Tom Wright (00:00):

Please be advised that this episode contains depictions of domestic violence.

Leonard Glenn Francis (00:07):

They came to me with their eyes open. They weren't blind. They all knew I had multiple wives and partners and I was kind of a playboy and they all knew it. It wasn't like I was this Virgin Mary from the convent or something.

Tom Wright (00:25):

In his own telling, Leonard is a likable rogue who has sex with a lot of women, but wears it on his sleeve. They know what he's about. No one gets hurt. It's all good sailor fun.

Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>00:37</u>):

Females out there dropping like flies. I push everybody away because that comes with problems. Unless you're a good guy, you get married and you stay with your wife for a long, long time. I've had multiple partners. Wives. It's not I'm a bad husband, it's just that women can't keep up with me.

Tom Wright (<u>00:59</u>):

His first wife, mother to his first two children.

Leonard Glenn Francis (01:02):

First wife was just too lazy for me.

Tom Wright (<u>01:05</u>):

The second, the Indonesian catwalk model.

Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>01:08</u>):

That one was messing around with me and saying that I was... She got it so bad for me. She said I was impotent and it was me, that's why I couldn't have kids. I go, "BS. There's no way." She was on birth control and just trying to keep her figure.

Tom Wright (01:27):

And then I met Morena Galvizo De Jesus.

All right, so can you just start by telling me your name and what you do?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (01:35):

I am Morena de Jesus, I'm here in Australia as a student visa and I work part-time in a nursing home and a cleaner.

Tom Wright (01:49):

Morena was the mother to Leonard's third and fourth children, and her story will break your heart.

# Morena Galvizo De Jesus (01:55):

He always threatened me. "You don't know me. You know what happened in Manila? There's a popular politician there who kill this wife. I can do that to you," he told me. "I have a lot of connections with everyone so I can kill you anytime I want."

Tom Wright (<u>02:17</u>):

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

VO Actor (<u>02:23</u>):

Singapore, 2004.

Tom Wright (02:37):

Just go back to when you first met Leonard Glenn Francis and tell me a little bit about that.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (02:41):

When I first met him in Singapore, I was training as an HRM, hotel restaurant management, for six months, and they are the guest in Amara Hotel.

Tom Wright (<u>03:07</u>):

Leonard walked into the Amara Hotel in Singapore. He was comfortable there. It was luxurious, but also quiet, a little outside the central business district, and he was less likely a bump to anyone he knew.

Leonard liked to meet corrupt Navy supply officials here and he used a dark bar to hand over envelopes full of cash to ensure he won contracts. He spent so much time in the hotel he'd gotten friendly with Morena de Jesus, a receptionist at the Amara. The 23 year old was doing a short job training as part of her college studies in the Philippines. She was smart and driven with shoulder length, dark hair, and a wide smile. She came from a poor family in a rural area north of Manila, and Leonard, aged 40 at the time, seemed so worldly, arriving at the hotel in chauffeured Rolls-Royces, staff running to his every whim. He also seemed pious, an attraction to Morena who, like many Filipinos, is a practicing Catholic.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (04:09):

When I first met him, he is good. He's a big man and he always bring what we call this wine, if you are familiar with the rosary and Mama Mary.

Tom Wright (04:21):

Leonard's mother was descended from Portuguese Mariners who had landed in Asia, bringing the faith with them. And she had brought her son up as a Catholic. He carried the rosary beads with him at all times.

Leonard Glenn Francis (04:33):

Oh yeah, I am a deep, deep practicing Catholic. Grew up around it. My grandparents. My parents. Church. I mean, you see God around me, crucifix all over my house. From the time I'm young, I carry my

rosary. I carry my Bible. I can be foul, but the hardest God. Same with my kids. You can find holy water around me. I'm just like that.

Tom Wright (05:00):

Leonard took a liking to Morena and invited her to church one Sunday. Alone in a foreign country, asked to church by an intriguing older man, Morena accepted.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (05:11):

I think this guy is a good guy.

