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Jonathan: From Amsterdam, This is Bright Minds, the podcast from the John Adams Institute, a treasure trove of the best and the brightest of American thinking. I'm Jonathan Groubert, and this episode's guest is Megan Twohey, whose book about Harvey Weinstein Sexual Abuse of Women in Hollywood was also, as she put it, an X-ray into the abuse of power.

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Megan Twohey: These women had to turn over all evidence of what happened to them. They couldn't tell their family members. If they wanted to see a therapist, the therapist had to sign a confidentiality clause. And when a reporter came knocking, they would suffer financial penalties.

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Jonathan: The #MeToo movement really got going after New York Times journalists Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor published their investigative articles about Harvey Weinstein. They followed with their book 'she said' which dives deep not just into Harvey Weinstein's decades long sexual predation, but also the failures of the system that let it happen. Some have called 'she said' the feminist all the president's men. Back in 2019, Megan to he gave the John Adams an interview that was almost like a crime procedural. She detailed how you piece together an investigation into someone powerful who was determined to undermine you every step of the way. It's a tale of harassment, spies, failures of the legal system and ultimately the triumphant power of the truth to actually make change. The Dutch journalist Joyce Roodnat interviewed Megan Twohey in front of a packed audience at the University of Amsterdam, and she started with the most counterintuitive question. She asked: at the start of your investigation, did you even know who Harvey Weinstein was?

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Megan Twohey: You know, I actually, I will confess, I really did not know who Harvey Weinstein was. In fact, there was a moment several years before where I had received an award at the White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington and was sitting at a table next to a large man who was receiving a lot of attention. There just seemed to be all the famous actors and actresses, and at least notable figures in the audience were kind of making a beeline up to his table to wait in line to talk to him. And I turned to somebody next to me and I said, Who is this guy? And it was, it was an actor. And he said, Oh, that's Harvey Weinstein. And I said, I don't, I don't know who Harvey Weinstein is. I was really not a reporter who was steeped in the entertainment industry. I had never covered it. As we mentioned, when we started this reporting, I had no idea who, I mean, we didn't know any actresses. I mean, we didn't know how to get in touch with any of these people. What we were really starting at zero, but we were starting with a promise. You know, there was something that happened between Trump's election and the launch of the Weinstein investigation. Our colleagues broke the story of Bill O'Reilly in the spring of 2017. And I know that that may now seem that that was 100 sexual harassment stories ago. But at the time, it was actually a really big deal. Our colleagues showed ultimately were able to show in the pages of the New York Times that Bill O'Reilly, the most famous and powerful media figure in conservative media, he and Fox News had ultimately paid off more than \$40 million to women who had come forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against him. And when that story was published, listen, it wasn't. Fox knew what was going on. His employer knew what was going on. They were involved in some of the payoffs. But what happened when

those allegations were printed in the pages of the New York Times was truly remarkable. Advertisers revolted at Fox. Basically, they said, we're going to yank our advertising money if you allow this guy to stay on air. So Bill O'Reilly was ousted from his job. I mean, he had been. And something that nobody thought would ever happen. And we at the New York Times took notice of that and asked what may now seem like a really quaint question, which was, you know, are there other powerful men who have abused women and cover their tracks? And so that was the launch that was... and Harvey Weinstein had long been rumored. At least people who knew him, had long been aware of these rumors about him preying on actresses. And so we at the New York Times took this moment to say, OK, we're going to throw some resources, not just reporting on Harvey Weinstein. We had reporters who were going into Silicon Valley, who are going into the restaurant industry, who are going into academia, who are going into car factories in Chicago. We really, in 2017 made a broad commitment to covering sexual harassment, not really knowing how any of the stories were going to pan out.

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Joyce Roodnat: You also did Bill Cosby, The New York Times, with the huge showing of all the faces of women had been abused.

