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# **Prince Andrew risks losing** ambassador job as girl in underage sex case reveals meeting him

By TOM LEONARD UPDATED: 08:07 EDI, 2 March 2011













- . The Duke of York, 51, pictured with his arm around the bare midriff of Virginia Roberts
- Mother-of-three spent four years as millionaire's personal masseuse
- · Epstein trained her 'as a prostitute for him and his friends'

Serious doubts are being cast on Prince Andrew's suitability to represent Britain following revelations that he spent time with a girl of 17 while she was being sexually exploited by one of his billionaire friends.

The Duke of York, 51, was pictured with his arm around the bare midriff of Virginia Roberts, a vulnerable teenager hired to work as an 'erotic masseuse' and perform sexual favours for American businessman Jeffrey Epstein and his friends.

Later, she claims, Epstein's friend Ghislaine Maxwell told her: 'You did well. He had



First meeting: Prince Andrew puts his arms around 17-year-old Virginia, centre

Andrew, who works for the Government as an ambassador for foreign trade, remains close to Epstein, 58, and stayed at his New York mansion as recently as December despite the financier admitting to child sex crimes in 2008 and being placed on the US sex offender register.

But the full extent of the prince's proximity to Epstein's offences was not known until Miss Roberts broke her silence this weekend. In a civil writ against the businessman, she alleged that her duties included being 'sexually exploited by Epstein's adult male





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he isn't fit for the job:

Here, Torn Leonard reveals the astonishing background to the case.

#### The new Gatsby

Even by the rags-to-riches-to-rags mythology of New York, Jeffrey Epstein's ascent and subsequent humbling has been breathtaking.

The son of a parks department employee, he was plucked from obscurity as a Manhattan private school maths teacher by a pupil's father who got him a job on Wall Street in 1976.

He rose rapidly at the investment bank Bear Stearns but left in 1981 to set up on his own, managing the fortunes of clients with \$1billion or more.

Enigmatic and mysterious about his business activities, (some compare him to the fictional millionaire The Great Gatsby) he has only ever identified one of his clients - his mentor and main patron Les lie Wexner, whose business empire includes the upmarket Victoria's Secret lingerie chain.

How rich Epstein has become is a matter of conjecture but even his rich friends talk about his wealth with awe. His 52,000 sq lt, nine-floor, 40-room mansion on East 71st Street is supposedly the biggest private residence in Manhattan.

The pavement outside is heated from beneath to melt the snow.

He also owns a 7,500-acre ranch in New Mexico, a mansion in Palm Beach, a house in Westminster, an apartment in Avenue Foch, Paris, and Little St James, one of the US Virgin Islands.

His fleet of aircraft includes a Gulfstream jet, helicopter and a Boeing 727 on which he famously flew Bill Clinton and Kevin Spacey on an Aids mission to

He is a noted patron of science and - say awed observers - has a brilliantly scute. mind. One says: 'You spend time in Jeffrey's company and you come away enriched, and not diminished.



A new life: Virgina, now a mother-of-three, in Australia

Epstein's friends include not only Mr Clinton but Donald Trump, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, top White House economist Larry Summers and a host of Nobel Prize winning scientists.

## The Maxwell Connection

Despite his wealth, Epstein was for years a rare sighting on Manhattan's moneyobsessed social scene. That ended in 1992 after he met Ghislaine Maxwell, glamorous and well-connected daughter of the disgraped British typoon Robert Maxwell.

Some believe she was attracted by his resemblance to her similarly dominant and flamboyant father, but their romance reportedly ended because she wanted to marry and he wanted to see other women.

Bankrolled by Epstein, however, she established herself as a leading New York socialite and repaid the favour by putting Epstein in touch with her own well-heeled friends in Britain.

She introduced him to Prince Andrew in early 2000, quite probably during a holiday at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, owned by Donald Trump.

Epstein joined them on four other breaks over the year, including a beach holiday in Phuket, Thailand, another holiday in Florida and two occasions in Britain.

