

# Stain.

**Surviving Malka Leifer**

**Publicity Coverage**

**\*Not for distribution\***

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer



**'We were the ones on trial':  
the torturous road to  
justice for three sisters  
abused by school principal  
Malka Leifer**

**The Guardian Australia  
Interview + shoot with Nicole, Dassi & Elly  
October 5**

[LINK](#)

**FLICKS**



OPINION / REVEALED

**Surviving Malka Leifer is a gripping  
story of pursuing justice and  
smashing silence**

**Flicks  
October 5  
[LINK](#)**

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

## Sisters at heart of Malka Leifer trial survive to tell their story

Karl Quinn

There's one word that comes to mind when meeting the three sisters at the centre of the Malka Leifer case. Endurance.

They endured a miserable home life. They endured sexual abuse at the hands of the principal of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish school they attended. They endured years of trickery, lies and evasion from Leifer and her legal team after she fled to Israel and fought extradition. They endured 74 legal hearings in Israel and so many more in Australia that they stopped counting.

And when Leifer was eventually brought to trial in Australia 13 years after fleeing, they endured day after day of withering cross-examination before their abuser was finally found guilty and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Now, in the documentary *Surviving Malka Leifer*, they're enduring another round of questioning from audiences and journalists and well-meaning friends and acquaintances about the whole interminable mess.

Aren't you tired of re-opening these old (and not-so-old) wounds, I ask them as we sit around the table of a large house in St Kilda that belongs, they say, to a member of their extended family?

"It hasn't been re-traumatising," says Nicole Meyer, 40. "It's been confronting, and we've been transported back to where we were when we were filming. It's a difficult thing to have our vulnerabilities and rawness up there for everyone to see. But at the same time, there's a sense of pride that we've gone

through that, we have something to show through it, and here we are today."

The film, which screened at the Melbourne International Film Festival and at the Jewish International Film Festival, is streaming on Stan. And for middle sister Dassi Erlich, 38, getting it in front of a larger audience is vital.

"A big part of the reason for making it, at least for me, was for people to understand that every single person plays a part in the so-called system," she says. "The way we see sexual abuse, the way we treat survivors, respond to it: it's not this external thing – it's something we all are a part of, and all we can make change happen."

And for youngest sister Elly Sapper, 36, the film serves as a record of what they have been through – and, as the title suggests, to the fact they have survived.

"It feels like we're looking back onto a space that we once were in, as opposed to being in that space," she says. "We lived and breathed this for so many years, and now it just feels like we can take that breath, take that moment, and look back and be in that new space. Instead of a fighting space, a healing space."

The documentary from director Adam Kamien and producer Ivan O'Mahoney tells the story of the sisters' experiences, individually and collectively, from childhood abuse at home, through the betrayal of the seemingly safe haven of school, the long pursuit of justice, and finally to the trial itself.

Most notably, it spends long slabs of time with the sisters in the hotel

where they stayed for the trial, able to support each other but not permitted to share details of their testimony. It captures the moment immediately after Erlich – who had written a book about her

experiences – hears the full details of what happened to her sisters when they testify. And it captures the moment when Meyer hears that Leifer has been found not guilty on the charges relating to her abuse (while being found guilty of those relating to her sisters' abuse).

It's all incredibly intimate, up-close and raw. And it makes this most public case personal again.

For Meyer, the day of the verdict was complex.

"It was heartbreak. It was devastation," she says. "Justice drove me for many years, and justice was denied."

For months, she couldn't speak about it, and for a while she thought she might never do so again. "And then I realised that ultimately, if I do that, I'm letting her win," she says. "I felt she had won already by getting a not guilty verdict with my charges, and I thought I don't want her to win, so I'm going to go out there and just start talking. And that's what I did, and that really helped me to work on my healing."

Remarkably, Meyer remains a member of the Adass community, where she advocates on behalf of abuse survivors. Erlich and Sapper left the community, but each in their own way have slowly found a way to connect again with their Jewish heritage.