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Megan Twohey: Yeah, our colleagues at New York Magazine had done that memorable cover. But you're right, there were, Listen, there were some signs. There was, there were some signs that things might be shifting. And, you know, even with Trump, even after he was elected, yes, he was elected. But there were also thousands and thousands of people who took to the streets on inauguration with their pink hats, their pink pussy hats to protest basically out in the streets, saying No, we do care about this issue. It is important this is not acceptable. So we did. The stage was starting to be set.

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Joyce Roodnat: OK, so you started.

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Megan Twohey: Yeah, that's right.

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Joyce Roodnat: And what then? I mean, you don't know any since you don't know who Harvey Weinstein is.

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Megan Twohey: Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

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Joyce Roodnat: How did you start? Yeah.

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Megan Twohey: So we started with our first secret source with was the actress Rose McGowan. She had in 2016. As women who are coming forward with allegations against Trump, she was among the women who came, who basically went on social media, and she wrote a tweet in which she basically described being allegedly raped by a powerful producer. And she didn't name Harvey Weinstein, but there was a sense that that's who she was talking about. And so, you know, Jodie, I was on maternity leave. But Jodie reached out to

Rose McGowan, and at first she refused to talk. She said, You work for a sexist newspaper. I'm not going to, you know, there's no way I'm going to talk to you guys. But she, you know, she did in fact, open up and it was the first. She was the first source to tell her story off the record of being preyed upon by Weinstein in a hotel room when she was starting off in the early 90s and within a couple, within, like the next month or so. Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd were telling very similar stories themselves. And these were three women who, three very different actresses. They didn't know each other. They weren't friends. And that was in these hushed secret conversations with those three actresses, were the first indications that there was a 'there there' and a story to pursue. But even as this whole other category of victims came into view, we also realized that many of these women were legally prohibited from speaking to us. So, you know.

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Joyce Roodnat: which means they got an amount of money providing they would never speak about it?

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Megan Twohey: So this happens and this happens in sexual harassment and sexual assault cases every single day. Women will, after they've sort of experienced a violation, they will go to an attorney seeking advice because they want to do something about it. They want to hold that person accountable. And oftentimes they are told that their best, if not only option, is to accept money in exchange for silence.

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Joyce Roodnat: And why do lawyers do that?

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Megan Twohey: Well, listen. I think that what the lawyers will tell you is that listen, if you want to go to court, if you want to file a public complaint and go into the court system, that's going to be a really long road and there's no guarantee that you're going to win. And along the way, you're going to have to open yourself up to attack by the perpetrator who's likely going to go to great lengths to smear you. And if you want privacy, if you want this thing to go away, if you want to receive financial recompense for what's happened to you, the best thing to do is to accept this money in exchange for silence. And we sort of knew that vague, you know, we knew the outlines of some of these secret settlements. We weren't shocked, completely shocked that there had been secret settlements that had paid. But as we did our reporting, the restrictive clauses that we encountered made our jaws drop. So for example, I told you the story about the sort of patient zero of the Weinstein investigation this woman who in 1990 had been allegedly sexually assaulted by Weinstein and then silenced through a secret settlement and had disappeared from the entertainment industry, never to emerge again, who had never spoken out about it. Well, there were other women that we that were starting to come into view. There were other women who had worked in his company is, you know, just six or seven years later who had been silenced through secret settlements following very troubling encounters in hotel rooms. And when we started to basically seamless some of the restrictive clauses, these women had to turn over all evidence of what happened to them. They couldn't tell their colleagues about what had happened. They couldn't tell their family members if they wanted to see a therapist. The therapist had to sign

a confidentiality clause. And when a reporter came knocking, you know they would suffer financial penalties if they told the truth about what had happened.

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Joyce Roodnat: Many times they couldn't have the paperwork. What do you, you are a reporter. You want witnesses, victims and they have been bought off and they don't have even have their paperwork.

