

Perversion of Power

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For the past six years, there has been a societal obsession with a man known as *Jeffrey Epstein* and the implications of his connections and death. A figure whose scope of operations had the potential to be the largest scandal in American history, along with the JFK assassination and the 9/11 attacks. A man shrouded in deception and mystery, leaving a trail of puzzle pieces for us to speculate who he was. Will we ever find out the truth about his actions and intentions? With this essay, I will be discussing the popular myths surrounding Epstein and hopefully through reading my essay you will have gained insight into the twisted subversion of power that allowed Epstein to operate.

For those who are unaware of Jeffrey Epstein, he was a wealthy financier who leveraged his social connections with those in power to develop a large network of sex trafficking. Some of his most powerful connections are Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, Prince Andrew, Bill Gates, Leslie Wexner, Kevin Spacey, Alan Dershowitz, and many others. Epstein would work with Ghislaine Maxwell to procure young girls for “massages”. Epstein would sexually assault and exploit the young women during these massages and would “pimp” them out to various powerful figures. According to an article published by Graeme Massie (2024) for *The Independent*, “Maxwell, the daughter of the late media mogul Robert Maxwell, told a 2016 deposition that she met Jeffrey Epstein, then a wealthy financier, in 1991 through a mutual friend.” Ghislaine Maxwell would be his only known co-conspirator in his trafficking network. In 2019 Epstein was charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Epstein died on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in his prison cell from what was ruled as a “suicide.” - the ruling of his death as a suicide would be maligned and challenged by the masses with “Jeffrey Epstein didn’t kill himself” being a common phrase used among those skeptical of the nature of his death.

When referring to Jeffrey Epstein’s wealth, media outlets tend to allude to the idea that he was a financier -with that being the way he obtained such immense wealth. On the surface, this

may appear to be true, based on his Wikipedia, but after looking deeper, many inconsistencies arise. Though this may be partially true, it ignores many inconsistencies about the disgraced man's rise and career. Epstein was born on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1953, in Brooklyn, New York to working-class family. This timeline is partially sourced from Jeffrey Epstein's Wikipedia page. Epstein attended NYU until 1974 when he left without a degree. The same year, despite not having a college degree, Epstein was hired as a physics and calculus professor at the prestigious college preparatory academy, Dalton School. According to a *Miami Herald* article interviewing former students of the school by Linda Robertson and Aaron Brezel (2019):

‘I think it was unusual that a school focused on quality education would hire a person with no experience and no college degrees, especially when the Dalton teachers we knew were excellent,’ said E. Belvin Williams, former Dalton trustee and associate dean of Columbia University's Business School.

While working at the school, it is speculated that he ingratiated himself with the social and financial elite parents of the students who went there. While working at the Dalton School, he met Alan Greenberg, CEO of Bear Sterns, whose kids attended the school (Robertson, Brezel 2019). In 1976, he left the school, landing a job at Bear Sterns. He rose through the ranks of the company, eventually becoming a limited partner of the extremely lucrative investment banking company, despite lacking a degree, or any qualifications to warrant being a limited partner, using this position to leverage high-profile connections. He worked at Bear Sterns until 1981, when according to an article by Mark Remillard published by MJR.news article (2022), he was fired for insider trading. In 1982, he founded his financial consulting firm, Intercontinental Assets Group Inc., where he advised both embezzlers and victims of embezzlement. In 1982 he started J. Epstein and Co, once again despite not having a college degree. Both of these organizations

are shrouded in mystery and lack documentation of trade and have very little documented public information about the companies. Epstein claimed that he only worked with clients of over a billion USD net worth, with his only known client being **Leslie Wexner**. Via ABC News “‘Epstein created his own mythology that he only wanted to work with billionaires,’ said Bob Fitrakis, who has covered Wexner for many years as the editor of the independent newspaper Columbus Free Press. ‘And here was an actual billionaire.’”

