sorry for himself. While he's trying to convince himself that he isn't the person she says that he is. Whatever it is, it seems pretty evident from the texts that something pivotal happened on May 17. Three days before Sara was killed, and whatever that something was involved Michael, potentially a friend of his in her family, and it crossed a major line for Sara Len, in whatever that something was prompted Michael to be apologetic because of something else that Sara Lynn had just gone through. And then another man seems to enter the chat. Did Sara Lynn push it too far with Michael? Was he at rock bottom in the days before her death on May 20 2015, the day of Sara Lynn's death. She went with Michael to their attorney's office to talk about their case against their daughter's school. They allegedly went out to dinner, they allegedly visited the grave of her deceased husband. Then they went to the gold standard. We'll tell you more about that day and another episode. Now that you have the full context of what their marriage was like leading up to the final day. But the ultimate takeaway here is that at no point in those messages, did Sara Lynn express a desire to die. She made no threats, hollow or otherwise about killing herself. She never expressed a thought about her feeling down blue or low. She was just over it. She wanted to move on. She wanted to create a new life without Michael for her and for her daughter and she regretted marrying Michael. She was very angry at him and what he has brought into her life. The question facing jurors in the next three weeks is weather her

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anger. Her name calling and pointing out his failures finally, caused Michael to snap. 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](http://lunasharkmedia.com). Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.

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