In the wake of her experience, says Sapper, "I needed to throw away everything that I knew, and

that included religion and Judaism. I didn't engage with it for many years. But over the past five or six years, I've married and had kids, and my husband's family is a traditional [non-Orthodox] Jewish family, and I've learned Judaism and religion are separate things. I enjoy the culture and traditions in their family, it's a beautiful connection time, so I've started to engage with that and see it's not mutually exclusive."

Erlich similarly had a period in which she totally rejected all things

Jewish. But now she's working with Pathways, an organisation that offers support to members of insular Jewish communities who are having issues and don't know where to turn.

"It's not at all about dragging people away from religion," she says. "It's very much 'here's a safe space for you to have those questions, to decide what's right for you'. I'm enjoying using the skills we learned through all those campaign years to... create change."

And if they had it all to do again? "I'd do it, even if the result was the same, because of the accountability

that perpetrators have when they're put to the test," says Meyer.

"Their name is there, they're in court, they don't know if they're going to get guilty or not guilty. There's a level of accountability in their community, in their family, regardless of whether you win it or not. It's in their face.

"Any survivor who has the strength and support system to do so, go to the police, give your statement, and let's get those perpetrators off the streets," she implores. "I don't regret it at all."



Nicole Meyer, Ellie Sapper and Dassi Erlich. The sisters' story is one of endurance and togetherness. Photo: Wayne Taylor

*Revealed: Surviving Malka Leifer* is now on Stan. Stan and *The Age* are owned by Nine.

*'Justice drove me for many years, and justice was denied.'*

Nicole Meyer, sex abuse survivor

SMH/The Age  
Interview + shoot with  
Nicole, Dassi & Elly  
October 4 (online)  
October 7 (print)

[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

## Documentary a powerful look at a harrowing ordeal

### REVEALED - SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER

Documentary ★★★★★

STREAMING from today, Stan

Adam Kamien's powerful but sensitively handled documentary follows three sisters, Dassi Erlich, Elly Sapper and Nicole Meyer, throughout the 2023 trial for the sexual abuse case against former Melbourne school principal Malka Leifer.

With exclusive access to the incredibly brave and resilient trio for more than five years, it is a victim-focused account that addresses the abuse they suffered, how it was handled in the insular ultra-Orthodox Adass community, the lengthy fight they waged to have Leifer extradited from Israel back to Australia to face multiple child sex abuse charges and the subsequent trial.

In the documentary, Kamien uses the visual metaphor of a dollhouse haunted by a giant spider, perfectly capturing the feelings of powerlessness and being trapped common to abuse survivors. The long-lasting ripple effects of sexual violence are on clear display.

*Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer* also paints a striking portrait of how heinous crimes can be compounded by the failures



*Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer* follows three sisters.

and many imperfections of the legal system. It's heartbreaking to see the sisters studying their testimony to try to be the perfect witnesses on the stand, because that is what the system demands.

After everything they've been through to be retraumatised by the instrument that should be delivering justice is a difficult thing to watch, but it's a testament to their strength and courage.

Sydney Morning Herald

October 5

\*Print only\*



### Revealed: Surviving Malka Leifer

Three sisters were steadfast in their fight for justice against an abusive orthodox principal, whilst giving rare camera access across a 5 year period.

TV Tonight

October 5

[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

Who Magazine  
Interview with Elly  
October 6  
\*print only\*



FLICKS

Nicole, Dassi and Elly have always been there for each other.



The sisters risk to relieve their ordeal during the trial.



"Something about it didn't feel right in my body, but it was confusing and I didn't really understand what was happening."  
When Dassi eventually spoke up and her sisters backed her up, the school helped spirit Leifer away to safety in Israel, where she spent years pretending to be too ill to return to Australia to stand trial.  
When the trial finally got underway in early 2023, there was more heartbreak in store for Elly. As she took to the stand to relieve the horror of her abuse.  
Elly was pregnant with a much-longed for child. Sadly, the pregnancy did not survive the stress of the trial. "For a very long time, I blamed myself," Elly says of her miscarriage.  
"It was my fault that my body couldn't hang onto a pregnancy because of all of the shame I felt, because of everything I had gone through. It was my fault because, did I subject the baby to too much stress during the trial?" Elly wonders. "It was another way I was living with the consequences of the abuse."  
Elly's dreams of motherhood did eventually come true, and she now has two beautiful children - something she says she

