

**Travel Tales**  
by  
**Llewellyn Toulmin**

**Super-Model Faviola Dadis and the  
Scandal of the Mega-Yacht “Phocea”  
Part 2**

We are spending some time with super-model Faviola Dadis, who was caught up in the famous “Phocea” scandal in the island republic of Vanuatu. According to press reports, the vessel anchored illegally, items were smuggled ashore, and various ministers came on board for questionable purposes, before the yacht was stormed by police. Let’s ask Faviola about her modeling career and how that took her aboard the “Phocea.”

*How much do models typically make?*

Some jobs are done for trade (for clothes, photos, or exposure), but the range of pay in modeling differs greatly. An editorial in *Vogue* or *Elle* typically pays only \$150 to \$500 because there are so many girls who will do it for free, just for the exposure. Advertising is where I make most of my money, with rates almost always over \$1000 per day, or even per hour.

*How do you get your modeling assignments?*

Mostly through agencies. I have one “mother” agency, and they send me to agencies and clients in other cities or countries. I have been in the industry a long time, so I also get assignments through photographers, clients, stylists, or make-up artists I know.

*Have you ever been married? Engaged?*

No, yes.

*What jobs other than modeling have you held?*

Lots of positions in marketing, PR and geo-political lobbying. I was a VIP host with the Tao Group in Las Vegas, ran a PR firm in Shanghai and Hong Kong, VIP host at Fusion in Tokyo, Director of Marketing/PR for the super-yacht “Phocea.” I’m currently research assistant at a neuroscience lab and doing an internship in traumatic brain injury, working with world-famous soccer players.

*What celebrities have you worked with?*

I have non-disclosure agreements with many clients including royalty, but I can say I have done PR or VIP hosting work for Michael Jordan, Naomi Campbell, Paris Hilton, rapper Jay-Z and fashion designers Dolce and Gabbana.

*How do you support yourself when not modeling?*

Savings and investments.

*You say on one website that you “have the heart of an artist and the soul of a warrior.”*

I have a big heart and am a very creative person. Deep down I am a survivor and a fighter. I’ve been through a lot in my life, and that has made me very empathetic and strong.

*Your Twitter account describes you as a “PR Master and chess fanatic.”*

PR Master I believe is self-explanatory—I have worked on PR campaigns with everyone from A-list celebrities to royalty. Chess is a passion and hobby of mine. I have won some contests, but am not nationally rated.

*How did you first hear about the “Phocea”?*

I met Pascal Saken -- the owner -- at a party I helped organized in Phuket, Thailand for a friend’s birthday. I was running a PR firm in Shanghai and we discussed business strategy. We kept in contact and a year later I was offered the position as Director of Marketing/PR for “Phocea.” I first boarded the yacht in Tonga. She was beautiful.



*The super-yacht Phocea –long, lean, possibly jinxed, and arrested for almost a year in Vanuatu*

*On Twitter you call the vessel the “best marketing tool EVER!” Why?*

The “Phocea” is an incredibly glamorous and famous mega-yacht. She is very easy to market to high profile clients and draw in revenue.

*Describe the owner, Pascal Anh Quan Saken of Thailand.*

Pascal is a bit eccentric, but he is a good person. He made his fortune in mining and investments. He was aboard the yacht part time. He is a family man and was always fair to me.

*Did you have any contact with him other than aboard “Phocea”?*

Yes, I knew him for about a year before I began working with him.

*Have you ever been aboard his other yachts? (e.g. the 130-foot “Meditation”)?*

Yes.

*One magazine states that you are “rumored to be the girlfriend of the owner.” True?*

No, that was made up.

*“Phocea” has had various troubles -- running aground off Sardinia, her original owner disappeared, the recent scandal in Vanuatu. Has there ever been talk that she is jinxed?*

Yes, a lot of the crew thought that she was. She was going to be re-named “Enigma” to break the jinx, but then she was arrested.