The first was a June engagement at Windsor Castle to celebrate the Queen's birthday, the second a weekend house party at Sandringham six months later which the prince arranged to celebrate Miss Maxwell's 39th birthday.

In between, she took him to an infamous 'hookers and pimps' party at a New York nightclub hosted by the former lingerie model Heidi Klum in a black latex S&M outfit.



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Troubled teenager: Virginia on the billionaire's Zorro ranch in New Mexico in 2001

The prince was also at a Manhattan cocktail party thrown that year by Miss Maxwell which was filled with young Russian 'models' - some of the other guests were 'horrified', said an onlooker

If the prince got the chance to party with a super-rich, never-married playboy who loved to surround himself with beautiful young women, the guid pro guo for Epstein was less obvious.

American friends noticed his delight in introducing 'Andrew' and waiting for them to make the royal connection. There have even been unsubstantiated rumours - most probably started by Epstein and on which Buckingham Palace would not comment that he advised the Queen on her finances.

Murray Gell-Mann, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist and recipient of Epstein largesse, said he was certainly given the impression by Epstein that she was a client.

#### Young girls in Palm Beach

Epstein's world began to implode in March 2005 when the mother of a 14-year-old girl went to police in Palm Beach accusing him of sexually assaulting her daughter.

The teenager told police she was taken to Epstein's mansion by an older girl and paid \$300 after stripping to her knickers and massaging the man while he abused himself.

When police searched the mansion they found hidden cameras, photos of naked young girls on the walls and genitalia-shaped soap in the bathroom.

At least 40 girls aged 13 to 17 have come forward with similar stories, some saying Epstein sexually assaulted them during the massage.

According to Brad Edwards, a lawyer for some of the accusers, Epstein was molesting under-age girls every day he was in Palm Beach.

Police, who had wanted to pursue possible sex-trafficking charges, were furious and blamed Eastein's high-placed friends when he was allowed to strike a plea bargain. under which he admitted two minor charges and was jailed for just 13 months.

'If it you or I did this, we'd be in prison for life,' said Mr Edwards. However, the girls have been allowed to take civil action and Epstein has so far made 40 hefty out-ofcourt settlements. Several girls said Ghislaine Maxwell had procured them.

## Virginia's story

Of all the allegations made by anonymous girls against Epstein, one stood out as particularly earthshattering.

Jane Doe 102, as she was known. claimed she had not only been abused by Epstein but had jetted around the world with him and was 'sexually exploited by [his] adult male peers, including royalty, politicians, academicians, businessmen and/or professional and personal acquaintances'.

She has now been identified as Virginia Roberts, a blonde, blue-eyed mother of three now living in Australia.

At the age of 15, she was working as a changing room assistant at the Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach.

She said she was approached by Ghislaine Maxwell, who offered her the chance to work for a wealthy 'gentleman' who needed a travelling masseuse.

They visited Epstein's pink mansion where, according to court papers, she was ordered to strip and straddle his naked body.





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She's always busy



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my face was red with emparrassment out i teit under immense pressure to please them; she told the Mail on Sunday.

'The whole time it was going on, they were promising me the world, that I'd travel with Jeffrey on his private jet and have a well-paid profession.'

Epstein paid her \$200 for what he called the 'erotic massage' and told her to return the next day. She spent the next four years with Epstein, for three of which she was under Florida's age of consent – 18.

'Basically, I was training to be a prostitute for him and his friends who shared his interest in young girls,' she says.

That stage of his alleged abuse started after two years when he asked her to fly to his Caribbean island and make a friend of his 'feel how you make me feel'.

She says she was given to men, aged from their 40s to their 60s, either on the island or on Epstein's New Mexico ranch.

#### Pampering a prince

Virginia says she met Prince Andrew three times. First, when she accompanied Epstein on a six-week trip to Europe and North Africa in 2001, they went to Ghislaine Maxwell's London house.

The following day, Andrew arrived and Miss Maxwell served tea and biscuits to the four of them.

