

NEWS OF THE WORLD

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TORY BOSS ARCHER PAYS OFF VICE GIRL



EXCLUSIVE

TORY deputy chairman Jeffrey Archer was last night set to quit after the News of the World exposed his attempt to pay off a vice girl.

The best-selling novelist tried to pay the prostitute to go abroad to stop a scandal engulfing him.

The attempt was made by a middle-man on Friday in an amazing meeting at the approach to Platform Three on London's Victoria Station.

Monica Coghlan, 35, was offered an envelope crammed with £50 notes on Mr Archer's instructions.

PRESSURE

Earlier, a lawyer client of Miss Coghlan had tried to involve her in revelations about the top Tory—Norman Tebbit's right-hand man.

He had signed a contract with a daily newspaper, and Mr Archer was under immense pressure as the lawyer's story reached senior Tories.

Last Thursday evening, Mr Archer, 46, married with two children, suggested that Monica should leave the country.

He arranged for money to be given to Monica at Victoria, and told her: "Go abroad as quickly as you can."

Tebbit's deputy set to quit over our story

Full story—Pages 2, 3, 4 and 5

11 a.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1986:

MONEY WILL

Tory vice-chairman's go-between hands over envelope of £50 notes

IT was just like a scene from a Jeffrey Archer novel when a top Tory sent in a "fixer" to buy a vice girl's silence.

But this was real life, not fiction. And the leading character was Archer himself.

The best-selling author and Conservative Party vice-chairman instructed an aide to meet prostitute Monica "Debbie" Coghlan at London's Victoria Station at 11am last Friday.

Whizzkid

There, amid the bustling crowds at the entrance to Platform Three, Monica was handed a sealed brown envelope containing a thick wad of £50 notes.

The money was to enable her to stand, far from scandal, that was threatening to engulf Archer.

In a phone call the night before, arranging the rendezvous, the multi-millionaire who had been brought in by Mrs Thatcher to boost the Tories' image told the Mayfair vice girl:

"You will wear the green leather suit I have a friend who's got just past the package over."

"He'll walk up and say, 'Are you Debbie?' You're going to say yes. He's going to pass the package and walk away. He's 45, grey-haired, a little overweight, broad. He's a very safe friend who's very safe—you have absolutely no fears."

"Then you'll just go abroad as quickly as you can."

Client

The drama began seven weeks ago on September 8, when Monica, 35, found herself at the centre of politically sensational claims involving Archer, which he strongly denies.

The allegations were made by a client of hers, lawyer Aziz Kurtha.

Worried by Press queries, Monica phoned Archer at his flat beside the River Thames. She said she'd had to go into hiding to avoid awkward questions linking her to him.

Archer insisted he'd never met her, but it seemed sympathetically. He told her: "It may have looked like me, but I can assure you it was not me."

Archer said he would do all he could to solve any problems if she kept in touch. "If you return, you'll have

hands over envelope of £50 notes

EXCLUSIVE

By JOHN LISNERS, GERRY BROWN, JO FLETCHER, ADRIAN NEEDLESTONE, MIKE ATCHINSON and DAVID RIGBY

to say very firmly that you made a mistake," he told her. "It certainly wasn't me, and don't tell them you've been in contact or there'll be even more trouble."

Monica told Archer of Kurtha's involvement, and the Tory boss said he would get the lawyer "off her back" if she could give him his name and telephone number.

He told her: "He's obviously a very evil man and I'll try and deal with him to help you."

He asked her to phone again if she got Kurtha's details, adding:

"If you speak to anyone in the Press, your pictures will be all over the papers. Just stay away, they'll give up in time."

Later, Monica gave Archer the lawyer's name, and he replied: "Now I can spend the day sorting it out."

"You are being very brave and I admire you."

As requested, Monica rang back, and Archer asked if she wanted to go abroad.

Monica: "I'm not trying to hassle you. Archer: "I realise you're not. What I'm

THE PAY-OFF: Archer's man Stoopole gives the envelope of cash to Monica

saying is, would you go abroad if financially taken care of?"

Monica: "Yes."

Archer: "Would you be safe there?"

Monica: "Yes."

Archer: "And happy there?"

Monica: "Yes."

Archer: "How much money would that take?"

Flight

Monica: "About three hundred for the flight, something like that, a bungalow and spending

money while I was there."

"Look, I'm not offering money. All I want you to do for me is just to let me go back to a normal life."

Archer: "Well I'm trying very hard, but it might help if you were able to pop abroad again."

Monica: "You're sending me away for two weeks—what difference is that going to make?"

