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Tom ([00:00](#)):

Please note, the following episode contains mature language and descriptions of sexual situations.

Leonard ([00:09](#)):

Everybody has their needs. I gave them that sense of confidence and I also provided them what they wanted. It was safe and they could trust me. I never let him down. I played professional. I played sexual. Whatever you needed. Anything.

Tom ([00:35](#)):

Manila, 2007.

Tom ([00:39](#)):

The chauffeured Mercedes crawled south for half an hour in the interminable traffic. The turbid waters of Manila Bay on the right. The middle-aged men packed inside the cars were in an exuberant mood.

Leonard ([00:55](#)):

Being warriors, they've been at sea for such a long time. They're aviators. They're nukes. They're captains of ships. They've got this inner side of them that is a beast that needs to come out. So I understand that.

Tom ([01:16](#)):

Leonard Glenn Francis was taking out the senior commanders at the US Seventh Fleet. These were the most powerful Navy officers in Asia and they controlled the movements of around 60 ships and submarines, 150 aircraft and 20,000 sailors in a huge operational area, stretching from Hawaii to India. The officers had helped Leonard's Singapore-based company, Glen Defense Marine-Asia, win a huge contract in the Philippines, according to a grand jury charge that will go to trial early next year. He had to keep them sweet.

Leonard ([01:50](#)):

We all went out. We went to Air Force One.

Tom ([01:55](#)):

Air Force one, a karaoke bar, is in a building that looked like an American strip mall topped with a huge neon sign of a rising sun, a plane taking from the foreground. The tropical heat was cloying, but the men moved quickly into the air conditioned lobby and through a curtain at the back. On the other side, Filipino women, many just students, sat in rows in a kind of fishbowl. Identifiable, not by their names, but by the numbers attached to their skimpy outfits.

Leonard ([02:25](#)):

We went there and then picked up a bunch of karaoke girls and we booked them out and brought them back.

Tom ([02:36](#)):

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Leonard, six foot three, barrel chested, and over 300 pounds. It's hard to place where he's from. He sounds American except for when his accent slips a little. He's actually Malaysian and an ethnic mix. Scottish, Sri Lankan, and Portuguese.

These guys, it's almost like they're rap stars or something.

Leonard ([02:59](#)):

Oh yeah. Well more than that. Probably like rock stars. They were living their life. Living their dreams. Things that they'll never ever, ever again do in their lifetime. Nobody would give them that kind of parties that I did.

Tom ([03:19](#)):

Always the ringleader, the big boss or lion king to these Navy officers, Leonard dominated the outing. Peer closer and you could sense an artifice in his behavior.

Leonard ([03:31](#)):

I mean, I do get a buzz, of course. I'll get drunk after drinking like 10 bottles of wine and champagne. I would get drunk.

Tom ([03:40](#)):

The after party was in the \$4,000 a night MacArthur Suite at the Manila Hotel. Opened in 1912, it was General Douglas MacArthur's home and operational command during World War II. The men piled into the Spanish mission-style room with wooden ceiling beams, marble tiles, an ornate chandelier and heavily draped curtains. Leonard had stocked the suite with \$10,000 bottles of Dom Pérignon.

This is where he commanded the US forces during the battle of Manila?

Leonard ([04:11](#)):

Yep. History. Yeah.

Tom ([04:14](#)):

Actually, the original hotel was destroyed during the war, but the two bedroom suite was filled with MacArthur memorabilia. In the suite's study, two ornately carved wooden chairs, the only objects to survive the Battle of Manila, stood in front of the desk.

Leonard ([04:31](#)):

Yeah. They just start stripping and having sex right there.

Tom ([04:37](#)):

One of the men, quite drunk by now, opened a case on the desk containing a replica MacArthur's famous corn cob pipe and grabbed a woman.

Leonard ([04:46](#)):

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The pipe was used as a dildo on the hooker. The Seventh Fleet was making a mockery of General MacArthur's memorabilia. He's a historical figure and they totally desecrated and insulted. It was a mass orgy. That's how deep we were with the Navy. That's how close we were. We were touching skins.