Tom Wright (05:16):

He began to court Morena. Leonard told her about his two children, both over 10 years old, with his first wife, also a Filipino, but he didn't mention he was remarried to the Indonesian model.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (05:28):

He courted me and I refused because he has already two sons, and of course I'm not looking for a boyfriend that time.

Tom Wright (<u>05:41</u>):

After her training was over, Morena returned to the Philippines. But Leonard kept calling and texting her. He offered to pay for her to fly to Hong Kong to meet him. She was unsure, but eventually accepted. Morena's father was a poor farmer and she never expected to be able to travel the world.

It must have been quite exciting for you at the beginning when you first met him, right?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (06:07):

Yes.

Tom Wright (<u>06:07</u>):

He can be a charming guy as well.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (06:09):

Yeah, of course. Definitely. When I first met him, he was generous. He sent me money and then he said, he promised me, "I will help you. I will. Of course. I will help you and your family. We will be together."

Tom Wright (<u>06:30</u>):

He put her up in a luxury apartment in Manila and although he was a transitory presence in her life, coming into the country now and again for business, she had fun. In 2007, she gave birth to their first child, a baby boy. And within a year a baby girl.

Was he very happy? Did he come to the hospital?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (06:48):

No. My first son, he didn't visit me at the hospital. I gave birth by my own.

Tom Wright (06:56):

Who was with you when you gave birth?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (06:57):

My parents, my sisters, my family.

Tom Wright (07:01):

Having a child out of wedlock was stigmatized in the Philippines, and Morena started to pressure Leonard to get married.

What did your parents think about the fact the father was not around when you were giving birth? Did they have questions about him?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (07:15):

We have a plan that we're going to marry. How can I do? I cannot push someone, so I have to wait.

Tom Wright (07:22):

For all his womanizing and his happy go lucky posturing about sex, Leonard harbored deep insecurities. For Morena, Leonard's father, with his multiple mistresses and violence towards Leonard's mother, had left the son with deep psychological scars.

Do you feel like he was very paranoid about the women that he was with cheating on him?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (07:43):

Maybe. Yes. Because he has his story about his father. And his mother is about... How do you call it? Philandering?

Tom Wright (07:56):

Yeah, his father was a philanderer.

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:08:04]

VO Actor (08:03):

Penang, Malaysia, 1979.

Tom Wright (<u>08:07</u>):

Michael Francis, with gelled back hair, a bulbous nose, and uneven teeth, grabbed Leonard's mother and smacked her across the face. She screamed and cowered as Michael kept on lashing out. Who knows what drives a man to hit a woman, but Michael, then 42, felt insecure, a poor man's son married into wealth. His own father, a rubber plantation worker from Scotland, his mother a local. His marriage into the wealthy Portuguese/Sri Lankan family of Leonard's mother left him feeling never quite good enough, but he enjoyed his new riches and the women that it brought. Michael was cruel. He'd bring his mistresses back to the family home in front of his wife and children. His wife would complain, and Michael would batter her.

For years, Leonard had to endure the violence, as small children always do. Michael beat him too, along with his brothers and sisters. By the age of 15, Leonard was already six foot tall, with Elvis-style muttonchops, a young man, not a boy, and ready to challenge his father. He was in a biker gang, hung out with Triads, and had seen enough of the blows waning down on his mother. That evening, Leonard grabbed his father and pulled him off of her.

Leonard Glenn Francis (09:38):

I pushed him on the bed and set him down, and that was it. He was shocked, because the first time in his life someone challenged him. I just could not see the years of his abusive on my mother. I just could not hold that in anymore. He never touched my mother again. I said, "I'll kill you."

Tom Wright (09:58):

Leonard's father, scrawny compared to his lumbering son, was taken aback. He never laid hands on her again.

Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>10:06</u>):

I've seen him batter my mother so many times, and it was just not right. My mother was just, like any wife, definitely going to be jealous if you're going to bring another woman to the house. Your maternal home. Your kids and everything, and your wife being there. How could you? My dad didn't care.

Tom Wright (10:27):

He would beat her until she was black-eyed?

