

The Talented Mr. Epstein; Lately, Jeffrey Epstein's high-ying style has been drawing oohs and aahs: the bachelor nancier lives in New York's largest private residence, claims to take only billionaires as clients, and ies celebrities including Bill Clinton and Kevin Spacey on his Boeing 727. But pierce his air of mystery and the picture changes. VICKY WARD explores Epstein's investment career, his ties to retail magnate Leslie Wexner, and his complicated past Vanity Fair March 2003

Many people comment there is something innocent, almost childlike about Jeffrey Epstein. They see this as refreshing, given the sophistication of his surroundings. Alan Dershowitz says that, as he was getting to know Epstein, his wife asked him if he would still be close to him if Epstein suddenly filed for bankruptcy. Dershowitz says he replied, "Absolutely. I would be as interested in him as a friend if we had hamburgers on the boardwalk in Coney Island and talked about his ideas." N

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**GRAPHIC:** LEFT, BY JAMES ESTRIN; RIGHT, BY DUBLIN CAINE; MR. BIG Jeffrey Epstein in New York, 2001. Left, Epstein's nine-floor, 51,000-square-foot town house. He also owns a 7,500-acre ranch in New Mexico, a house in Palm Beach, and a Caribbean island.; TOP TO BOTTOM: BY ALBERTO PINTO, LISA HINGE, J. B. SCHMITKA; unreal estate From top: the "leather room" in Epstein's house, where "tea" is served to guests; Epstein at his Zorro ranch in 1991 with his "best friend," Ghislaine Maxwell; Epstein in 1979.; TOP TO BOTTOM: BY LISA HINGE, [REDACTED] ADAM SCULL; SPOILS OF SUCCESS From top: Epstein's 70-acre island, Little St. James, in the U.S. Virgin Islands- he now calls it Little St. Jeff; Epstein with President Clinton in Brunei, 2002; Leslie Wexner with his future wife, Abigail, at the 1990 C.F.D.A. Fashion Awards, in New York, 1991.; ALBERTO PINTO; OFFICE SPACE The "office" in Epstein's house. It has no computers, but it does have a desk that Epstein tells people once belonged to banker J. P. Morgan, and "the largest Persian rug you'll ever see in a private home."; Pages 300-301: Left, from The New York Times. Page 304: Bottom, from Globe Photos.

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