Worksheet for Fab Morvan | How to Persevere in the Wake of Scandal (Episode 46)

By 1989, Milli Vanilli were an apparently unstoppable, chart-topping pop duo from Munich who could do no wrong, and their success seemed cemented when they won the 1990 Grammy award for Best New Artist. But when a skipping vocal track during a performance made it clear they were lip syncing rather than singing live, it invited further scrutiny over their artistic integrity. It was soon revealed that Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan -- the public faces of Milli Vanilli -- were *not* the actual vocalists featured on "their" recordings. Rob and Fab returned their Grammy, but the damage was done.

Fab joins us for <u>episode 46</u> to explain how he and Rob -- fully capable dancers *and* singers -- found themselves manipulated by a controlling producer into the trap that sealed their downfall (and Rob's early death), how he's grown and remained positive in the aftermath of the scandal, what he's doing today, and what he hopes to leave behind.

## Examining Past Decision Points

Fab shared that in the early days of the relationship with the group's producer (which would eventually go sour), he was so dazzled by the success he saw (platinum records posted up all over the office) that he and his partner essentially said, "Whatever he says, we will say 'yes."

Take a look back at your life and career. When have you found yourself in similar circumstances? How did it work out and why? Do you think you would make the same judgement now? Why or why not?

### In Too Deep

There was a point of possible return, when the guys could have gotten out of their deal with the producer and gone their own way, but it necessitated them paying back all the advances they had taken. Because they had not developed alternative streams of revenue, they were stuck, and hence had to double down on their lies.

Was there a time in your past in which you could not reveal the truth, and instead, had to double down on a lie? What were the consequences? If you were to do it over again, game out how you might have handled it differently, knowing what you know now.

### Surrounded by Yes Men

Fab shared how seductive the lifestyle of a pop star can be: "Everyone says 'yes' to you," Fab noted. He allowed that allure to blind him to those who were authentic in his life and who were simply hangers-on to his success.

Every now and then, consider going through a "friend audit." Who in your life is genuinely giving, and who is consistently taking? Make the adjustments to double down on the givers and confront or cut out the takers.



## The Rest of the Story

Fab told Jordan that it was actually the duo's idea to return the Grammys, but a reporter ended up framing it in such a way to decision makers of the organization that it ended up being a demand given to them, rather than what it originally was: their idea.

Can you recall a time when the overwhelming majority of the public, and even a significant number of your friends, heard something negative about you that wasn't true? What did you do about it? What did that episode teach you about yourself and your friends?

Full show notes and resources for this episode <u>can be found here</u>.

# About



Join Jordan Harbinger (critically acclaimed host, formerly of The Art of Charm) as we get deep into the untapped wisdom of the world's top performers -- from legendary musicians to intelligence operatives, iconoclastic writers to visionary change-makers.

We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth -- and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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