Leonard Glenn Francis (10:30):

He would just lock her up in the bathroom or in another room, and just go into the other room with his little mistress, and just do his job or whatever.

Tom Wright (10:37):

Then he would beat her so that she was actually broken bones?

Leonard Glenn Francis (10:40):

Yeah, to submissive, to just shut up and be quiet.

Tom Wright (<u>10:43</u>):

Did she have to go to the hospital?

Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>10:44</u>):

My dad was-

Tom Wright (10:45):

I mean, that kind of beating?

Leonard Glenn Francis (10:46):

No, just bruises and stuff like that. It was just a coward hits wives.

Tom Wright (10:53):

His mother tried to take her own life.

Leonard Glenn Francis (10:56):

Basically, she was trying to cut her wrists, swallow pills to OD. My dad used to rush her to the hosp, because my dad was always going out every day. Then he'd go to the clubs.

Tom Wright (11:10):

When his mother, brother and sister went to live in England, Leonard had opted to stick with his father despite the violence. I asked him why.

Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>11:20</u>):

I always have this principal of you have one mom and one dad. Whether they're good or bad, you still need to respect them. That's in the Bible.

Tom Wright (11:29):

After that happening, were you ever able to resurrect your relationship with him? Were you in the position of power after that?

Leonard Glenn Francis (11:34):

Yeah, my dad always loved me. I was my dad's favorite no matter what. My dad know he's wrong. I still took care of my father, no matter what.

Tom Wright (11:46):

Michael died in April, aged 84, during the making of this podcast. Leonard was crumpled by grief, and we didn't talk for a month. Under house arrest, he could only witness his father's death through the screen of a computer.

Leonard Glenn Francis (12:01):

That really took us, in a very hard way, to seeing your father die in front of you and he's struggling to breathe with his oxygen mask. You could see that. You could see his eyes, his tears. Oh my God, my dad was always this lion and you could see the fear in his face to die. The life was just coming out of him, and he was calling his mother's name. I don't cry. I don't shed tears. I always kind of stay very stoic in my facial expressions in front of everybody. There was tearing in my eyes, but not in front of my kids. My kids were all breaking down, so I had to hold the family together.

Tom Wright (12:44):

What makes a person? It's hard to know, even as we look inwards, to find explanations for our own behavior. As we peel away the layers to get to Leonard's dark core, it's hard not to see this childhood trauma as a Seminole event in his life. It helps explain, if not excuse, the savage behavior towards Morena.

VO Actor (<u>13:07</u>):

Manila, 2009.

Tom Wright (<u>13:11</u>):

One day, Morena found out from someone at Leonard's company that he was still married. Then, another Filipino woman came to Morena's door. She said she was the mother of another of Leonard's sons, born only a few months after Morena's baby girl. Morena decided to confront him. The next time Leonard came to the apartment, Morena told him she wanted to split up. He could support the children and still them, but they should go their own ways. Leonard was furious. He immediately assumed there was another man in the picture, and he demanded to know if he was the father of the children. Leonard became unhinged after she asked to separate. He allegedly sent her terrible deranged text messages, entered into court record in the Philippines, fueled by his fears that she had other men.

November 6, 2009, 11:53 AM

"God will burn you in hell, bitch prostitute. Go sell yourself with your sisters, bitch."

November 14, 2009, 7:11 PM

"You low dog prostitute. Your sisters act like angels in front of me. They're all cheap like you. I will kill you soon, bitch. You better find a job. Your time is up."

November 15, 2009, 10:25 PM

"Get ready to sell your handbags and shoes. You're too old to sell now. Cheap price. Want to take photo in bikini, bitch? You had a good life for five years. Now go back and rot in the provinces with the worms."

The next month, Leonard appeared to have calm down. He asked Morena to come to Singapore on vacation. By now, he was divorced. She was only 28, and extremely naive. She took the flight with their two infants, age one and two.

