

# VALERIE PLAME WILSON

## "OUTED" FORMER CIA AGENT

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Valerie Plame Wilson is the former CIA covert operations officer who in 2003 found herself at the heart of a political firestorm when senior White House and State Department officials revealed her secret status to several national journalists—including a syndicated conservative newspaper columnist who published her name.

A subsequent Justice Department investigation exposed what some dub an act of treason: that the "outing" was coordinated with the involvement of President Bush's Deputy Chief of Staff (Karl Rove), Vice President Cheney's Chief of Staff (I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby) and the Deputy Secretary of State (Richard Armitage). Libby was indicted on charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and lying to federal investigators, and in March 2007 was found guilty on four of the five counts against him. The Wilsons also have filed a civil suit seeking damages against officials involved in the leaking of her name.

Plame's husband, retired Ambassador Joseph Wilson, was the first to challenge the Bush administration on its use of purported intelligence to justify the invasion of Iraq. In a July 2003 *New York Times* article, he revealed that he had been asked by the CIA to look into allegations that the Iraqis had attempted to purchase significant quantities of uranium yellowcake from the West African country of Niger. Wilson concluded there was no substance to the allegations—a conviction supported by others, including the American Ambassador to Niger and a four-star Marine Corps general. Within a week of his accusation that the White House "twisted" its intelligence to justify the Iraq invasion, Plame's employment as a CIA agent was revealed—the retaliation at the heart of the Justice Department investigation.

At the podium, Plame shares her thoughts on what she views as unprecedented abuse of public trust by the Bush administration in its efforts to silence a critic and subvert the right of citizens to exercise free speech. Her book, "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House," is a *New York Times* Bestseller and has been greeted with both praise and controversy. *Publisher's Weekly* said "This story shows us how strong the desire to serve can be and how treacherous the risks are in the minefields of Washington."

**AT A GLANCE:** Valerie Plame Wilson is a former CIA operative who in 2003 found herself the subject of a political storm when her covert identity was revealed in a syndicated newspaper column. The longtime operations officer, who was involved in issues of counter-proliferation, became a central, if inadvertent, figure in a U.S. Justice Department investigation involving criminal exposure of covert government agents.

Born on Elmendorf Air Force base in Anchorage, Alaska, Plame's career in the CIA included extensive work in counter-proliferation operations, working to ensure that enemies of the United States could not threaten America with weapons of mass destruction.

Plame and her husband, Ambassador Joe Wilson, are the parents of 7-year-old twins. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and Master's degrees from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

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### SUGGESTED SPEECH TOPICS

**Fair Game:  
My Life as a Spy,  
My Betrayal by  
the White House**

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