Tom ([05:18](#)):

I'm Tom Wright, and this is Fat Leonard. A podcast from Project Brazen.

Leonard ([05:38](#)):

I felt free at sea and being in the ocean with the sea, the breeze, the wind, the smell. Everything. Gave you this feeling of being a free person. I enjoyed it. It made me relax.

Tom ([05:55](#)):

Penang, Malaysia. 1964.

Tom ([05:59](#)):

Leonard grew up around the port of Penang. A bustling harbor in Southeast Asia, where in earlier days, trade in opium between India and China fueled huge fortunes. Leonard's grandfather on his mother's side, Don Joseph, a Sri Lankan of Portuguese blood ran a company that provided supplies like food, water, and fuel to merchant ships. Even in the 1960s, this was a world closer to the 19th century than today, with half naked laborers carrying loads up wooden gang planks into the holds of merchant ships from Britain, Greece, and elsewhere.

Leonard ([06:33](#)):

My father and my grandfather used to take me down to the docks. I used to observe all the port authority workers that used to work on the docks back then.

Tom ([06:44](#)):

Leonard was attracted to stories of powerful men.

Leonard ([06:48](#)):

Yes, I was always very ambitious growing up. I always had a great ambition. I mean there three things that I've always wanted to be. One was to be a shipping tycoon. Then the second part of me that I truly enjoyed was, of course, I was a great fan of Elvis Presley. I loved singing and entertaining. And the third was, of course, I was fascinated by the movie, The Godfather.

Tom ([07:19](#)):

Leonard got everything he dreamed of as a child and more. He built a billion dollar business supplying the US Navy with food fuel and security, but he was no mere contractor. He bribed Navy officers with Michelin star dinners, Cohiba cigars, \$900 haircuts, luxury hotel stays and prostitute after prostitute, in order to win contracts and inflate invoices. Leonard infiltrated the Navy like a mafia don and built an empire that exceeded anything his young self could have imagined.

What were you personally worth at the height of your powers?

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Leonard ([07:57](#)):

You look at all my vessels, my ships, everything put together, property, yeah, I mean the port ... I was worth hundreds of millions, yeah.

Tom ([08:08](#)):

You were worth at least tens of millions of dollars?

Leonard ([08:10](#)):

Yeah. But if you look at it over the years, I would have accumulated billions in terms of revenue.

Tom ([08:23](#)):

Leonard had a flotilla of 180 boats, including his own worship, The Braveheart protected by armed mercenaries, which he deployed to keep the US Navy safe. US embassies gave him diplomatic cover. He even took part covert Navy missions against Al-Qaeda. Leonard was also a useful buffer. Paying bribes to local authorities and allowing the US Navy to operate effectively. With so many Navy officers in his pocket, Leonard was able to move the world's largest warships into ports that he controlled, where he could charge more for food, fuel and water.

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:09:04]

Tom ([09:01](#)):

But he could charge more for food, fuel, and water, as well as protection.

Leonard ([09:09](#)):

What he had to do was, the entire command, the chain of command, the command and control had to be in your pocket. That's what happened. Everybody was in my pocket. I had them in my palm. I was just rolling them around. And then I could just move the carriers like paper ships in the water. Nuclear powered aircraft carriers, strike groups. And I could like put them in anywhere I wanted them to go. And that's how I could influence it because I could shift the ships around.

Tom ([09:47](#)):

That's just an amazing power that you had.

Leonard ([09:50](#)):

Oh yeah, I could do wonders. And it was just move the carriers. This is a \$20 billion ship, capital ships and I'm non-military, I'm just a civilian, I'm not a US citizen. And I had that command over all these senior naval officers who would just snap on my command. Do this, and they'll move the ships for me. Oh my God. It was like crazy. They were coming in to take some drug lord, they came running in with guns blazing.

Tom ([10:44](#)):

San Diego, 2013.

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Leonard ([10:47](#)):

And then slammed me against the wall and then put me on a chair, started frisking me, checking me, everything.