"I want a normal life. What guarantee have I got of being left alone?"

Archer: "I can't guarantee that. You must understand. I'm trying

everything I can think of."

Monica: "It's Kurtha that really worries me."

Archer: "Well I will tell you that after today, he'll be a very frightened man... the longer period, you can go

Nearer

Monica: "How long do you think..."

Archer: "As long as you feel you can. Now are you in London tomorrow? What landmark do you know?"

Monica: "Victoria Station. I'm quite near."

Archer: "My friend will never find you. A platform on Victoria Station would be easy—Platform Three. Stand by the entrance at 11 o'clock."

Monica: "I'll have a green leather suit. How do I know your friend?"

Archer: "He's going to see you in the leather suit and say, 'Are you Debbie?' and you're going to say yes. He's going to pass the package and walk away. He's 45, grey haired and a little overweight."

Monica: "I'll stay until



LAWYER'S VICE JACKPOT PLOT

FORMER TV presenter Aziz Kurtha is the man at the centre of the Archer affair. The good-looking, 43-year-old solicitor presented the Asian magazine programme on Eastern Eye Channel Four.

Kurtha made his politically sensational allegations about visiting prostitute Monica on Monday, September 8, just before midnight.

He picked her up in Shepherd Market, Mayfair, a red-light area bounded by London's Park Lane and Piccadilly.

He took her in his sleek, blue Mercedes to her hotel in Gillingham Street, Victoria, next to the railway station.

He then paid her for sex and subsequently made allegations about her other activities to a number of high-powered people.

Then he continually phoned Monica. "With this story you could hit the jackpot," he said, urging her to back his allegations.

He asked newspapers to buy his story, using his skill as a negotiator. Much of his busi-

ness is with Middle East clients and he frequents casinos.

Kurtha told Monica that he liked picking up in the red-light area of Mayfair and that evening had been with Arab friends in Curzon Street selecting girls.

He said he wanted to "get Archer" and would do everything in his power to tell his story in a newspaper.

He offered to pay Monica for her help, but she refused. He then contacted the News of the World. We declined to enter

any financial arrangement with him.

Kurtha went to the Daily Mirror. Later he boasted he had signed a contract with the Mirror group for £10,000.

The Mirror at the World understands that last Thursday Mr Archer's solicitors wrote to Kurtha after being made aware of the stories about the Tory deputy chairman.

The lawyer was invited to dissociate himself from allegations which had fuelled rumours in political circles.



KURTHA: "Got Archer"

Platform 3, Victoria Station, London

BE THE PACKAGE... BROAD QUICKLY

'You are being very brave' Archer tells vice girl Monica

you tell me I can come home."

Archer: "Right, ring me from abroad, in the Monica they asked for the name of Archer's friend and was told to call him David. It's just a very close friend who is very safe," Archer added.

On Friday, observed by a News of the World team, the meeting took place exactly as described by Archer the night before.

Archer's man, wearing a tan overcoat, was there dead on time. He was 45-year-old Michael Stacpoolle, a public relations man who moves in top political circles and was once the agent of Marlene Dietrich.

Wrong

At first, Stacpoolle approached the wrong girl, a computer wearing a cash top.

She smiled and shook her head when he asked her if she was Monica.

Then Monica arrived, wearing a black well-tailored overcoat, which she opened to reveal her suit.

Stacpoolle walked over immediately and said: "Hello, I'm David." Monica asked if Mr Archer had sent him.

"Yes," he said, handing her a large brown envelope sealed at the top.

He began walking away but Monica called him back.

"Hang on a minute," she said, ripping open the envelope. Inside was an inch-thick wad of crisp £50 notes still in their bank wrapper, which she estimated at

"I don't really want the money, you can take it back. Tell him I'll ring him."

Stacpoolle took back the envelope and asked Monica if she would

talk over a cup of coffee.

He walked her to the nearby Grosvenor Hotel, and bought her a drink.

Brandy

Over a brandy in the hotel's secluded Edward's Bar, Monica told him about Barbara and her involvement with Archer.

Stacpoolle: "He can't really do anything to you. Have you been with Kurtha?"

Monica: "A couple of times. I'll be started pressuring me."

Stacpoolle: "Where did you meet Mr Archer?"

Monica: "He says you are his friend. But he told me not to speak to anybody."

Stacpoolle: "Tell me, otherwise I can't help I'm the one who has to make the arrangements. Do you still work, Shepherd Market?"

Monica: "I haven't worked since."

Stacpoolle: "So, what's this money for?"

Monica: "To go away on holiday."