"I blamed myself"  
- ELLY

is "immensely grateful" for.  
However, knowing there are predators out there, who may want to take advantage of them, is something she can never forget. She admits that leaving them in places like daycare can be "triggering".  
"Having a child who could be abused is something that scares me. But it also makes me really determined to be healthy and heal, so I am not projecting anything onto them, while keeping them safe," she says.  
Leifer will be eligible to apply for parole in June 2029. If she does get out, it will mean she has spent substantially less time in prison than the 15 years the sisters spent fighting to bring her back to face charges

for, for her crimes. Elly says that justice is "a complicated concept".  
"Nothing will ever change what has been done to me," she says. "But I'm proud that, during this time in prison, she can't hurt any other children. And now, I'm focusing on the future."  
• By *Kylie Walters*  
(Surviving Malka Leifer is on Stan)  
(If this story raises issues for you, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14)

There are days when Elly Sapper wonders who she might have become - if her childhood hadn't been marred with years of sexual abuse at the hands of someone she should have been able to trust.  
"Abuse changes everything," Elly tells WHO. "It changes the way you see the world, the way you interact with people and it is always with me. But I won't let abuse define me."  
Elly and her sisters, Nicole Meyer and Dassi Erlich, came forward in 2008 to accuse Malka Leifer of abusing them while they were students in her care between 2003 and 2007. It was to be the start of a 15-year fight to bring her to justice in Australia, after Leifer quickly fled Melbourne for Israel.  
Leifer was eventually found guilty of 18 counts of child sexual abuse charges relating to Elly and Dassi in 2023, and sentenced to serve 15 years in prison. She was found not guilty of additional charges relating to Nicole. Bravely, the sisters allowed themselves to be followed by cameras throughout their journey, opening up on the impact that their campaign and the trial had on each of them in Stan's new documentary, *Surviving Malka Leifer*.  
"We wanted to show people that no matter what, there is always hope," explains Elly. "Yes, things will be tough, there are times when it will feel hopeless. Speaking out and standing up is terrifying, but you are not alone. You are never alone."  
Leifer was the principal at Adass Israel School, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish school in the Melbourne suburb of Elsternwick, when she encountered the trio as children.

"Home wasn't always a happy and safe place to be," says Nicole. "So school became a refuge. It was a place where I excelled, where I had a great group of friends. I loved school, at first."  
Leifer quickly took that refuge away. The girls' mother had always been distant. When they met Leifer, she appeared to sympathise with their situation. She singled the siblings out for special attention, before grooming and then abusing them in the classroom, on camps, and in her home.  
"She said this is what a mother who loves her children does," Elly says.



EASY TARGETS  
Thanks to their ultra-Orthodox upbringing, the sisters had little contact with the outside world and no access to the internet. During the trial, a judge also described their mother as cruel, abusive and unpredictable.



While Leifer was hiding out in Israel, more women came forward claiming she abused them.

SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER  
**ABUSE**  
**CHANGES YOU**

ELLY SAPPER AND HER SISTERS DIDN'T STOP FIGHTING UNTIL THEY BROUGHT THEIR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS TO JUSTICE



# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer



ABC RN Late Night Live Live  
Interview with Adam  
October 1 - Live  
[LINK](#) - Full show  
[LINK](#) - Surviving Malka Leifer  
standalone

New  
Idea

EXCLUSIVE: Survivors of Malka  
Leifer break silence on abuse:  
"The shame is not ours"

Nicole and her sisters are taking back control.



New Idea online  
Interview with Nicole  
October 1  
[LINK](#)

SCREEN hub



STREAMING

Surviving Malka Leifer. Image: Stan.

