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Harvey Weinstein makes extraordinary admission about his 'stupidest mistake' in sex assault case... as he compares himself to Hollywood legends and insists 'women were attracted to me'

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After all the charges and court cases and allegations against him, [Harvey Weinstein](#) has revealed what he called his 'stupidest mistake': the decision not to pay \$750,000 to settle a sexual assault claim.

The disgraced Hollywood mogul, 74, made the extraordinary admission in his only interview since being sentenced to 15 years behind bars, after he was convicted of sexually assaulting former Project Runway production assistant Miriam Haley.

She 'made \$500,000 when this case first opened,' he said of Haley, and claimed that her lawyers 'asked me for \$750,000 to settle it, and it would all go away' before the criminal case.

'It was the stupidest mistake I ever made, not paying for it.'

Speaking from his hospital prison ward, Weinstein told the Daily Mail he must now 'find it in my heart to forgive' Haley.

'Obviously she's gone through something, and I have to find it in my heart to forgive,' he said.

But when asked what he would say directly to Haley, Weinstein appeared to blame her for continuing to pursue the case.

'I understand you needed the money and you got the money, but did you just have to come and rub it in and continue to do that?' he said.



Harvey Weinstein said his 'stupidest mistake' was not paying Miriam Haley \$750,000 to settle a sexual assault claim



The former Hollywood bigwig was sentenced last week for sexually assaulting former 'Project Runway' production assistant Miriam Haley (pictured leaving court) at his Big Apple apartment in 2006

'Or did you understand that I was not well?' he added. 'Just to be cognizant of that. And I would have hoped she would have said, "He's 74 years old, he's not well."'

Weinstein also said he regrets not taking the stand in his own defense and compared himself to actor Johnny Depp, who won his own defamation case against ex-wife and actress Amber Heard after testifying.

'I wanted to testify,' Weinstein said, claiming his lawyers had advised against it because he would get 'into trouble on the cross-examination.'

'I didn't care, even if I was in trouble,' he added. 'Johnny Depp was in trouble a bunch of times, and he exonerated himself.'

'Everywhere I turned, because of what I did, women were attracted to me,' he said.

'And I'm not saying they were attracted to me like Brad Pitt physically, probably the opposite, but there was definitely an attraction to the power.'

But Haley, 49, has said the assault has followed her for two decades, and told the court at Weinstein's sentencing that it had often felt as though she was the one on trial.

'It's a life sentence for me,' she told the court. 'It was like a dark and painful secret that ate away at my spirit.'

Weinstein used the same phrase to describe his own punishment when he spoke to the Daily Mail the day after the hearing.

'There's no question that it's a life sentence, but it won't last,' he said.

'We will prevail. We won the last time, we'll win this time, no matter what it takes, how many courts we have to go to... I will be free.'

Weinstein was sentenced to 15 years in prison last Wednesday, five years short of the 20 years prosecutors had requested, followed by five years of supervised release.



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Haley, now 49, has said the assault has followed her for two decades. She told the court at Weinstein's sentencing that it had often felt as though she was the one on trial throughout the drawn out process



Haley, pictured in 2017 during ongoing court proceedings, told jurors that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her at his New York City apartment back in 2006

He appeared in court in a wheelchair, visibly frail, with his hands cuffed to his seat and his back turned toward his accusers and New York District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Judge Curtis Farber told Weinstein that when Haley did not give in to his demands, 'You took what you wanted by force.'

'Throughout the many years since your downfall, you have never accepted responsibility,' the judge said.

He said Weinstein still gave interviews 'decrying that you are a victim of a conspiracy of money hungry women who want to use you to gain fame and fortune.'

'You had it all. Your legacy could have been cemented as one of the greatest in history, a titan in industry, but you threw it all away by sexually assaulting Miriam Haley.'

Farber branded Weinstein a 'sexual predator' driven by an 'insatiable appetite for sexual dominance.'

But the former studio head remains defiant. Asked about the judge's words, he told the Daily Mail: 'I think I threw [my legacy] away to a degree. Not to this degree, not to the criminal degree.'