Tom ([10:57](#)):

Leonard was in a suite in the Marriott hotel preparing to discuss a new round of multi-million dollar contracts with the US Navy. Suddenly a SWAT team barged into his room. Did you get angry?

Leonard ([11:19](#)):

Yeah, in my heart I felt very upset, yes. Why was I being treated this way? There could have been a better way of doing this.

Tom ([11:29](#)):

But you didn't resist arrest.

Leonard ([11:30](#)):

Oh no, no. What was there to resist? It's the overwhelming force. I'm a big guy, but it was overwhelming force of firepower.

News Anchor 1 ([11:42](#)):

This is the so-called fat Leonard case.

News Anchor 2 ([11:48](#)):

Malaysian businessman Leonard Glenn Francis-

News Anchor 3 ([11:51](#)):

Leonard Glenn Francis.

Elizabeth Warren ([11:53](#)):

Leonard Glenn Francis.

News Anchor 2 ([11:54](#)):

Known as Fat Leonard.

News Anchor 3 ([11:56](#)):

AKA Fat Leonard-

News Anchor 1 ([11:57](#)):

Fat Leonard.

News Anchor 3 ([11:58](#)):

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Due to his 350 pound frame.

News Anchor 4 ([12:00](#)):

Fat Leonard is a Malaysian citizen, but he had a business in Singapore called Glenn Defense Marine Asia.

News Anchor 2 ([12:06](#)):

A big man loved the big life, fast cars, women, and travel.

Speaker 8 ([12:10](#)):

He's very charming, he's very social.

Speaker 9 ([12:13](#)):

He was a larger than life figure in many ways.

Tom ([12:18](#)):

What happened that day eight years ago upended Leonard's life. He spent years in jail, and now house arrest, and he's still awaiting his fate.

Leonard ([12:29](#)):

I just felt very betrayed, to be honest with you. I don't think I deserve that, to be treated that way. Why are you treating me this way? I've been a loyal person, contractor, defense contractor, and I've done a lot for the last 30 years. Supporting hundreds if not thousands of ships, hundreds of thousands of sailors and Marines in all kinds of places. I've never brought any harm to the United States. This was just a financial matter. It was not me hurting anybody. Nobody got hurt. There was no blood was spilt. Nobody was killed. Nobody was hurt.

Tom ([13:19](#)):

Prosecutors thought they had an open and shut case. The government expected to prosecute Leonard and a few Navy officers who had signed fake invoices in return for free holidays, gifts, or prostitutes. An embarrassing episode, perhaps, but the Navy could get back to protecting the homeland. Instead, Leonard found himself in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in San Diego, across the table from prosecutors from the Justice Department, handcuffs on his wrists, his legs shackled like a murderer. And in that cold, sparse interview room, Leonard started to talk. And the tale he told about the Navy sent shockwaves through the defense establishment.

Leonard ([14:02](#)):

Initially I was the bad guy. Me, I was mister bad. Look at what you did. It was all my fault. But as the case rolled forward and the Navy was pushing back because they didn't want to clean house. They just wanted to shove this all under the carpet and let me take the blame and a couple of other bad apples. Three or four.

Tom ([14:40](#)):

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That a foreigner was so embedded with the Navy is one of the biggest national security failures in modern US military history. Leonard was trusted with top secret information, ship and submarine schedules, and the position of ballistic missile defenses. And perhaps most extraordinarily of all, he was the keeper of the sexual secrets of the Navy's most powerful men and some women.

Leonard ([15:03](#)):

And when I did explain everything. I think the investigators were shocked. They're like, "What?" And most of the investigators were female agents and they were getting so mad that these senior naval officers were behaving like this. It was shocking.

Tom ([15:22](#)):

In that room, he named some of the Navy's most senior commanders. He had all kinds of compromising material on the most powerful people in the US Navy.

Leonard ([15:34](#)):

I'm telling you I have my checklist. I made a good dossier of everybody.

Tom ([15:40](#)):

What, like a kompromat?