SHARE

★★★★☆

Surviving Malka Leifer review: a  
compelling tale of horror and  
bravery

Screenhub  
October 3  
[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

THE CONVERSATION

Newsletters



Stan

**New documentary about the Malka Leifer case centres trauma, persistence and survival**

**The Conversation**  
**October 2**  
[LINK](#)



**STAN**  
**SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER**

Available now, *DOCUMENTARY*

■ This is an extraordinary first-hand account by three sisters who were sexually abused by Malka Leifer, the former principal of an ultra-orthodox Jewish school in Melbourne in the 2000s. Shown as a decade-long fight for justice, the documentary explores the sisters' plight from the charges and cover-ups, to the sting that finally exposed the harrowing truth.

**TV Week**  
**October 6**

**yahoo!news**

**New documentary about the Malka Leifer case centres trauma, persistence and survival**

Amy Maguire, University of Newcastle  
Thu 2 October 2025 at 12:28 pm AEST  
5 min read



Stan

**Yahoo News**  
**\*Picked up The Conversation article**  
**October 2**  
[LINK](#)

# Revealed – Surviving Malka Leifer

## The West Australian

**DON'T MISS**

### REVEALED – SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER

**Sunday, streaming on Stan**

This true crime documentary delves into the shocking story of Malka Leifer, the headmistress of Adass Israel School in Melbourne who fled to Israel after being accused of child sexual assault in 2008. The doco follows the story of the three brave sisters, Dassi Erlich, Elly Sapper and Nicole Meyer, who fought for years to bring Leifer to justice.



The West Australian print + online  
October 2

[LINK](#)

## The Jewish Independent

Celebrating 10 years as a thoughtful voice on Australia, Israel and the Jewish World

### How Dassi, Elly and Nicole survived Malka Leifer

A new documentary of the Leifer abuse scandal gives fresh voice to the three sisters' individual and shared experiences.

MICHAEL VISONTAY



The Jewish Independent  
September 29

[LINK](#)

A screenshot of an article from Australian Jewish News. The article title is "How Dassi, Elly and Nicole survived Malka Leifer" by Michael Visontay. The article is part of a series titled "DOCUMENTING JUSTICE / SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER TO STREAM INTERNATIONALLY". The main headline is "Shattering the silence". The article text states: "Dassi Erlich, Nicole Meyer and Elly Sapper spent years trying to bring their abuser, Malka Leifer, to justice. A new film documents their journey. Jessica Abelson spoke to filmmaker Adam Kamien about Surviving Malka Leifer." The byline is "By JESSICA ABELSOHN 4 August 2025, 2:51 pm". The image shows three women standing outdoors in front of a fence, similar to the image in the Jewish Independent article.

**Australian Jewish News** ISRAEL AT WAR - DAY 732

DOCUMENTING JUSTICE / SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER TO STREAM INTERNATIONALLY

### Shattering the silence

Dassi Erlich, Nicole Meyer and Elly Sapper spent years trying to bring their abuser, Malka Leifer, to justice. A new film documents their journey. Jessica Abelson spoke to filmmaker Adam Kamien about Surviving Malka Leifer.

By JESSICA ABELSOHN  
4 August 2025, 2:51 pm

AJN  
August 4  
[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

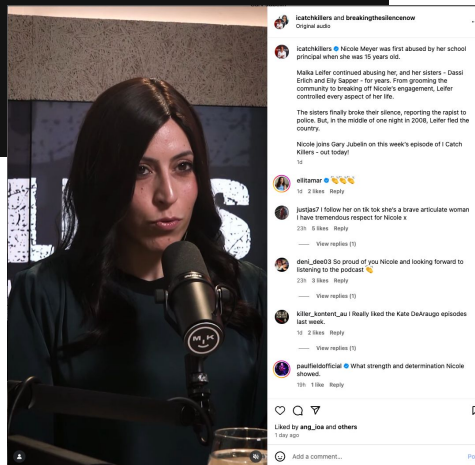


### Episode Description

Nicole Meyer was first abused by her school principal when she was 15 years old. Malka Leifer continued abusing her, and her sisters - Dassi Erlich and Elly Sapper, for years. From grooming the community to breaking off Nicole's engagement, Leifer controlled every aspect of her life. The sisters finally broke their silence, reporting the rapist to police. But, in the middle of one night in 2008, Leifer fled the country.

Watch the Stan documentary, *Surviving Malka Leifer*, out October 5.