When Morena landed, Leonard's driver took them from the airport to a service department. She was surprised not to be staying at his palatial Singapore home. Later, the driver returned to take the kids to spend time with Leonard's mother in the mansion. He fought Morena off, telling her that he did not want his teenage sons to meet her. Morena had little to do, so she invited over a male friend whom she knew from her hotel internship five years earlier. While the friend was at the apartment, Leonard walked in.

# Leonard Glenn Francis (<u>15:46</u>):

So one day, I walked in there unannounced, and knocked the door, I mean opened the door, and I saw this guy there with her. She was dressed in shorts and T-shirt, and talking with him. My kids were there with the nannies. Then I asked her, "Who's this guy?" She goes, "Oh, this is my best friend."

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:16:04]

Leonard Glenn Francis (16:00):

Then I asked her "Who's this guy?" She goes, "Oh, this is my best friend's friend." Of course, I could read that best friend, friend's story. I caught her red handed.

# Tom Wright (16:09):

Leonard of course omits what happened next. He starts railing at the guy to get out, filter bursting with anger that his mistress, his possession, would even talk to another man.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (16:21):

I said, "Oh, we're going back to [inaudible 00:16:25]. You can stay with your family, your children's, but let my children's with me."

Tom Wright (16:29):

Morena says Leonard threatened her.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (16:32):

He always threatened me and my family. "You know your family, I can do anything for them." He's very dangerous. He's very evil person. He has no heart. He has no heart, he's evil.

Tom Wright (16:44):

Her tourist visa for Singapore was running out, and Leonard told her to go back to the apartment in the Philippines for eight days before returning. He seemed calmer and she decided to go. She left her children behind with Leonard's mother. It was the worst misstep of her life.

When she arrived back at the apartment, it was cleaned out. Her possession's all gone. The lease terminated and the doors locked. The return air ticket also was canceled.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (17:21):

They planned that they will stop everything. And then after that, I kept on calling him. "Leonard I want to see my children." They left me like a beggar, and I sleep anywhere, sleep with my friends.

Tom Wright (<u>17:21</u>):

So were all your bank accounts shut down?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (17:21):

Yes. Yes. Yeah. Yes.

Tom Wright (<u>17:40</u>):

So you had no money at all?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (17:42):

No, no. No money at all.

Tom Wright (<u>17:45</u>):

So where did you go?

```
Morena Galvizo De Jesus (17:46):
I went back home.
Tom Wright (<u>17:47</u>):
To your parents?
Morena Galvizo De Jesus (17:49):
Yes, yes, but my parents not [inaudible 00:17:51] my father is sick. He's sick that time. I am the eldest of
the family. So how can they help me? So no one's help me. This is my two children. So I need to fight for
my children.
Tom Wright (18:06):
Incapacitated by grief, with no money in fighting a more powerful opponent. Morena began her long
struggle to get her children back. She took any job she could to raise money for a ticket. A friend helped
out. But when she got back to Singapore, standing in front of the mansion gates, there was no reply.
Back in Manila. Morena began legal proceedings against Leonard borrowing money from a friend. A year
later, a Philippines regional court ordered Leonard to return the children. And that decision was upheld
by the Singapore family court. But by then, Leonard had been arrested in San Diego. His mother in 2013
had fled Singapore to Kuala lumper in Malaysia with the children. Morena couldn't locate them.
        The court orders were unenforceable. Since Leonard's arrest. Morena has been trying to find her
children presuming they were in Kuala Lumpur. What really happened to them? She never could have
imagined.
VO ACTOR (19:12):
San Diego, 2021.
Tom Wright (19:15):
How are you able to get the kids to the us?
Leonard Glenn Francis (19:18):
Everybody came legally. Everybody knows, uncle Sam knows, you know what I'm doing? Not say they
don't know about it.
Tom Wright (19:26):
Of course.
Leonard Glenn Francis (19:27):
```

For them, my children, my wellbeing is more important than anything else. I am the star witness.

Tom Wright (19:35):

After Leonard was arrested. His mother looked after Morena's children and another infant from a different Filipino woman. When Leonard moved from prison to house arrest in San Diego over three years ago, he sent for his three infant children.

