



# **Journal of the Plague Year: An Insider's Chronicle of Eliot Spitzer's Short and Tragic Reign**

*Lloyd Constantine*

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The March 10, 2008, disclosure that Governor Eliot Spitzer had patronized prostitutes from the Emperors Club VIP sex ring shocked New Yorkers and his admirers around the world, who had celebrated Spitzer as the "Sheriff of Wall Street" and a likely future U.S. president.

Ironically, one man's disillusionment with Spitzer had begun to disappear fifteen hours earlier, when Spitzer confessed what the rest of the world would soon learn in a media storm of unprecedented intensity. For Lloyd Constantine, Spitzer's senior advisor and longtime friend, the confession explained the governor's recently erratic behavior and marked the end of a "plague year," which encompassed the troubled Spitzer administration and its flawed transition to power.

*Journal of the Plague Year* is Constantine's intimate account of the seventeen calamitous months preceding the March 10 revelations and the futile sixty-one-hour battle waged by the author and the governor's wife to persuade Spitzer not to resign but instead to fulfill promises made to the voters who had elected him in a record landslide. The book concludes a month after Spitzer and Constantine resigned, as they confronted their shattered careers. People seeking information about Spitzer and prostitutes will find none here. Instead, they will learn how the Spitzer regime suffered crippling setbacks after the governor declared war with the legislature in his inaugural address, including defeat over the choice of a comptroller, a premature effort to end Republican control of the state senate, capitulation on a mediocre \$122 billion budget negotiated behind closed doors, the scandal called "Troopergate," and a controversial plan to give driver's licenses to illegal aliens, which sparked a national debate affecting the 2008 presidential election.

Spitzer and his administration got their bearings at the beginning of 2008. However, the March 2008 revelations and Spitzer's refusal to fight for his job quickly ended his short and tragic reign.

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