**I Catch Killers Podcast**  
interview with Nicole Meyer  
Part 1 September 27 - [LINK](#)  
Part 2 September 29 - [LINK](#)



## 'Not one looked at us': Sisters' sad realisation on day their abuser - school principal Malka Leifer - was finally jailed

Three sisters bravely took on their principal after years of sexual abuse. But there's one gut-wrenching interaction they can't erase from the day the predator faced justice.



Nicole Meyer (above) was just 15 when her predator school principal began grooming her. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Ian Currie

**News.com.au**  
**I Catch Killers interview with Nicole**  
**September 27**  
[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer



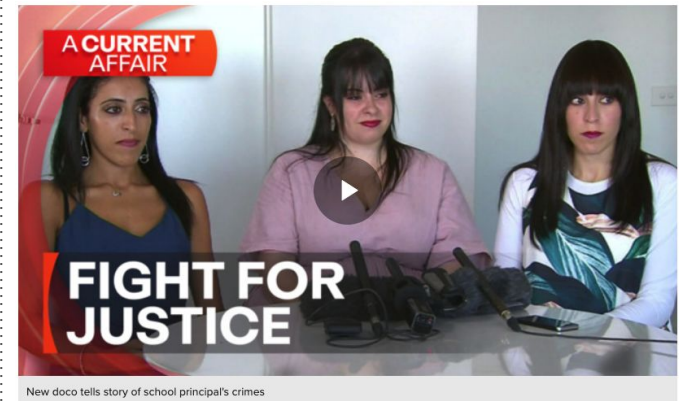
**A Current Affair**  
Interview with Ivan O'Mahoney  
September 27

\*Broadcast - link to view online via Nine Now >\*



**Doco explores story of school principal Malka Leifer's crimes**

By Sarah Swain | 2 days ago



**Nine Now**  
Online coverage for ACA interview  
September 28

[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

**New Idea Crime**



Leifer (left) with her students including Nicole (centre) in 2003.

## SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER

# 'THE SHAME IS NOT OURS'

**NICOLE AND HER SISTERS ARE TAKING BACK CONTROL**

Nicole Meyer tells the exact number of days and weeks it's been since her abuser was found not guilty on a range of historic sex offences against her. "The verdict still impacts me deeply, it's still very hard for me to accept it,"

Nicole, from Melbourne, tells New Idea. "There's my whole life before the verdict, and then my life after it. I felt a lot of shame but then something changed inside me. I realised there was no way I was going to allow her to silence me." Along with her sisters, Dassi Erlich and Ely Sapper, Nicole was abused by the now-convicted sex offender Malka Leifer between 2003 and 2007. In 2023, Leifer was found guilty of 18 child sexual abuse charges against

Dassi and Ely only, and sentenced to 15 years in jail. "The sisters' 15-year campaign to bring Leifer to justice is charted in the documentary *Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer*, which premieres on Stan on Sunday October 5. Chatting with New Idea two weeks before the airing, Nicole, now 40, says her and her sisters' first time watching the film was "very confronting". "But there was a sense of pride that we did this; we are not survivors shamed into silence," Nicole explains.

**Only in New Idea**

**Nicole is studying law so she can help other victims.**

28



For years, Leifer feigned mental illnesses to avoid being taken into custody.

### Predator's fun on run

Fugitive principal living high life

### 'Abuse' trial a step closer

Handcuffed ex-principal faces extradition

sexually abused them on campus, at school camps and inside her own home. "When her crimes were first reported, Leifer secretly fled to Israel, thus beginning a near-decades long fight for the sisters to have Leifer extradited to Australia to face trial. Their campaign for justice not only strengthened their resolve in themselves, but in the unbreakable bond they now share. "Sometimes when families go through abuse, often there can be a trauma bond that can scatter the siblings as they grow older", Nicole, the eldest sibling, says. "But with us, we became really close and very protective and that's continued from being children into adulthood. "There's a strength in the three of us together."

"We are survivors who are standing strong, we're having a voice - and not only that, we are also saying our voice is loud to help other survivors. We wanted to create change so this doesn't happen to anyone else."