Stacpoolle: "Then why don't you do that?"

Monica: "I don't want to, I can't keep running, can I?"

Their meeting ended, but as Monica made to

pick out of the hotel, Stacpoolle recognised one of the News of the World team observing them.

Anxious

He had drinks with her and she admitted: "I'm here to do a favour for a very important political friend."

He's having a spot of bother, and he wanted my help to smooth it out.

He left the Bar to make several phone calls before settling



AIDE: David Foher

VICE GIRL: "You will wear the green leather suit," Archer told Monica. "I have a friend who will pass the package over"

down and revealing: "This is a pretty delicate job for me but I think I've managed to straighten things out."

Edging a wad of £50 notes from his trouser pocket, Stacpoolle added: "I'm being well paid and all my expenses are being covered."

A few minutes later, an anxious-looking man in a business suit appeared at the entrance to the bar and nodded at Stacpoolle.

The fixer joined his

contact, and they talked in whispers.

After the man left, Stacpoolle again spoke to Monica, who had stayed behind at the hotel, and pressed her to accept the money.

He urged her to do exactly as Archer had asked, and flee abroad.

"It will all blow over soon," he assured her. "Why don't you go now?"

Stacpoolle then claimed the man he had spoken with was a senior government official,

a very high civil servant.

"My friend's problems involve a man called Aziz Kurtha and someone else and it's been causing him a lot of anxiety."

Amuse

fact was NOT a senior civil servant, as he claimed.

We can reveal he was 25-year-old David Faber, grandson of former

Dary premier Harold MacMillan, who now works full-time as personal assistant to Jeffrey Archer.

He was chosen as Archer's right-hand man after gossip among top Tories that the author was spending too much time in the company of his secretary, bachelor girl Andrina Colquhoun, a former girlfriend of Lord Lucan.

Faber earned a notorious reputation for high living while a student at Oxford University.

He was a member of the outrageous Assassins Club—youngsters from privileged families who go on wild drinking sprees.

Finally, Stacpoolle admitted to us that his mission WAS in contact with Archer.

But he said: "I don't want any of this to come out. I am not involved in this officially or unofficially."

Comment—Page 8

I'll have to quit—See Pages 4 and 5

7 pm, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1986: The



Jeffrey Archer scandal

I'LL HAVE TO QUIT!

By GRANIA FORBES, Political Editor

BROKEN-HEARTED Jeffrey Archer was agonising last night over whether to quit as Tory Party deputy chairman.

As his loyal wife Mary sobbed at the thought of his career ending in disgrace, Archer steeled himself to pick up the phone and dial two important numbers.

CALL Me, ONE would be to his boss, Party chairman Norman Tebbit, to give him the grim news that he was going.

CALL NO. TWO promised to be even more painful—to Mrs Thatcher herself to offer his resignation.

That would wound both of them—very deeply indeed.

For Archer, the millionaire whizz-kid turned Tory charmer, was once the Premier's darling, a golden boy who could do no wrong.

Baby of the House

Archer would be in torment as he told his friend and mentor the reason for his downfall.

Politically, it was THE END for him—just months after he had clawed and fought his way back from the wilderness after financial troubles had robbed him of the title "Baby of the House of Commons."

And Mrs Thatcher would be sad—and bitterly, bitterly hurt.

It would be sorrowful for her as the time another Tory golden boy, Cecil Parkinson—himself her former top image-maker—was disgraced. But, although all this flashed through his mind as he stared at the telephone, Archer knew the moment could not be postponed indefinitely.

He had tried to put a brave face on things—almost like a condemned man in his cell.

Earlier, he attended a rugby match with friends.

Then he returned to his home at Grantchester, near Cambridge—and learned that the story of his involve-



MONICA: Call girl at the centre of the scandal

ment with a vice girl was about to break.

That was when he had to give the news to Mary.

Ambitious Archer's career had also been a big dipper ride of soaring up followed by crashing down.

He hit rock bottom 12 years ago when his US business collapsed.

He had massive debts of £400,000, and resigned as Tory MP for Louth, Leics.

Since then, he has earned £5million by writing a series of sensational big-selling novels.

And last year he scaled the heights—when Mrs Thatcher appointed him Tory vice chairman.

Ironically, his job was to help restore the party's battered image after the Cecil Parkinson scandal.

During the lean years, 46-year-old Archer sought respect for the way he hauled himself up by the bootstraps.

His first novel, Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less, was a best-seller, and he began to pay off his debts.