Leonard ([15:42](#)):

Oh yeah, I do. I made my list of gifts. I made my list of whoremongers. I made my list of cash receiving people. I broke it all down. I'm good at this.

Tom ([15:54](#)):

China is threatening the balance of power in the Pacific and the US bet on Leonard to meet this challenge. Instead, its dealings with him have rocked the Navy to its core. Beijing could never have inflicted this much damage. This is a story that will change the way you look at the US Navy, a revered institution, it spawned movies and TV shows like Top Gun and NCIS. But this is a dark tale of alcoholic Navy officers, mediocre types, willing to sell out their country for tawdry sex. David Schaus, a former Navy officer who blew the whistle on Leonard, but was ignored, says most of his colleagues knew what was going on. Many were too implicated or just too lazy to take action.

David ([16:45](#)):

Leonard was very good at influencing people. If you were a guy that the most effective way to get you on his side was to buy a hooker and booze, then he'd buy you a hooker and booze.

Tom ([17:01](#)):

Prosecutors have indicted almost 30 Navy officers, including the first serving admiral to go to jail in US history, as well as Leonard and his staff. A new round of trials involving the officers in the MacArthur suite is set to start early next year. Here's Don Christensen, a former chief prosecutor of the US Air Force.

Don ([17:23](#)):

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I think it's going to shock a lot of Americans and a lot of people in Congress, the extent to the depravity that the Navy has shown in the Fat Leonard, and the lack of accountability for those who engaged in that kind of conduct. None of the people that are involved are doing interviews, so there's nothing on television or that you can pull up on the internet to look at, so I think that's part of the problem at well.

Tom ([17:50](#)):

So if Fat Leonard were to talk publicly about what was going on, that would change the dynamic, right?

Don ([17:56](#)):

I don't know if he even has the possibility. I don't know what his conditions of his confinement are. I've heard he's not in good health. I don't know if that's true-

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:18:04]

Don ([18:00](#)):

His confinement are, I've heard he's not in good health. I don't know if that's true or not, but...

Tom ([18:08](#)):

So Leonard, this is what I'm hoping is going to be the first of many recordings between us.

Leonard ([18:13](#)):

Yes.

Tom ([18:14](#)):

What we want to do here as we discussed in all of our other conversations that you and I have been having here...

In 25 years as a journalist, I've never had a relationship like the one I'm conducting now with Leonard Francis and I've dealt with many fraudsters. I co-wrote the bestseller Billion Dollar Whale about Jho Low, a con artist who allegedly stole billions and used the money to make the Wolf of Wall street film, buy jewelry for Miranda Kerr and Picassos for Leonardo DiCaprio. For over three years, Leonard's been under house arrest, living in a quiet area of San Diego alone with his three children from two Filipino mistresses. Before that he did four years in a San Diego prison, but he was allowed out after he was diagnosed with kidney cancer. He's closely watched. You got a bracelet, right?

Leonard ([19:01](#)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I got a Uncle Sam Rolex, I call it. One of my famous watches here. You can see. I don't know if you can see it, but I have one of my diamond Rolexes on my ankle here.

Tom ([19:14](#)):

When I was looking for my next project after Billion Dollar Whale, I came across Leonard's story and it fascinated me. When a Malaysian intermediary offered to put me in touch with Leonard I jumped at the chance to learn more about him. For weeks he was cagey, testing me out to see if I could be trusted.

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He'd already turned down requests from other reporters. The fact I've lived for years in Southeast Asia and my history with Malaysia helped kindle a bond between us.

You tell me if you look back on your life story, how would you construct it? Where would you start?

Leonard ([19:47](#)):

I'm trying to put it all together and perspective because I've had so many different chapters in my life, I've had more lives than a cat. There's so many different times where I personally had a lot of close debt situations where I came back and survived.

Tom ([20:12](#)):

I've been trying to work out his motives for opening up to me. He's pleaded guilty. And as a star witness in the ongoing cases of other Navy officers, many of whom have denied wrongdoing, his plea deal bars him from talking about the case. And he could face much more time in prison because of this podcast. One element could be that he's sick and so has nothing to lose.