Leslie Wexner is one of the most important figures related to Epstein. According to a Vanity Fair interview conducted by Gabriel Sherman (2021) with Harold Levin, a former financial advisor for Leslie Wexner’s women's apparel retailer, *The Limited*, In 1989, Wexner asked Levin to meet a “Brilliant young financier who wanted to push an investment opportunity.” The interview continues:

“Levin had never heard of the man, Jeffrey Epstein, which was odd. After working for Wexner for seven years, Levin knew virtually every player on Wall Street. Levin’s skepticism was confirmed as soon as he arrived at Epstein’s Madison Avenue office. There were no visible signs of a trading operation; just Epstein sitting behind a desk that didn’t even have a computer. ‘Epstein was trying to explain a currency trade he wanted to do. I have an MBA from Ohio State, and I didn’t understand a word the man said,’ Levin recalled. Levin went back to Columbus and reported that Epstein was a fraud. Despite Levin warning Wexner of Epstein possibly being a fraud, Wexner appointed Epstein in charge of his finances.”

Levin explained in the interview, “On my last day, Epstein walked into my office and held up a piece of paper. He bragged that Les had given him power of attorney over his money. I worked for Les for seven years and I never had general power of attorney,” Why would Leslie Wexner give that kind of power to someone who he had been warned may be a fraud and lacked any

credentials for the position? According to a New York Times article by Emily Steel, Steve Eder, Sapna Maheshwari, and Matthew Goldstein (2019):

The clearest sign of Mr. Wexner's nearly limitless comfort with Mr. Epstein came in July 1991. Mr. Wexner signed a three-page legal document, known as a power of attorney, that enabled Mr. Epstein to hire people, sign checks, buy and sell properties and borrow money — all on Mr. Wexner's behalf. Mr. Epstein, the document stated, had the 'full power and authority to do and perform every act necessary' for Mr. Wexner.

These events raise many questions. Why would Wexner give Epstein that authority? Was Wexner aware of what Epstein intended to do with his money and assets? Did Epstein blackmail Wexner into signing power of attorney to Epstein? On paper it may look as though Epstein made his money through financial advising, but we will likely never know the true nature of how Epstein was able to rise through these powerful social ranks and attain such immense wealth and power.

Possibly the most famous myth surrounding Epstein is the nature of his death. The most common narrative pushed by the media was that he committed suicide. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Epstein was arrested for sex trafficking as well as several other charges. He was being held in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan. On July 8<sup>th</sup> he would plead not guilty to the federal charges placed upon him. On July 10<sup>th</sup> Epstein was assigned to the prison's Special Housing Unit (SHU). According to a CNN article by Eric Levenson (2019), this was done as precaution for suicidality and risks of having him among general prison population. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> Epstein is placed on suicide watch for 24 hours after reports of an attempted suicide. According to the same article (Levenson, 2019) he was transferred back to SHU to the cell closest to the correctional officer's desk.

Now that we have the background of his time in prison and the weeks leading up to his death, we can discuss the inconsistencies surrounding his death. On the day of Epstein's death, August 9<sup>th</sup> hundreds of court documents were unsealed in New York Federal Court alleging new details of sexual abuse claims Epstein and several associates (Levenson, 2019):

August 9, 4 p.m.: Tova Noel, a 31-year-old officer at MCC, begins the first of two back-to-back eight-hour shifts in the SHU... Noel and an unnamed 'Officer-1' do not perform the required 4 p.m. institutional count, internal video shows, according to the indictment. They complete and sign a count slip falsely saying they did. The count slip is collected and delivered to the control center, where officers are responsible for comparing the count slips to the institution's inmate roster, the indictment says... Thomas and Noel, the only two correctional officers on duty, do not perform the required 12 a.m. count, internal video shows. They complete and sign a count slip falsely saying they did (Levenson, 2019).

The article continues with the timeline of the night of his death, "Noel and Thomas fail to complete any of the required 30-minute rounds in the SHU, authorities say. Noel completes and signs more than 75 separate 30-minute round entries falsely saying they conducted the rounds." (Levenson, 2019) There are two plausible explanations for these guards' failures. The first explanation would be that the guards worked long shifts, and simply didn't feel like doing work that night. The second explanation being that they had some involvement in his death. According to a July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, article by Tom Winter & Rich Schapiro, published by NBC news, Epstein posted 77 million dollars for bail, which was denied by federal prosecution. I highly doubt that guards could be so inattentive and falsify so much evidence for such a high-profile case.