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Megan Twohey: Right, they don't even have the papers. And there was, you know, in the case of the woman from 1990, you know, she was, you know, she was terrified to speak out. And there was another one of these other women, Jodi went actually traveled out to California. She got on an airplane and went to California to try to track her down. And she showed up in the driveway of this woman's house and the woman wasn't there, but her husband was there. And so Jodi starts talking to him and saying, I'm from the New York Times. We are working on this story about Harvey Weinstein. I have. Reason to believe that your wife may have been victimized by him and in he said, you know, I don't know what you're talking about and she's thinking, Well, this sounds like, this is basically sounds like something that somebody would say as part of a settlement. And, you know, so she kept talking. She's like, I have reason to believe that she may, your wife may have been paid a settlement and the man gestured to the house behind him and said, Do I look like somebody whose wife just received, you know, has received a big settlement? And Jodi is listening to him talk and it's starting to dawn on her. Oh my god, he doesn't know this woman's own husband does not know what happened to her when she was just starting her career.

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Joyce Roodnat: Still, you want to write, you want to report, what do you do? How do you make victims talk to you? And in the end, even on the record?

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Megan Twohey: Well, what we realized, what we realized early on. So there's two things that happened. There's kind of two phases of investigative reporting. There's the determining whether or not there's a 'there' there. If there's a story to pursue, you're kind of selling your editors on the idea, like you're asking them to give you time and resources, sort of promising that it's going to be worth their while. And along the way, you have to check in and you kind of have to report back on what you found. And, you know, two and a half, three months into the investigation, our editor, Rebecca Corbett, took Jodi and I out for drinks one night in Midtown Manhattan, and we spelled out for her everything we knew, we were like, we were talking to all these actresses. They're telling us the exact same stories. There's a real pattern of predation that's coming into focus. We think he's paid off all these settlements. And she said, how many women are on the record? And we said none. And she said, How you know, how many of these settlements have you been able to prove or nailed down or obtain records for? And we said none. And she said, Well, you don't have a publishable story. And so we realized that we were not going to... It was a real wake up call for us. We realized I think we had had this, you know, as I mentioned, we'd had this kind of hope that at some point all of these actresses would join hands and say, OK, we're going to make this leap together. And we realized as we went on that that was not going to happen. You know, there was one day where we drove out, where Jodi and I drove out to Gwyneth Paltrow's house. She had been

telling us her story by phone, and now we were talking to her in person, and we were really hoping that she was going to get ready to go on the record with us. And, you know, she had even been helping us in other ways. She was calling around to other women in Hollywood to see if they had stories for us at one point when we were sitting in her backyard. She stepped away to take a phone from another famous actress to say, You know, do you have Harvey Weinstein's story that got a couple of reporters here in my backyard? And you know, and so she was really.... you could tell that she cared. You could tell that she was invested. But even in that afternoon and her, you know, sort of sunny backyard, she said, You know, I can't be the only one. Nobody wanted to do make the leap by themselves, and understandably so. So we realized midway through the summer that if we waited around, we were never going to be able to publish the story if we were just waiting for women to go on the record. And that's when we went in pursuit of the financial. That's when we really started to like, dig in our heels and try to knit and started to work to nail down the financial trail of payoffs we had learned from, you know, our colleagues who had broke the Bill O'Reilly story. It used to be as a reporter. If you were, you know, if you were wading into a particular subject and you came across these secret settlements, it was like a sign to pack up your bag and go home. You'd say, like, OK, there's this is, this is, this is an insurmountable challenge. I'm not going to be able to do this story. Case closed. But what our colleagues had shown in the Bill O'Reilly story was that these secret settlements that had long been used to cover up misconduct. If you could basically piece together the financial trail of those payoffs, it could help illuminate misconduct. You know, readers weren't, didn't have to... There wasn't really any question once they saw that that that O'Reilly had paid off so many of these secret settlements over the years. So we set about trying to piece together the financial trail in the case of Weinstein.

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Joyce Roodnat: So you had to have proof. We had to prove yes. Yes. And still, you had to have witnesses, victims talking to you. How did you convince them to talk to you?