Leonard ([20:36](#)):

It's a huge risk for me to do what I'm doing, but I'm so upset with it. Well, I'm portrayed as the bad guy and I wasn't the bad guy. I did everything that they wanted me to do. I've lived my life. I've been up this close to heaven and down to hell. I've seen it all. So my legacy's important too. We're all going to die one day. And I only fear God, I don't fear nobody else. And of course, I've got to face my judge one day and it's all in her hands, that's about it. How many life sentences can you give me? 1, 2, 10?

Tom ([21:10](#)):

But you are angry that you are still waiting around. Right?

Leonard ([21:13](#)):

Well, being angry... What can I do? Do I have a choice? I don't have a choice. Where are you going to run? You can't run.

Tom ([21:21](#)):

So talking to me is basically a choice you do have, right? I mean-

Leonard ([21:24](#)):

Well, talking to you's also like talking to a counselor, venting.

Tom ([21:32](#)):

Along the way, Leonard will try to spin us. He's a confidence trickster after all, but he's also unburdening himself, enjoying telling stories of his corrupt past and reliving the times when he was Leonard the legend.

Leonard ([21:43](#)):

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That's why Uncle Sam loves me. The agents, when they speak to me, they go, this is amazing. This is an amazing story. When I talk to them, it just comes out naturally. And I don't need to refer to things, it's all here. That's what's kept me going is my mind. I have a very good mind, strong mind. I've survived.

Tom ([22:08](#)):

It's our job to work out where the truth ends and the lies begin.

Leonard ([22:12](#)):

If the Navy would've charged every officer or Admiral that were involved with me, the Navy would not have any more Admirals in the Navy. Everybody would've been put away.

Tom ([22:33](#)):

Penang, 1977.

Tom ([22:36](#)):

We have to go back to the beginning to really get a handle on this crazy story.

Leonard ([22:40](#)):

When I was 13, I was already six foot tall. I grew fast. I had sideburns when I was 13. I had my little Elvis mutton chops.

Tom ([22:54](#)):

Leonard was a hard child to manage. He joined a biker gang and he didn't pay much attention to his studies, but he was smart and entrepreneurial. He made money collecting the runoff from tin mining and selling it to electronics companies and soon was working for his father, supplying merchant ships. His father looms large in this story.

Leonard ([23:16](#)):

When I was growing up, we were having a lot of family issues because my father was always having girlfriends. So, he had always had a second life out there.

Tom ([23:25](#)):

Leonard's father never fit in. His own father had come to Malaysia from Scotland to work on the rubber plantations and married locally. The plantations were a hard scrabble world of heavy drinking and backbreaking work in the stultifying heat, and Leonard's father sought escape in the British army, and in the bottle.

Posted to Singapore, he met Leonard's mother, left the army and took over his father-in-law's business. Young Leonard looked up to his father, but he got little in return. His father would take off to Europe on vacations with other women leaving his family behind and doing little to further the business. Things were even worse when he was at home.

Leonard ([24:08](#)):

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Well, my mom was always the victim because you see my dad was very abusive. So I do understand why she left because if she didn't leave, she probably would've... My mom tried to OD a couple times, had pills. She was traumatized by my father. My father was very violent.

Tom ([24:27](#)):

He was physically abusive?

Leonard ([24:28](#)):

Oh yeah. He was a very abusive man. Yes.

Tom ([24:31](#)):

So he beat her?

Leonard ([24:32](#)):

Oh yeah. He used to beat her. He was very violent.

Tom ([24:35](#)):

And the kids as well?

Leonard ([24:36](#)):

Yeah, my dad used the belt because... It was terrible. So that was all the trauma we went through, growing up around him.

Tom ([24:45](#)):

Soon Leonard's family was torn apart. His mother fled to England with his brother and sister. Leonard opted to stay behind and help his dad run the business and attempt to prove himself. But his father was lazy and Leonard began to take a larger role in dealing with commercial ships.

Leonard ([25:03](#)):

They're selfish. My dad had his own thing. My mom had her own thing. So everybody went their own way and just kind of left me in limbo. And I kind of found my own way on the streets.