As more land came more land, more best-sellers flowed from



HIT BY SHAME: Archer and his loyal wife Mary

Archers' country home in Cambridgeshire

WORRY WHIZZKID FACES WEEPING WIFE

Golden boy in torment over a call to Maggie



TEBBIT: Archer's boss the typewriter, he moved to a £250,000 penthouse flat near Parliament.

At weekends, he travelled home to Cambridgeshire to Mary and their two children.

Complete confidence

He won the complete confidence of Mrs Thatcher. But dismay set in shortly after his appointment as Norman Tebbit's right-hand man.

Archer made blundering attacks on the unemployed—telling them to "get off your backside."

And he criticised the image of his own Tory leaders. By admitting: "You wouldn't buy a used car off them."

But Archer maintains: "I'm unpaid and can go what I like."

"If I am sacked, I can go to a million-pound-a-year job as a writer."

Last night the political world was reeling at the news that it was exactly what he would be doing.

Leicester East Tory MP Peter Bruinvels said: "Peter must go at once. The Tory Party stands for family values and he has ruined the Party's reputation."

And senior Tory back-

bencher Mr. Peter Temple-Morris said Archer would not be missed. Liberal Cyril Smith commented: "I think it is a tragedy when leading figures have to resign on issues of this nature."

"Nevertheless, I think it is important for the British public that if allegations such as these are proved, that they do resign."

Fellow Liberal David Penhaligon said: "It is an appalling way for a man to end his career."

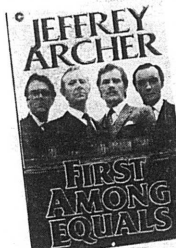
"However, he is a man who has had his ups and downs."

But Labour MPs were cock-a-hoop at the sensational news—hoping it would turn out to be a serious embarrassment to the Government.

Shadow Trade Minister Peter Shore said: "I think the greater surprise was his appointment rather than his expected resignation and I can't see he will be greatly missed."



PREMIER AND THE GOLDEN BOY: Archer's sudden downfall will sadden Mrs Thatcher, his great friend and mentor



BEST-SELLER: Published by Corgi Books in paperback

TELLY MP AND VICE GIRL

JEFFREY Archer's best-selling book First Among Equals—now a top TV series—tells of an encounter between a fictional MP and a prostitute.

In the book, Labour MP Raymond Gould succumbs to sexual temptation after spotting an attractive black prostitute named Mandy outside a petrol station in London's Park Lane.

He picks her up, saying he is a secondhand car

salesman, and she takes him back to a hotel in the Paddington area of London.

There, the embarrassed up-and-coming politician discovers he only has £9 instead of the £10 she has demanded in advance for her favour.

Trouble beckons when, by a piece of bad luck, another sharp-eyed lady of the night recognises Junior Minister Gould as they pass on the stairs.

And when he opens his morning mail while his dutiful wife Joyce cooks his breakfast, he finds to his

horror a blackmail note from Mandy.

It says: "I enjoyed our little gig-together, the other evening and £500 would help me to forget it once and for all."

"PS, I'll be in touch again soon."

Terrified that the scandal will finish his political career almost before it is off the ground, Gould consults a top lawyer.

The lawyer advises him to sit tight.

But then Gould is phoned by a Fleet Street journalist and asked about a state-

ment made by Mandy to his paper.

Sick with worry, he refers the newspaperman to his lawyer.

The lawyer then decides to tell the reporter the truth.

He explains to a panic-stricken Gould: "We thought she hit on a fair journalist because I expect he'll let this one go."

"Fleet Street are not quite the bunch of shits everyone imagines them to be."

The lawyer's gamble pays off. Nothing appears in the paper... and Gould ends up being made Prime Minister.

NEWS OF THE WORLD SAYS

Quit now, Archer!

JEFFREY ARCHER is 46, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, a skilled politician and a gifted, successful author. He was educated at Oxford and has friends in high places.

He is also a monumental fool.

Today, as he finds—and not for the first time—an aura of disquiet wafting around his well-known name, he must blame no one but himself.

The talented man they used to talk about as a future Prime Minister has made the classic mistake of other fallen politicians before him.

To ERR is one thing. To try to COVER-UP is another.

To be CAUGHT covering up is the end.

Those who seek our votes and confidence must understand that we require from them higher private standards than we require from lesser mortals not in the public eye. It may not be FAIR but it is TRUE.

There is political talk this weekend that the Government, tired of what it sees as Archer's many gaffes, is about to get rid of him.

He should save Mrs Thatcher the trouble of a sacking.

It may be that after a period in the wilderness he will be able to return. It is not unknown in politics.

But Jeffrey Archer must resign.

TODAY.