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Megan Twohey: Yeah, it was not easy. Listen, when you show up on the doorstep of somebody...

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Joyce Roodnat: that was a strategy, you just show up.

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Megan Twohey: Sometimes it was. That's actually the strategy of last resort before we show up on somebody's doorstep unannounced. We're going to be reaching out by phone, by email, sometimes through family members or friends or trusted colleagues. And so but we listen. There's so many reasons not to talk to a reporter. When we came knocking either by phone or literally on somebody's doorstep, we understood that we were often asking these people to open up about the most painful experience in their life, and even the powerful actresses were terrified of Harvey Weinstein, his power and influence was so great that they were, that they would be the ones to suffer damage to their careers if they spoke out. And so and you know, they had done nothing wrong to become victims of sexual harassment and sexual abuse. They had basically shown up to work with like big, you know, professional ambitions, and that's what they were guilty of, and yet they were, So, you know, there was

also in some ways, it even feels unfair that we have to ask these women to, like, go out on a limb and put themselves and take yet another risk to do this work.

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Joyce Roodnat: Yet you made them.

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Megan Twohey: so we would make. So the case that we had made was to say, Listen, we can't change what's happened to you. But if you work with us and we're able to publish the truth, we might be able to protect other people. We might be able to turn your private pain toward some constructive public use. And I think that really clicked for a lot of people. When we first started our Weinstein investigation, we thought that we were kind of doing like a historical corrective. What really happened behind the scenes about, you know, of these Oscar winning movies in the 1990s? But as our investigation went on, we started to realize that Weinstein was engaging in alleged predation, sometimes at the same exact, same hotel as he had in the 1990s. As recently as 2015, you know, there ended up being a Deep Throat figure in our investigation.

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Joyce Roodnat: Yes, tell us about him.

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Megan Twohey: Yeah. Harvey Weinstein's corporate account of 30 years, Irwin Reiter, was somebody who in 2014, in 2015, as he was watching the Bill O'Reilly, excuse me, as he was watching the Bill Cosby story unfold started to think, Oh my God, I think we may have a Bill Cosby problem here at The Weinstein Company. And so he was and he was concerned he tried to do something about it. He tried to confront Weinstein. He tried to slip information to members of the board, the company's board. But all of his efforts to hold Weinstein accountable failed. And so when we came knocking in 2017, he made the choice to basically ultimately slip us internal company records in which women at the company as recently as 2015 were documenting serious allegations of sexual harassment, harassment and abuse by Weinstein. And so that was a moment when we got those internal records where we thought, Oh my goodness, the moral stakes of this investigation have just shot through the roof where this is a just a historical corrective. You know, this is somebody who seems to be continuing to harm people. And if we're not able to publish the truth, he's very likely going to go on to harm more people. So when we came back to women to, you know, we'd been talking having these hushed conversations with sources for months and once we got that internal, those internal company records. And once we had, at that point, we were starting to realize that Weinstein had made as many as 12 secret settlements stretching from 1990 to 2015. We went back to these people and said, Listen, you know, the stakes of this investigation have gotten higher. You know, we're not just asking you to go on the record to explain what happened to all these years ago. We are really working to bring to light who we now consider to be an act of sexual predator.

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Joyce Roodnat: You were, you are a reporter, but you are also a human being. So how emotionally involved did you get? I mean, did you ever cry?