#### Leonard Glenn Francis (19:49):

The kids want to be with me of course, I'm super daddy, mommy, granddaddy, grand, everything my kids understand. They all know I'm a very open dad. I don't hide anything.

#### Tom Wright (20:03):

Leonard's looking after them alone in his detention, over our late night conversations, he talked tenderly about his children and the need to get them ready for school the next day.

#### Leonard Glenn Francis (20:12):

These little ones now, I'm here for them. I am it. I do everything myself.

## Tom Wright (20:19):

So you know, you are a good dad and your estimation. Why not give your kids access to their moms? That's what I don't understand.

#### Leonard Glenn Francis (20:26):

No, it's not the right time for it. And it's going to complicate them. Because right now the kids are steady. They're doing really good, good grades. I'm sending them to the best schools that they could go to.

## Tom Wright (20:41):

In his delusional world Leonard has saved his children from mothers who are nothing more than craven fallen. Women, not living, breathing people. He's incapable of seeing women other than his own mother as anything but sex objects or baby making machines.

# Leonard Glenn Francis (20:56):

When you're wealthy, you got money. And everybody wants a piece of cake. I call it, they try to children to you. I don't believe in that, that's not me. This is my flesh and my blood. I'm responsible. I bring up my kids. I love my kids. I don't have babies just for fun. It's not me.

# Tom Wright (21:15):

Abandoned himself as a kid, Leonard thinks he's charting a better path as a father.

### Leonard Glenn Francis (21:20):

I love children. And I enjoy being a parent. I enjoy doing what I do. Again it's also my responsibility that I have to complete what I've done. Bringing them to this world, the young ones, I've still got a long way to go. That's why God has given me life. It's a miracle I'm alive today. I'm here to finish my mission besides for uncle Sam, my kids in my life.

Tom Wright (21:46):

I asked Leonard why he'd abducted the children and the answer lays bare the moral character of the man on whom the US Navy was dependent.

Leonard Glenn Francis (21:55):

No, I did not kidnap the kids. They were all just mistresses and my children were legally born and they have my name and they're Malaysian citizens. So she was the mother. Unfortunately it's a long story short because they were Mistresses. They were fooling around. I caught them and I fired them that's it.

Tom Wright (22:18):

The last time I spoke with Leonard just before this podcast began to air, our relationship began to sour. As I challenged him about Morena.

I mean, after all this time of talking to you, I was really shocked to see your SMS's to Morena. I mean, why didn't you write that stuff?

Leonard Glenn Francis (22:34):

What was that?

Tom Wright (22:37):

[crosstalk 00:22:37].

Leonard Glenn Francis (22:37):

Listen my life before is the past. It's not the future. Whether I wrote those SMS's, those texts, whether they were mine or not, I've not seen them.

Tom Wright (22:51):

This is when you were furious. When you told me that you thought she was having an affair with some man, she knew from [inaudible 00:22:57] the Amara hotel right?

Leonard Glenn Francis (22:58):

You know, I'm not going to talk about all this. It's not important to me. There are nannies. They're the managers that took care of him. They're all there. And this is all too petty stuff. I think of the big picture right now. This is all petty, you, me, you, me, you, me and I'm dealing with mistress.

Tom Wright (<u>23:15</u>):

But this is Leonard Francis' life story.

Leonard Glenn Francis (23:19):

Yeah. But like I said, it's going to do more damage to me now in my position, because the hate is going to become even more. What has happened? Why have you changed? Do you think, oh, I'm such a bad guy because what Morena said to you? Is she really getting to you? My God.

Tom Wright (23:37):

That's just part of it.

Leonard Glenn Francis (23:38):

The department of justice, this doesn't give a damn about hookers okay. I'm shocked that you're so concerned about it.

Tom Wright (23:44):

Morena worked hard in a hotel and now in a nursing home and never was a prostitute. That Leonard would claim this about the mother of his children says so much about him.