Leifer was the principal at the ultra-Orthodox Adass Israel School in Melbourne's southeast, where the sisters attended. For years, the trio claimed Leifer had isolated and

and as an Ambassador for National Survivors' Day. By continuing to speak out, Nicole hopes she can raise awareness about how abuse can thrive in silence. "I hope [the film] will be met without judgment or criticism, and with openness to see this is a survivors' story," she says. "It happened in Australia, but this can impact communities around the world."

*By Maity Rae*

If you or someone you know needs help, contact **Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au**

**My sisters are my everything," Nicole (on far left) says.**

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**New Idea Feature Interview with Nicole September 29**

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

**Entertainment**

Behind a story that gripped the nation comes a powerful new documentary  
**Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer on Stan**

By [Rosie Scott](#) | 12 minutes ago

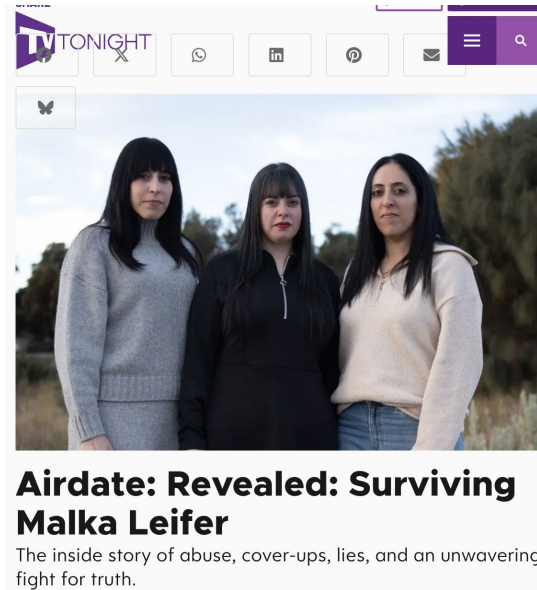


**Nine.com.au**  
**September 4**  
[LINK](#)



*This film contains content about child sexual abuse that some viewers may find distressing.*

**IF**  
**September 3**  
[LINK](#)



# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer

mediaweek



## Stan's Revealed uncovers the harrowing battle to bring Malka Leifer to trial



by **Natasha Lee**

Posted on 3 September 2025



Mediaweek  
September 3  
[LINK](#)



TV Blackbox



STAN

## Stan sets premiere for latest Revealed doco SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER



**Kyle Laidlaw** 3 September 2025



*Dassi Erlich, Ely Sapper and Nicole Meyer open up about their fight for truth and justice in Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer*

TV Blackbox  
September 3  
[LINK](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald

## The official trailer for Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer on Stan

The official trailer for Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer premiering October 5, only on Stan.

September 4, 2025 - 12.36pm

Save Share

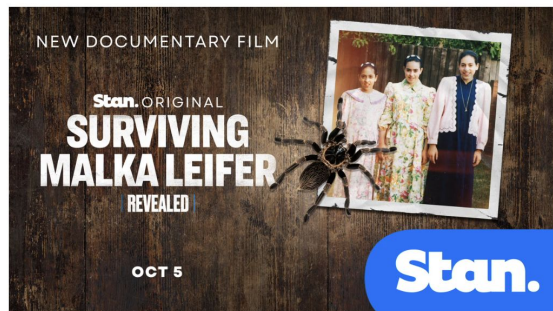


SMH, WA Today, Brisbane Times, The Age  
September 4  
[LINK](#)

# Revealed - Surviving Malka Leifer



Home > Streaming > Stan



Revealed: Surviving Malka Leifer (image - Stan)

## Revealed: Surviving Malka Leifer on Stan trailer

TV Central  
September 3  
[LINK](#)

## HAARETZ

Art & Culture

### 'The Shame Is Not Ours:' New Malka Leifer Documentary Reveals Toll of Saga on Survivors

Featuring never-before-seen footage and testimonies, 'Surviving Malka Leifer' exposes the trauma and hard-won victories behind Australia's most high-profile abuse trial. It also includes interviews with Israeli prosecutors

Haaretz  
Interview with Adam  
September 4  
[LINK](#)