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Megan Twohey: Mm-Hmm. Have I cried in the course of reporting? Yes, I have. I will, I will

admit. And of course, this is emotional. Of course, this work is emotional. And you know, Jodi and I wouldn't be reporting on these issues of sexual harassment or sexual assault if we didn't really care about them. And we have worked with so many we have now, you know, sort of three years in, sat down at tables like this with so many women who have opened up to us about these really painful experiences. And so while we have a, of course, been moved by those stories, we also have worked to maintain a professional relationship and distance. I mean, we are not... We always stressed that we are not, you know, we are not these women's friends. We are not their therapists. We are not their advocates. We are journalists. And we often feel like the best thing that we can do to help, as we've sort of waded into this river of pain, that the best thing that we can do is to do our jobs as journalists well. And what that looks like is saying, OK, we're not just going to listen to your story here and get emotional about it, but we're going to go out and we're going to seek our corroboration. We're going to do other types of due diligence to make sure that your story is as airtight as possible. And we're going also be. We're also going to be out there accumulating and working to obtain other evidence and a whole mountain of evidence so that if you do decide to go on the record, you're going to be doing this in a like in an airtight, extremely solid story. That's what we can bring to the table.

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Joyce Roodnat: He tried to telephone your editor in chief several times because they knew each other, right?

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Megan Twohey: So this is one of the things that Harvey Weinstein had done time and time again, I think, at other news organizations. And so when we were working with sources there, we were sometimes talking to sources who had spoken to other reporters. They had actually found the courage to work with other reporters, only to see those stories killed. And so they were pretty, they were pretty upset about that. And they would say, Listen, why should I talk to you? Why should I have faith that this story is ever going to be published, even if you are able to get the, you know, get to the bottom of the truth here? And you know, what we would say is, listen, we can't tell you what's happened in other news organizations. But you know, if like the only thing that the only thing that's going to get killed here is us, if we don't come back with the goods like our editors are going to be very upset. They put a lot of effort and resources into this investigation. We have the support all the way up through the top. But that doesn't mean that Harvey Weinstein didn't try to go that route. I mean, he was very used to kind of marching into the top office or, you know, the boss's boss's boss's boss and saying, Let's have a sort of a conversation, important man to important man. And like, I'm just, yeah, you know, and he did try to do that with the publisher of the New York Times. He didn't try to do that with the executive editor. And it's worth noting not only was his sort of powerful and an intimidating and bullying, but he also was an advertiser of the New York Times. He had spent, his companies had spent a lot of money on advertising and the New York Times. But to their credit, the publisher Arthur Sulzberger and the executive editor Dean Baquet did not take his calls. They basically said, Listen, you know, we don't have any time to talk to you. Harvey, if you want to talk to anybody, talk to the reporters.

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Joyce Roodnat: So he talked to you and told you.

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Megan Twohey: So ultimately, he talked to us at the very end. We really worked hard to, we did not want to. We were really reluctant to engage with him. We didn't. We made a pretty fast rule at the beginning of our investigation that we would not talk to Harvey Weinstein off the record. We suspected, we knew that he was probably engaged in a variety of underhanded tactics to try to stop us. We didn't know that it included these, you know, former Israeli intelligence officials. But we suspected that there was, you know, there had been a moment where Dean Baquet had pulled us into his office and said, Assume you're being trailed by private investigators, talk like every conversation is being recorded. So we knew, we knew that we had to really be on the on the lookout for any sort of underhanded tactics that he was going to use. So we didn't want to engage with him in off the record conversations because we knew that he was just going to abuse that privilege and try to probably smear the women or do other things that would put us in a difficult position. But at the end of, you know, at the end of our reporting as part of the final due diligence, you're doing an investigation like that, you have to go to the subject, you have to give them adequate time. You have to spell out everything that you're preparing to publish about them. You have to give them adequate time to respond to every single thing that you're intending to say about them. You do that, you do that in the name of fairness. You do that in the name of accuracy. And for us, that really set off, we gave Weinstein 48 hours to respond. And that really set off probably the most dramatic 48 hours of the entire investigation because two things happened. One, all of our sources, all of the especially the named sources, were sitting ducks for 48 hours. So we knew that Harvey Weinstein was likely going to try to come after, his enablers who were going to try to come after those people. We also knew that he was going to try to come after us. And sure enough, you know, he has high priced lawyers came in and they threatened to sue us. We now know that these private investigators were also working on his behalf to try to stop us. And the day before this story was published, we got a call from one of his lawyers saying Harvey Weinstein's on his way to the New York Times. He'll be there in five minutes. And we said, I'm sorry. Harvey Weinstein's on his way to the New York Times right now uninvited? And we had to debate whether or not to take the meeting. We had been at that point, just engaging with him and his lawyers on telephone calls. And so Jody and I took a second and, you know, debated what to do. And I said, You know, I'll take this meeting. You know, at this point. Harvey Weinstein was showing us who he was and what he was made of. And sure enough, when he came into the New York Times, he had that famous feminist attorney, Lisa Bloom, by his side. He had another famous feminist attorney by his side and another extremely powerful defense attorney. He did have folders of information about some of the women who were going to be in our story. Information from their backgrounds. Photos of them. That he thought could be used to undermine them and their credibility. And so anyway, they came in and I took him, I escorted him into the basically the middle of the newsroom into a big glass, actually a small glass conference room so that everybody who was walking by in the newsroom could see these guys. And I said, You've got 15 minutes, not a minute more. And I listened to them politely. And one of the reasons that I took this meeting is: I was like, Listen, you're showing us what you're made of. Well, I want you to see what we're made of. I want you to come in here and