Miss Maxwell invited the prince to guess Virginia's age and he correctly said '17', at which Miss Maxwell joked that Jeffrey would 'soon have to trade her in'.

After dinner and a trip to Tramp nightclub where she danced with the prince, they returned to Miss Maxwell's house. They all went upstairs and Virginia asked Epstein to take a picture of her with Andrew to 'show my morn'.

She adds: 'Chislaine and Jeffrey left us after that, and later Andrew left.' The following morning. Maxwell told her: 'You did well, He had fun.'

On the last leg of the trip, Epstein paid her \$15,000 which she described as 'amazing money, more than I'd ever made on a trip with him before'.

She says she met Andrew a second time at Easter 2001, finding him sitting in a leather armchair at Epstein's Manhattan home.

Miss Maxwell had given him the prince a Spitting Image puppet of himself and another member of Epstein's entourage, Johanna Sjoberg, was sitting on his knee.

Miss Sjoberg, who was 21, herself described the incident to the Mail on Sunday three years ago. She said Miss Maxwell made Virginia sit on Andrew's other knee and then she 'put the puppet's hand on Virginia's breast, then Andrew put his hand on my breast'.

She added: 'It was a great joke. Everybody laughed.' The 'Joke' earned Virginia \$400 from Epstein.

Her final encounter with the prince was on Epstein's Caribbean island, by which time she was 16.

There is no suggestion that there was ever any sexual contact between her and the prince or that Andrew know Epstein had paid her to have sexual contact with his friends.

By now, she says, Epstein was hinting she was 'too old' for him although he and Miss Maxwell once disgusted her by suggesting she had a child by him.

'They said I would have to sign a contract relinquishing rights to the child and consenting to Jeffrey having as many relationships as he liked,' she says. 'It was a smack in the face.'

For her 19th birthday, Epstein flew her to Thailand to take a massage course. She met an Australian martial arts expert there and married him ten days later.

Epstein's plea bargain spared Virginia the ordeal of having to testify against him in court.



Counselling: Virginia at her mother's home at Palm Beach in 1998

But she says she is 'appalled' by the light sentence he received. 'To me it's saying, "We are above the law". Jeffrey is a monster.'

## An offender not a predator

Friends insist Epstein is 'looking for a new beginning' but it has not started with any show of remorse from the notoriously arrogant typoon.

Stopped by a reporter in New York last week, he insisted: Tim not a sexual predator, I'm an offender... it's the difference between a murderer and a person who steals a bagel."

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This particular bagel thief has been put in the highest re-offending risk category in the US sex offenders' register.

But while Leslie Wexner, his billionaire client, has dispensed with his services, other less wealthy friends are more than happy still to fraternise with the convicted paedophile.

They include Prince Andrew, who spent five days staying at Epstein's Manhattan mansion in December.

He was guest of honour at a party thrown by Epstein and attended by Woody Allen, CBS News presenter Katie Courie and several other broadcasters, all of them lightheartedly pestering for invitations to Prince William's wedding.



Organiser: Ghislaine Maxwell looks on as Andrew put his arm around Virginia. Rob Maxwell's daughter invited her to work as Epstein's personal masseuse soon after her 15th

Rosa Monckton, the jeweller and former confidente of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been a friend of Epstein since they met at a dinner party in London in the 1980s.

She said she was not surprised that Prince Andrew was still willing to associate with

'It shows he's a good friend,' she says. 'Jeffrey is an extraordinarily loyal friend, and if somebody's loyal to you, you're loyal back. Whatever Jeffrey did, he's been punished

As for Ghislaine Maxwell, she is still close to Epstein although, according to a member of staff at her New York home yesterday, she had conveniently 'gone away. until next week'.

Epstein himself is picking up the reins of a business without its main client (Mr. Wexner). Friends confide that 'it is a difficult time for him'.

Brad Edwards, the lawyer representing some of his accusers in Florida, is sceptical over whether Epstein will be able to get over his hankering for the sexual ministrations of poor, easily-exploited young girls - whatever his friends say. 'To me, it's a tough habit to break,' he says.

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