Leonard Glenn Francis (23:56):

Well, they're all part of the same thing. Why did I say all those things? You're just going on and on and on and on about all this, non-

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [00:24:04]

Leonard Glenn Francis (24:00):

... thinks. You were just going on and on and on about all this nonsense.

Tom Wright (24:03):

I thought she worked in a hotel.

Leonard Glenn Francis (24:06):

Well, everybody worked in a hotel. I am really confused by what is important to you right now. Do you want to talk about the big picture of this case, or you want to talk about my personal life and all this mistresses?

Tom Wright (24:18):

I'm also tired of this. I'm tired of it too, because I think you're a misogynist.

Leonard Glenn Francis (24:26):

Yeah. I'm not. I just think you're getting the wrong idea about everything. And I feel that you trying to now, turn it around and try say, "Oh, I'm the bad guy." I don't think so. You know what? You're being unreasonable, and I should have just drawn the line from the beginning. I don't want to talk about it, I don't want to talk about it. I'm not like that. Just because I'm being so truthful and honest to you, and now you're trying to judge me.

Tom Wright (24:52):

Morena, eventually married a Filipino and moved to Sydney where she studies and works in a nursing home, trying to raise money to find her kids. Did you decide not to have more children because of this experience?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (25:03):

Yeah. Maybe, maybe. Because unfair. That's why it's unfair for my husband, but he knows my husband. Maybe my husband love me so much because he knows that I know I'm finding for my two children, so and I don't have anyone else.

Tom Wright (25:20):

Until I spoke to her for this a podcast, she had no idea what had happened to her kids. I know where your children are. They are with Leonard in San Diego. So they're living with him in the house there. And I think he's looking after them by himself. I don't understand how that's able to happen given that he's pleaded guilty. And he's a criminal who is waiting sentencing. Morena was not surprised. She has firsthand experience of how Leonard, who still controls millions of dollars, can get what he wants.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (25:53):

With some money though.

Tom Wright (25:55):

Have you ever heard that before?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (25:56):

No. I never heard that, but I have read in the newspaper, the family visit him, but I never think that my childrens are there.

Tom Wright (26:07):

Maybe this podcast will make a difference. Perhaps the US government will ensure Morena and the other mother get access to their children. They are 13 and 14 now, an older boy and a younger girl. And she hasn't seen them for over a decade.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (26:24):

I think they are bigger than me.

Tom Wright (26:27):

Do you think about them every day?

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (26:29):

Of course. It is not only think about them. I've always dreamed them every day. But whatever I saw in my dream, they're just only a little, they're still young. They're still young, but I don't know what they look like now, but every time I dream about them, they are still young. It's very sad. That's why I keep myself busy, not thinking. Because I need to move on also. How can I pray for my children if I will not help myself too?

Tom Wright (26:58):

Morena has a composed way of talking about her personal tragedy. She never cried, like Marcy. But as she talked to me from her apartment in Sydney, looking down the camera of a computer, I found myself

thinking that I've rarely come across someone who has suffered such a life defining loss and is still living with the pain of not knowing.

Morena Galvizo De Jesus (27:18):

Before, I want to end my life. I want to end my life. I don't want to live anymore because they are my first love. They are my childrens. I don't want anymore. I don't want to eat. I don't want to anything. I want to ruin my life. Right. I sleep for just two hour, but still thinking of them, dreaming of them. It just [inaudible 00:27:43]. It just only if you want to sleep, you don't want to wake up anymore. If you're dreaming about that you are happy, you want to stay in same dream and you don't want to wake up. Because after you wake up, you will remember everything. That's not a dream anymore. This is the reality. As I have to survive.

Tom Wright (28:05):

Coming up next, on Fat Leonard.

David Schaus (28:07):

Leonard looked at me was immediately enraged by my comment. And he stood up and he pounded on the table a few times with his fists. Told me, I think that was I calling him a liar?

Tom Wright (28:23):

Not everyone was as powerless against Leonard as Morena. As his fraud deepens a few brave whistle blows move to take him on. Soon, Leonard will be backed into a corner and lashing out to survive. 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 [00:29:06]