sit down toe to toe with us and see that we're not going to be intimidated. We're not going to be bullied and we're not going to fall for these smear tactics.

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Joyce Roodnat: And weren't you intimidated?

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Megan Twohey: No.

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Joyce Roodnat: No?

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Megan Twohey: No.

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Megan Twohey: In fact, we were galvanized. The more that he used these, all of these underhanded. The more that he used these underhanded tactics, the more determined that we were. We said, Listen, we can't let you know, the more that he did, the bullying and the threatening and the intimidation, the more convinced and just certain we were that we had to... We just had to get to the finish line. We had to publish the story.

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Joyce Roodnat: And so you, you published it and it has a huge explosive quality after that, you know? And one of the things was Woody Allen writing in The New York Times, an essay about a witch hunt that was on its way. Your reporting and this subsequently exploding of the MeToo in how far did it get a witch hunt?

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Megan Twohey: Well, I mean, one thing's for sure, which is that we did not have any. We had no clue what was coming. I mean, we suspected that Weinstein was going to basically, I suspected that he was going to be ousted from his company. I didn't think that he'd survive. But in terms of what the broader impact of the story was, we certainly never imagined that the story would help fuel and ignite this MeToo movement. The hashtag that had been started by Tarana Burke in 2006. In fact, two nights before the story was published, Jodi and I had been working around the clock in the middle of this insane 48 hour period, and it was about one o'clock in the morning and we said we turn to each other and said, OK, we got it. We have to go home and get some sleep and come back to the office the next morning. And so we shared a cab from Midtown Manhattan to Brooklyn. We live about 10 blocks from each other in Brooklyn and the sort of hushed silence of the cab. We finally turned to each other and said: Do you think anybody is going to read this story? We were so immersed in the story. At that point. We were so completely enveloped by the reporting and sort of, you know, doing Whack-a-mole with all of Weinstein's underhanded tactics that we hadn't really contemplated what would happen next. And so when we published that button on the publish button on October 5th, at one o'clock, we kind of held our breath and just waited to see what was going to happen next and within, I think it was within three days. Well, not only did we kind of hold our breath. Not only were we holding our breath, we were continuing to report. I mean, we didn't, we didn't miss a beat. We went right back into reporting. What did the company know? When did it know it? Who were the other people who enabled this behavior? What we know? What did the talent agencies know when they