According to an ABC news article by Aaron Katersky, Luke Barr, and Emily Shapiro (2023):

On July 30, the Inspector General said an email was sent to 70 staffers of the prison physiological unit instructing that Epstein was to be housed with a cellmate. But the Inspector General said that warning went unheeded by Bureau of Prisons staff so that when his cellmate was moved on Aug. 8, another inmate was not placed there.

This quote clearly shows that Epstein was an incredibly high-profile inmate, showing further inconsistencies with the guards' actions. A common piece of evidence sighted by those who believe Epstein committed suicide is that he had previously attempted it just weeks before his death. While this could be true, there is evidence disputing this claim.

However, the 66-year-old was removed from suicide watch on July 24 and remained under psychological observation for another six days. The report details how Epstein told prison staffers he thought his cellmate tried to kill him, but he later said he didn't know how he sustained his injuries (Pilar Melendez, 2023).

There is no real explanation to why Epstein would make something like this up. (Maybe he wanted to be by himself on suicide watch?) Along with the guard's falsification of evidence and inattentiveness, according to a BBC article (2020) stated that the two cameras outside of Epstein's cell both malfunctioned, erasing the footage and any evidence that footage from his cell would have offered. According to an article by Brit Mccandless Farmer (2020), published by CBS: 60 Minutes:

60 Minutes obtained of Epstein's autopsy, photos from his jail cell also appear to show inconsistencies, including questions about whether investigators examined the correct ligature used in Epstein's death. At least two nooses were photographed lying on the floor of the cell, both appearing to be made from strips of orange bedsheets. But photos of the noose taken in as evidence and presumably thought to be responsible for killing Epstein show both ends of the noose folded and hemmed, not cut. Sources have told 60 Minutes

that the guard who found Epstein cut him down before trying to revive him. ‘It doesn't look like anybody ever took scissors to it,’ Alfonsi said. ‘So there is some question—is that the right noose?’

The only explanations for the nooses I can think of are either Epstein attempted suicide with those previous nooses, with the nooses not working, (Doesn't explain both ends of the noose being folded and hemmed.) or that the evidence was planted. Another inconsistency is the autopsy of Epstein. According to an article CBS News (2020):

Dr. Baden said small burst capillaries, known as petechiae, found on Epstein's face, mouth, and eyes are often an indication of strangulation. But it was injuries to Epstein's neck that make Dr. Baden call into question the official ruling of suicide. Autopsy photos show fractures of the left and right thyroid cartilage, which sits at the front of the neck, and the left hyoid bone, a u-shaped bone that sits under the jaw and acts as an anchor for the tongue. ‘I have never seen three fractures like this in a suicidal hanging,’ Dr. Baden tells Alfonsi on the broadcast. He added: ‘Going over a thousand jail hangings, suicides in the New York City state prisons over the past 40–50 years, no one had three fractures.’

The pathologists 60 Minutes spoke with agreed that eye hemorrhaging is common in homicidal strangulation and less common, though not impossible, in suicidal hangings. Jeffrey Epstein's elite connections, being taken off suicide watch, the guards failing to do their job as well as their falsification of evidence, the hemmed/ folded nooses, the camera malfunctions, the release of new information on the day of his death, the high profile nature of the case/ those involved, and Epstein's autopsy all lend credence to the idea that there was more at play to his death.

Many people assume Epstein was a single actor, who was aided by Ghislaine Maxwell. While this could be true, there are many differing accounts of who the man was, and who may

have been involved in his operations. One of the most baffling pieces of evidence was Epstein's 2008 plea deal. In 2008 Epstein pleaded guilty to two state felony counts relating to prostitution. These would be the only charges brought against him, despite the FBI having reason to believe there was much more taking place. According to an article by Josh Gerstein, published by Politico (2015), "'I wanted to tell you that I have compiled a list of 34 confirmed minors,' Villafana wrote to Lefkowitz. 'There are six others, whose name [sic] we already have, who need to be interviewed by the FBI to confirm whether they were 17 or 18 at the time of their activity with Mr. Epstein.'" Epstein would take a non-prosecution plea deal, landing him 18 months in prison, though he would only spend 13, despite evidence showing of the prosecution's knowledge of his operations:

Newly disclosed excerpts of emails and letters exchanged by prosecutors and Epstein's defense appear to indicate that federal authorities and Epstein's lawyers worked to limit information judges might receive about aspects of the deal, which involved Epstein pleading guilty to a state charge in exchange for a guarantee not to prosecute him in federal court.(Gerstein, 2015).

