

Goldman Sachs banker Tim Leissner got to know Jho Low in 2009. In 2012

and 2013 Goldman netted nearly \$600 million by selling three bonds for the 1MDB fund, and Leissner, paid millions in bonuses, later married model Kimora Lee Simmons. *Getty Images* 



As far back as college, Low had been a big gambler. But after his first big haul in late 2009, he became the largest "whale" any casino manager had encountered, often spending days at the tables in Las Vegas. He thought nothing of losing millions of dollars in a hand, stunning onlookers. On one occasion, he dropped \$50,000 in chips on the floor, only recovering them when a friend pointed it out.



Tired of leasing planes, Low spent \$35 million of the money he took from 1MDB to purchase a Bombardier Global 5000 private jet. He lived on the jet, which was outfitted with a bed and mini-office, more than the many homes he acquired. In a typical three-week period, Low would crisscross the globe, from Malaysia to Abu Dhabi, Zurich, London, New York, and Vegas, before starting over again.



Most of Low's partying, in casinos and nightclubs, took place behind closed doors. But as he accrued wealth and status, he made an effort to ingratiate himself with New York society. In October 2014, he was honored at a charity gala on Wall Street, congratulated here by model Gigi Hadid. *Getty Images* 



One night, after recording a track at Jungle Studios in Manhattan, Low relaxed with Swizz Beatz, a friend and hip-hop producer. Low recently had acquired his stake in the music label EMI, and when one of the label's artists, Busta Rhymes, walked into the studio, Low called out to Busta, "I own you. You're my bitch!"