were sending actresses in to these meetings at hotel rooms? So we continued to report, but within, I'd say, three or four days. I mean, our story was published on Thursday. Weinstein was fired from his company on Sunday, and within several days of that, our phones and emails were flooded with women who were coming forward with their own allegations, you know, with their own stories of abuse and harassment, not just against Weinstein, but from all different industries, women, from all different backgrounds. And it was the first indication we had that something if there had been signs that things were shifting. Up until then, that was when we were like, Oh wow, things are really... something's really happening here. There's a real shift that's underway. And so we, you know, once again, we our response to that we almost had to do like a triage system in the New York Times. We could not keep up with the tips that were flooding in, and it really became a group project across all the different departments: the business section, the culture desk, the sports desk. There were reporters pulled in from all different parts of the paper to keep up with the like, you know, with this sort of tsunami of tips that were coming to us. And it didn't just happen at the New York Times that happened in news organizations across the United States and ultimately around the world. And so, you know, there was the journalism that took place as the MeToo movement ignited. There were also obviously people who just went straight to social media. You know, there was one night where I came home from work and flipped open my laptop and clicked on Facebook and was scrolling through and seeing for the first time my friends, my family members, you know, colleagues from, you know, my jobs in the past going, you know, doing the MeToo hashtag and sharing their own stories straight onto social media. And as somebody who had worked to basically unearth these stories and try to pry them into the light to see them just flooding into the public, you know, into public view. I mean, you know, it brought tears to my eyes scrolling through my Facebook that night. And so there was there was no question that something unprecedented was happening and we continued to report and it's one of the reasons that we wrote the book. It would have been really easy for us to finish on that triumphant moment when we did press publish and the story went out and all of the phone started ringing at the New York Times. That would have been a really sort of nice and tidy way to finish, but we really report it into the year that followed as the MeToo movement became more complicated and confusing to people, and as you know, a backlash emerged.

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Joyce Roodnat: And there's always this this question of proof. There is no proof. How do you deal with that? As a reporter, you kept on reporting, you wrote this book and it's all the time, people, she said... People telling something and then? So maybe our legal system isn't working. Is that something you...

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Megan Twohey: Well, I think that there's no question that journalism that the sort of the #Metoo is an example of journalism stepping in where other institutions had failed. I mean, Harvey Weinstein came to the, you know, came to the attention of police. He came to the attention of the board of his company. He came to the attention of the H.R. department. He came to the attention of the criminal justice system. And they didn't do anything to stop him. And so...

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Joyce Roodnat: But one has the idea also from your book that he, on his behalf, the police was bought off or something happened or people higher up...

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Megan Twohey: Yeah, this listen, this ultimately this, right, this this ultimately became the Harvey Weinstein story is ultimately an X-ray into abuse of power and how all of the high priced lawyers, the private investigators and secret settlements and other tools that are at the disposal of the powerful when they want to cover up misconduct? Yes. And so there is there's this that's you know, that's why it's also a story that demands broader change beyond sort of bringing one person to justice. I mean, I think what we're looking at, we really, you know, with that first story, we had been able to connect some of the dots. And in reporting this book, we had really been able to bring together so many other pieces of the puzzle, the machinery that was in place to silence women, the individuals and institutions who became complicit in abuse. And those are questions that extend way beyond Weinstein into all of our workplaces and to all of our families and to all of our, I mean, there were really sort of systemic issues and cultural issues here that went so far beyond Weinstein.

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Jonathan: Megan Twohey, the co-author of 'She Said' in conversation with the Dutch journalist, Joyce Roodnat at the University of Amsterdam back in 2019 and. Did you know that you can go to our website? www.john-adams.nl/videos where there's a link to the video of this extraordinary event. We also have a newsletter you can sign up for and a veritable treasure trove of great American thinkers and speakers at www.john-adams.nl. And while you're there, why not become a member of the John Adams? Not only will you support what we do. You get a discount to future live events. In the meantime, you should go to wherever you get your podcasts and leave a review of this show. This will help get the word out, and we can keep on sharing the very best of American thinkers in Europe with you free of charge. That's it for this week's show. Our theme song is called La Prensa by the Parlano's. Our editor is Tracy Metz. From Amsterdam, this was Bright Minds, the podcast from the John Adams Institute. I'm Jonathan Groubert. Thank you for listening.