*[Note: “Phocea” was in fact re-named “Enigma” but still recently hit a reef in Thailand, and was badly damaged.]*

*Describe your PR and other duties.*

To book, host and manage clients interested in chartering “Phocea,” or using her for other business ventures.

*What was the typical routine on board in Tonga?*

My life was very different than the crew’s. I interacted with ambassadors and government ministers, while the rest of the crew worked on the yacht.

*How was the food?*

Excellent. There was a chef and a cook on board—they both prepared special meals for me every day because I was the only vegetarian. I could get anything I wanted.

*What were your accommodations?*

I had one of the nicest staterooms on the yacht. It was dark wood with 24-karat gold plated accents. There was practically any amenity you could imagine on the yacht—Evian facial sprays, L'Occitane en Provence bath products, plush bath robes, and down pillows and comforters.

*How was the passage from Tonga to Vanuatu?*

Very stormy. It rained most of the time and the waves were over 10 meters. The yacht was heeling at 30 to 45 degrees the entire time, and I was constantly thrown out of my bed. On deck, I was nearly swept overboard by a giant wave and two other crew members had to come save me! That was terrifying.

*How many crew were aboard?*

Sixteen crew and two passengers. Everyone was very nice, but it's hard living in such close confines. Personal space is hard to come by on a yacht—even one of this size. The only place you can really be alone is in your cabin.

*Did you have an intimate relationship aboard?*

Yes. Petr, he was the first engineer.

*What is your relationship now?*

He is sweet but now we are just friends.

*How did you meet?*

I met him at a party a year before, in Thailand. He was very handsome, but too shy to talk to me. As fate would have it, he was working on the same yacht a year later in Tonga. He's very handsome, intelligent, and caring. People call him MacGyver because he can fix anything. He is very quiet and shy—so we are total opposites.

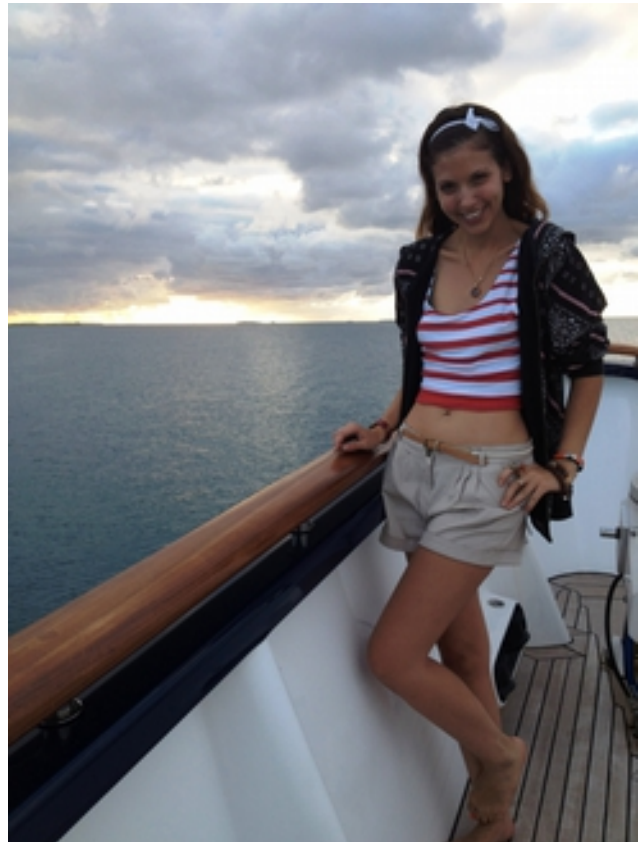
*Any marriage plans?*

Not currently.

*Do you want to have children someday?*

Yes, two.

Silver Spring resident Lew Toulmin has worked in Vanuatu and 30 other countries.



*Super-model Faviola Dadis aboard the super-yacht Phocea – headed for super-scandal!*