Tom ([25:14](#)):

Bereft of a family to guide him. Leonard would soon land in big trouble.

Tom ([25:20](#)):

Penang, 1985.

Tom ([25:23](#)):

Penang Island, near the border between Malaysia and Thailand is a beguiling place with old Chinese shop houses and white sand beaches that are popular with tourists. It also has a frontier field. In the 1980s pirates still attacked boats in the Harbor as they had for centuries. Heroin smuggling was rife. This

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was the rough world Leonard entered as a young man. He learned to operate in a corrupt court, paying bribes to captains for the right to supply merchant ships with food and water. The seamen, burly and tattooed foreigners spent their time ashore in the bars and brothels of Penang and Leonard began to accompany them.

Leonard ([26:02](#)):

I used to go visit all these clubs and massage parlors and I saw that as an opportunity to entertain my clients again. These guys weren't exactly the best guys to hang out with because they kind of opened me up to all this red light districts...

Tom ([26:25](#)):

Leonard spent his nights in the bars and massage parlors of Penang, rarely sleeping. He plowed some of the profits from his business into his own bar, Tropicana. It became a hangout for Triads, the Chinese mafia.

Leonard ([26:40](#)):

When you have these kind of players, you need bouncers and that's when the gangs start coming. And then they start to try to control and they start to try to extort, and then you get one gang to push the other gang out. And it starts getting very, very, very toxic. I was only like, I think 20, I was young.

Tom ([27:03](#)):

Soon Leonard-

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [00:27:04]

Leonard ([27:00](#)):

Plenty, I was young.

Tom ([27:03](#)):

Soon Leonard was in debt. And to get himself out of dire straits, he made a move that would color the rest of his life. He joined the Triads in his club, pock-faced young men, high on smack, blades tucked into the belts of their jeans, in an armed robbery, as a getaway driver.

Leonard ([27:28](#)):

I was a good driver, so I always a crazy little [inaudible 00:27:31] young kid. So I had to go rent a car. So dumb me, young, dumb, dumb. Went and rented a car from Budget rent-a-car. I was like, "Okay, I'll go rent myself a Volvo." Back in the days, the big bumpers and all that. So I kind of thought about it, "Shit, what if I get shot?" So I bought myself a bulletproof vest, full one, you know. "Okay, let's do this." And then, so the day came.

Tom ([28:04](#)):

Leonard sat behind the wheel in a Volvo, across the street from a money lenders. In the back, the Triads, carrying pistols, dripping with sweat, smoked and argued. He questioned what he was doing there, a

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middle-class kid, but it was too late to back out. The plan was to steal from the money lenders like a bank robbery. Eventually some men came out of the shop, carrying bulging bags of cash, dumped them into the trunk of a car and sped off.

Leonard ([28:34](#)):

So I was driving the car, these guys are armed, they had guns. So we drove. Basically followed them from this shop on the way to the airport. We went ahead and then we waited, overtook them and waited for them to pass us. We saw an the area where the road was pretty clear and then drove out and then pretended there was a collision, like an accident.

Tom ([29:03](#)):

Leonard positioned the car as if it had spun out of control, blocking the road. Then he sat and waited, a bulletproof vest under his clothes. The other car approached and slowed, trying to work out what was going on. Leonard gripped the wheel, until his knuckles turned white. The Triads sprung from the back of the car, screaming and brandishing the pistols. They pulled the other men to the ground, forcing them to lay spread eagled. Then they opened the trunk, slung the bags of cash over their shoulders and jumped back into the Volvo. The Triads screamed at him to drive.

Leonard ([29:42](#)):

And then I spun the car around and headed straight for the Penang Bridge. And then on the way across the Penang Bridge, we threw all the bags out into the sea.

Tom ([30:00](#)):

They drove to the Triads village, a rural area. The gangsters took the local cash and left Leonard to look after the foreign currency and the guns. The haul was worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Leonard ([30:12](#)):

They're smart. They gave me the loot. They gave me the guns. They said, "You keep everything. Only when we need you, we'll call you."