He apologized to 'anyone I may have hurt by my actions,' saying: 'I do have remorse for Miriam Haley's pain, but I have to reiterate my innocence. I am not a violent man. I ask for mercy.'



Weinstein, pictured at his sentencing last week, was adamant his latest conviction 'won't last' - insisting he will be successful in having it overturned

Asked by the Daily Mail what exactly he was sorry for, Weinstein said he was apologizing for his infidelity.

'I was apologizing to the people who inadvertently got hurt by this... I was a cheater, and I was wrong,' he said.

'I had everything. I had a great relationship, great family life, and I threw that away.

'Unfortunately, others got involved and I apologize to them, but I never did anything criminal. That's the most important thing. No criminal act whatsoever.'

Haley has previously acknowledged receiving a settlement of around \$475,000 from a separate civil case against him.

'Let anybody who thinks the money's not involved, wise up - because money was involved,' Weinstein said.

He also hit back at the prosecutors' claim that recorded jail calls showed he had been prepared to pay a podcaster \$1.75 million to release videos timed to reach potential and seated jurors.

Assistant District Attorney Nicole Blumberg accused him of a 'scheme to disrupt the trial and instill fear in his victims.'

The podcaster was not named in court. But in her victim impact statement, Haley told the court she had endured seven years of public smear campaigns orchestrated by Weinstein, his legal team and allegedly paid podcasters.

Weinstein, who gave two jailhouse interviews to conservative commentator Candace Owens during his retrial, called the prosecution's claim 'complete b*****t.'

'I didn't pay her a dime,' he said. 'Candace Owens chased me because she wanted to do the story and I was scared. But she finally talked me into it.'

A spokesperson for Owens has said Weinstein never paid her. Weinstein's spokesman Juda Engelmayer also denied the allegation, calling it 'patently untrue.'

'No money was paid, no such deal was made,' he said.

But Weinstein admitted his team did set out to change public opinion ahead of the trial, after a poll found most New Yorkers believed he was guilty.



Jessica Mann, an aspiring actress, accused Weinstein of raping her in 2013. Prosecutors dropped the charge in June after Weinstein's initial conviction was overturned in 2024 and two subsequent trials ended with deadlocked juries



Mann repeatedly testified that she was allegedly attacked by Weinstein after he got a hotel room at a DoubleTree hotel in Midtown Manhattan before a planned breakfast in 2013

'One thing we learned when we began this trial, we took a poll in New York City, and 75 percent of the people thought I was guilty,' he said.

'And by doing Candace Owen and a number of other key interviews, we opened up people's minds to the fact that there was a possibility of doubt, and I think that helped us with Jessica Mann.'

Mann, an aspiring actress, now 40, had accused Weinstein of raping her in 2013. But prosecutors dropped the charge in June, after his initial conviction was overturned in 2024 and two subsequent trials ended with deadlocked juries.

Weinstein believes he was punished for what he has come to represent to the Me Too movement, rather than for the crime itself.

At the recent sentencing, Farber said Weinstein would be remembered not for his films but for what he became: 'The sexual predator, the literal face of the Me Too movement.'

'I thought yesterday was a Me Too moment,' Weinstein said of his sentence. 'It's impossible not to feel the force of the show, but that's where you have to separate the show from the criminal act.'

'I don't understand these women,' he added. 'It's a club, and I think they like to belong to. And with Gloria Allred as the ringleader, they come to these trials and they put pressure on the judge.'

Allred, Haley's attorney, stood beside her outside court after the September 23 sentencing and hailed her client as 'a true hero' who had undergone 'a trial by fire twice, and prevailed both times.'

'I think 15 years, honestly, would be an incredible thing for anybody to get in this situation,' Weinstein said.

'I think it was a hard sentence, and I was surprised, because I thought Judge Farber up until this point had been very fair.'

His lawyer, Jacob Kaplan, had told the court that defendants convicted of similar crimes typically received sentences of around eight and a half to nine years.