These findings are substantiated by lead prosecutor, Alex Acosta's comments on the case. According to an article by Vicky Ward, published by the Daily Beast (2019) "He'd cut the non-prosecution deal with one of Epstein's attorneys because he had 'been told' to back off, that Epstein was above his pay grade. 'I was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to leave it alone,' he told his interviewers in the Trump transition," The article continues:

After the one meeting with then-U.S. Attorney Acosta, where presumably 'intelligence' was mentioned, the indictment was shelved and, instead, Epstein signed a non-prosecution agreement with federal prosecutors, pleading guilty to one count of solicitation of prostitution and one count of procurement of minors for prostitution, which

earned him a cushy 13 months in county jail, from where he was allowed to leave to work at his office and go for walks... The deal granted immunity to ‘any potential co-conspirators.’

What does “belonged to intelligence” mean? This is most likely alluding to belonging to intelligence agencies such as the NSA, CIA, Mossad, and MI6. According to an interview done by CBS News in 2019 of Maria Farmer, a victim of Epstein’s crimes, alleged mass surveillance of his home:

The main thing he did when I walked in, and I thought was interesting, he showed me where the cameras, the men monitoring everything, were. So, if you're facing the house, there's a window on the right that's barred. That's the media room, is what he called it. And so, there was a door that looked like an invisible door with all this limestone and everything. And you push it, and you go in. And I saw, all the cameras, it was, like, old televisions basically, like, stacked... And I looked on the cameras, and I saw toilet, toilet, bed, bed, toilet, bed. I'm like, 'I am never gonna use the restroom here and I'm never gonna sleep here,' you know what I mean? It was very obvious that they were, like, monitoring private moments.

For what reason would Epstein have to record these private areas? Was it just for his nefarious indulgencies, or for a different reason? According to a Washington Times article by Bill Gertz (2024), where they interviewed a NSA counterspy by the name of John Schindler, “Mr.

Schindler said that Epstein appears to have been part of a larger organization that provided funds for his activities and also to buy off victims or otherwise intimidate them into silence. 'That's not a one-pedophile job and, given the industrial scale of Epstein’s abuse over decades, with at least hundreds of victims, it would take a considerable retinue if not a small army to keep that sordid operation going and out of public view for any extended period,’ he said.” Schindler continues,

“In other words, the heart of the Epstein saga was a clandestine intelligence operation devoted to compromising and blackmailing rich and powerful people,” Think for a moment; how was Epstein able to somehow take advantage of every powerful connection he made? Why was he so eager to ingratiate himself with every notable and powerful person he could? How was he able to escape his 2008 indictment with ridiculously light sentencing? Whether it be corruption, blackmail, or both, Epstein was most likely not working alone.

Will we ever find out the motivations, the connections, co-conspirators, and who Epstein really was? Most likely no. But the implications of his rise to power, development of his connections and death create an immense web of physical, circumstantial and anecdotal evidence that need to be discussed. The tale of Jeffrey Epstein is not only tragic, but a warning. A cautionary tale of how power can be perverted and how evil tends to hide in plain sight. Some may call me paranoid or conspiratorial; this language does not offer an open discussion. Discussions are what lead us to truth. When an event of such epic proportion, due to the connections and the implications with these connections with Epstein, an open dialogue must be had. Money, especially in America, tends to be one of the sole contributors to one's power. The one who holds power governs the accountability of those they believe they have power over. To hold accountability for the people who have such power, there must be discussions and investigations into how power can be subverted, manipulated, self-serving and perverted.

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