Tom ([30:21](#)):

Leonard Went back to work, spending his days on the docks. He paid off his debts, but he was followed by the gut wrenching unease that he'd left a trail. Maybe it was a paranoia of the guilty, but his mind kept going back to the guns at his house. One day Leonard was sitting in his car, outside a restaurant, waiting for a friend. Before he could react, a police inspector slipped into the backseat.

Leonard ([30:45](#)):

And then he got into the back seat. And then he put the gun to the back of my head. And he said, "You drive right now to police headquarters." He said, "I'm going to blow your brains out," he said, "if you don't follow my instructions." He was a young, a little cocky, inspector. He thought he was Rambo or something.

Tom ([31:07](#)):

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The police searched Leonard's house and found the guns, bulletproof vest, and foreign currency hidden in a secret compartment of a cupboard. He never learned the identity of who had ratted him out.

Leonard ([31:18](#)):

I was held in detention without trial for 60 days. And I was locked up in the headquarters with all these hardcore criminals. Oh my gosh. The guys that were locked up with me, they were tortured. You could hear them screaming to come back to the walk because they'll get beaten by cables under their feet. They're gang members, robbers, whatever they were.

Tom ([31:50](#)):

Almost before it began, Leonard's shipping career appeared over. We leave him in a dank jail from the Victorian era, a slop bucket for a toilet, a 21 year old, basically a kid in fear for his life.

Leonard ([32:03](#)):

I was the scapegoat that got caught with the guns. And I took the hit for it.

Tom ([32:10](#)):

The police charged him for the possession of guns and 30 rounds of bullets, a capital crime in Malaysia.

Leonard ([32:18](#)):

That's sufficient for you to get hung. The death penalty, you know?

Tom ([32:23](#)):

Over the next quarter century, Leonard, a failed getaway driver, the noose hanging over his head, will transform into one of the world's most powerful military contractors. As a TV script, it would seem overcooked. Languishing in prison, he was working out his next angle. By the late 1980s, the US Navy had a problem in Asia. Leonard was positioning himself to benefit.

Leonard ([32:50](#)):

Because I knew if I would build this, they're going to come. And then, yes, rightfully they did

Tom ([33:02](#)):

Coming up this season on Fat Leonard.

David Schaus ([33:06](#)):

I think in the case of many people, I'm still a pariah for what I did because I took away the guy that was buying drinks for everybody.

Elizabeth Warren ([33:16](#)):

[inaudible 00:33:16], I had hoped to talk with you about the crisis in Venezuela today. Instead I have to ask you about yesterday's report in the Washington post. You were allegedly offered a prostitute. This does not pass the smell test for me.

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Blake ([33:30](#)):

There is at least some popular perception of what we would call it, different Spanx for different ranks.

Marcy ([33:38](#)):

It was definitely liked the old boys club mentality, I felt like to a certain degree with some of that. So it's like, "Let's just hush her up."

Paula Coughlin ([33:45](#)):

Fat Leonard's saw an opportunity. And it's almost comical that, "I'm going to give you these prostitutes and you're going to be really bad and you're going to feel super guilty, but don't worry. I have this really nice gift you can give your wife, and then we're even." Kudos to fat Leonard.

Morena ([34:04](#)):

He always threatened me and my family. You know, "Your family. I can't do anything for them." He was very dangerous. He's very evil, evil person. He has no heart. He has no heart. He's evil.

Tom ([34:18](#)):

Were you aware that the NCIS was investigating?

Leonard ([34:22](#)):

I mean, I knew what was going on. I mean, I had top cover. I had too many informers. Everybody was my informer. You know what, you're being unreasonable Miss, because I've been so truthful and honest to you. And now you trying to judge me.

Tom ([34:43](#)):

Fat Leonard is a production of Project Brazen in partnership with PRX. For audiation, the executive producer is Sandy Smallens. Mark Lotto is the co-producer and story editor. The producer is Ireland Meacham. Mixing and sound design is by Matt Noble.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [00:35:15]