He asked for just three more years on top of the six Weinstein has already served, warning that a longer term would make it more likely he would die in prison.



Weinstein gave two jailhouse interviews to conservative commentator Candace Owens during his retrial but insisted he didn't pay her a dime



Weinstein insisted Candace Owen 'chased me because she wanted to do the story and I was scared... But she finally talked me into it'

Weinstein's health has deteriorated sharply behind bars, with his lawyers citing his blood cancer, congestive heart failure and kidney issues as they pleaded for a lighter sentence.

He also underwent heart surgery in September of 2024 after being rushed from Rikers Island to Bellevue, and his lawyers told the court he now takes at least 20 medications a day.

The charge carried a maximum of 25 years. Prosecutors had asked for 20. Farber said he had taken Weinstein's age and health into account.

'Even if I were to have an eight-and-a-half, nine-year sentence, I would have appealed it two minutes later,' the former movie mogul said.

'I don't want any sentence,' he said. 'I'm innocent of this.'

Later in the interview, he added: 'Just believe that I'm telling the truth. Because I am.'

He pointed to a letter his lawyers found on Mann's phone during her third trial, which he claims showed she was 'contemplating having a relationship with me after the so-called incident.'

'We found the letter that sealed the deal,' he said. 'And that was the end of that.'

Prosecutors ultimately dropped Mann's case after she said she could not endure another trial.

Weinstein said he believed his lawyers could do the same in Haley's case on appeal. 'I have a feeling we'll find something if we have one more go at it,' he said.

Asked about being repeatedly described in court as violent, Weinstein said he had been a bully but 'never physical.'

'I never got violent or physical with anybody, and never with these women,' he said.

He is now held in the Bellevue Hospital prison ward while he waits to be transferred to a state prison.

'At Rikers Island I was hospitalized six different times,' he said. 'And here, God forbid I get hospitalized, it's just an elevator ride.'

'My day at Bellevue is lonely. I read, I watch some television, the news, try to do as many cultural shows as I can get.'

He complained that some fellow inmates had been involved in attempted murder and received 'five years, six years' as sentences – 'significantly lower than mine.'



Weinstein said his two children with fashion designer ex-wife Georgina Chapman - 16-year-old daughter India and 13-year-old son Dashiell - still visit him in prison. He no longer speaks to his ex-wife. They are pictured together in 2017



Chapman is now in a relationship with Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody. Weinstein noted: 'Georgina's very happy with her partner... So there's no reason for me to be involved in any way'

Weinstein said his two children with fashion designer ex-wife Georgina Chapman – 16-year-old daughter India and 13-year-old son Dashiell – still visit him, as does Remy, 31, his oldest daughter with first wife Eve Chilton. His other daughters with Chilton, 28-year-old Emma and 23-year-old Ruth, do not.

Weinstein said he has no contact with either of his ex-wives. Chapman is now with Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody, who has said her children call him 'Popsy.'

'I haven't seen Georgina at all,' Weinstein said. 'I think they have a new life. Georgina's very happy with her partner... So there's no reason for me to be involved in any way.'

Once one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, Weinstein helped turn films including *Pulp Fiction* and *Clerks* into cultural landmarks.

His downfall began in 2017, when investigations by the New York Times and the New Yorker detailed allegations of harassment and assault, helping spark the Me Too movement.

He was first convicted in New York in 2020 of sexually assaulting Haley and raping Mann and sentenced to 23 years.

New York's highest court overturned that conviction in April 2024, ruling that the judge had wrongly allowed testimony about allegations not connected to charges.

At his June 2025 retrial, a jury convicted him over Haley but deadlocked on the Mann charge and acquitted him of a separate charge involving former model Kaja Sokola.

He was also sentenced to 16 years in California after his 2022 conviction in Los Angeles for rape and two counts of sexual assault. An appeals court upheld the conviction in June but vacated the sentence, and he is due to be resentenced.

Weinstein intends to appeal the New York sentence.

As for what he misses most about life outside prison?

'Hugging my children,' he said. 'Taking them to a diner on Saturday morning and having breakfast.'