

The Woman Who Knows Too Much: An Interview with Amanda Ungaro

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Introduction

Last week, Melania Trump issued a mysterious six-minute statement from the White House podium in language couched in legalese, denying that she was friends with Jeffrey Epstein and threatening "those who would tell lies about me." Like everyone else in the world, we wondered what provoked it. Thanks to an independent journalist named Bekah Day, we all soon understood what Melania was responding to: recent statements by Amanda Ungaro, a former model and friend.

We reached out to Ungaro, who sent us answers to our questions over a messaging platform.

Ungaro was deported to Brazil earlier this year, after her ex, Paolo Zampolli--the man who brought her into the U.S. decades ago, was Trump's former business partner, and now serves as Trump 2.0's "Special Envoy for Global Partnerships"--made a call that apparently resulted in ICE detaining and then deporting her. Zampolli and Ungaro have been engaged in an ongoing child custody battle. The child is currently staying in New York with Zampolli.

When and under what circumstances did you meet Zampolli?

The first time I had contact with Paolo Zampolli was when I was 15 years old. I can state that, starting from this first meeting, Paolo Zampolli began harassing me in an attempt to pursue an intimate relationship.

When and under what circumstances did you meet Melania?

I was introduced to Melania by Paolo Zampolli; at that time, we were already dating, and that is when I was introduced to her.

What was Melania's immigration status, and who handled her case?

I cannot answer that specific detail; however, she was already in a relationship with Trump, and I was already aware that Paolo Zampolli was the person responsible for negotiating visas to legalize his models' status in the United States. Everyone knew that this was a task he performed. Like everyone else, I know that she

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worked and earned money for a long time while undocumented--and that, too, fell under Paolo Zampolli's purview. He circumvented the law, enabling the models to work and earn money illegally. He did the same with me when I joined the agency.

Did you speak with Melania about your deportation and Zampolli's involvement?

I tried to reach her through contacts who had direct access to her; and, based on what those contacts told me, she was aware of the situation but did nothing.

Her reaction was one of indifference regarding what was happening to me. It seems to me that Melania, together with her husband, has a pact with Paolo Zampolli. Paolo constructed a false narrative claiming that he was the one who introduced Melania to her husband--and not only do I know this isn't true, but everyone knows it isn't true. I don't know what the specific agreement was behind the creation of this narrative, but Paolo was an associate of Epstein, and they did business together.

What do you know about Melania's relationship with Epstein?

I was younger than Melania. Everything had already taken place by the time I came along; yet, the whole thing felt strange and made no sense. It was as if their relationship had been pre-programmed--like a specific project that Paolo had meticulously architected, solely to claim the power and credit for having orchestrated their meeting. Everything that is unfolding now was, in fact, part of that original plan. Paolo Zampolli had business dealings with Epstein; he was a recruiter of girls for Epstein. It was all always a plan.

Can you characterize Melania's relationship with Zampolli?

Paolo Zampolli always portrayed himself as the one who initiated the relationship. It always seemed to me that Paolo held some hidden leverage over Melania's life--something that kept her in his thrall. It was a business arrangement, it seems to me--an agreement from which both parties stood to benefit. Just look at how things have turned out today.

Did Melania personally threaten you? If so, in what way and when?

Melania felt threatened, and while she did not threaten me directly, she knows that I witnessed highly compromising interactions over the course of 20 years. She does not know the full extent of what I know--for I lived with Paolo for 20 years.

Would you testify before the House Oversight Committee?

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Absolutely.