

Swimming With Sins

by Lindsay Price

Characters

Vices: Envy, Sloth, Greed

Virtues: Kindness, Generosity, Zeal

Setting

A beach

The scene is a beach. ENVY stands shivering in a green bathing outfit (think early twentieth century). GREED sits on the ground completely surrounded by towels; only his upper torso and head can be seen. He continually counts the towels and folds them. SLOTH is curled up in a beach chair.

GREED: (folding as he counts) 38. 39. 40...

ENVY: How come they get the sunny part of the beach?

GREED: 41. 42. 43...

ENVY: They always get the sunny part.

GREED: 43?

ENVY: We always shiver in the shade.

GREED: That looks less than 43. Must have lost count. (he scatters his pile)

ENVY: Happens every year.

GREED: 1. 2. 3... (he continues underneath)

ENVY: They could give us the sunny part of the beach. Just once.

SLOTH: (with a huge yawn) Like it would make a difference.

ENVY: How do you know? How many years have we been coming to camp? We've never had the sunny part of the beach. It could make a difference. In fact, I'm sure. I'm positive. We're getting the short end of the stick. My muscles are cramping as we speak. How am I supposed to swim properly if I have cramped muscles? I can't. They have lovely sunny muscles. We don't.

GENEROSITY: You wouldn't?

ENVY: No. We're in the shady freezing part of the beach.

KINDNESS: Huh. Now that you mention it...

ZEAL: It is a bit nippy over here.

GENEROSITY: I didn't know there was any shade on this beach.

KINDNESS: It's always sunny where we are.

ENVY: Yes it is. You get the sun. We don't.

GENEROSITY: You don't have to stay way out here. Why don't you come be with us?

ZEAL: Yeah! Come be with us!

KINDNESS: We'd love to have you.

ENVY: You would?

KINDNESS, GENEROSITY & ZEAL: Sure!

ENVY: Well, ok, maybe, I mean if everybody wants to go, I guess we could... Greed?

GREED: What?

ENVY: Do you want to go to the sunny part of the beach?

GREED: I'm busy counting.

ZEAL: Wow! That's a lot of towels.

GREED: Don't touch them!

ZEAL: OK!

ENVY: How about you Sloth?

SLOTH: *(With a yawn)* I'm pretty happy sitting right here.

ENVY: I guess we'll stay then.

KINDNESS: Ok. See you later!

ZEAL: Good luck.

GENEROSITY: May the best team win!

The three exit with much squealing, clapping and cheering.

ENVY: How dare they. I can't believe it, the absolute nerve. Nice swim suit my eye. May the best team win. Doesn't that just get my goat!

SLOTH: What bee's up your nose?

ENVY: Why do they have to be so nice?

SLOTH: They're virtues. That's what they do.

ENVY: So what are we chopped liver?

SLOTH: Who cares? Wake me up when we start.

ENVY: What does it matter? You'll just sleep through it. You don't even try to swim.

SLOTH: Sure I do.

ENVY: You sit underwater.

SLOTH: It's nice down there. Very peaceful.

ENVY: It's not supposed to be peaceful! It's a swim meet! Swimming is a requirement! *(to GREED)* And you. You never even get near the water cause you never want to leave your stupid towels.

GREED: *(placing a protective arm over the towels)* They're not stupid.

ENVY: And where's everybody else? Where's Gluttony?

SLOTH: In the dining hall.

ENVY: Pride?

SLOTH: Looking at himself in the bathroom mirror.

ENVY: Anger?

SLOTH: Kicking garbage cans.

ENVY: And Lust? Where's Lust when you need her?

SLOTH: Talking to the life guard.

ENVY: You people make me nuts! I'm going out of my mind with nuttery.



SLOTH: So what are you going to do about it? Nothing. Why worry? We'll lose again. They'll be gracious. We'll be bitter. Next year they'll get the sun and we'll get the shade same as always. Forever and ever. You should stop being such a worry wart. Chill out. Enjoy the shade.

ENVY: I don't want to enjoy the shade. I want what they have.

SLOTH: (yawning) Uh huh. Tell it to the band.

ENVY: No. No. I'm not going to let this go by. This is serious. This isn't ordinary want. Not every day want. Wake up, want this, want that and the other. This is deep. Profound. Profound with Profundity. (she clears her throat and straightens her shoulders) I want to be a virtue.

GREED: (suddenly serious) What?

ENVY: I want to change camps. I want to be a virtue.

SLOTH: You can't be serious.

GREED: What about us?

ENVY: You seem to be doing hunky dory. You're counting. (to SLOTH) You're sleeping. What do you need me for?

GREED: We'll be outnumbered. It'll be eight to six.

ENVY: We're always outnumbered. We always lose! I want to be on the winning side.

SLOTH: So just like that you're going to leave?

ENVY: Yeah.

GREED: Just like that.

ENVY: Just like that. I'm going over to the sunny side of the beach and there's nothing you can do to stop me. See you later suckers.

She starts to leave but is stopped by GREED.

GREED: You do realize the flaw in this master plan don't you?

ENVY: You're just jealous cause you can't do the same. Those towels are like an albatross around your neck holding you back. A terry cloth albatross.

GREED: The flaw in your plan is this: if you want to be a virtue, you have to be nice.

ENVY: What?

GREED: You have to be nice. You can't be envious.

ENVY: What, not even just a little bit?

GREED: Nope.

ENVY: Not even on special occasions? A little envy on my birthday?

GREED: Haven't you ever noticed how positive and kind and generous the virtues are?

SLOTH: How their bus is always clean and gets great mileage while ours leaks oil and always breaks down...

GREED: How they don't care when we're mean to them?

SLOTH: How their cabins are painted in fun wacky colours while our cabins look like two-week-old leftovers...

GREED: How they're always nice?

SLOTH: How their --

ENVY: Shut up! Let me think.

GREED: If you want to be a virtue instead of a vice, that's what you have to do. You have to be like them to get what they have.

ENVY: Be like them... how stupid is that?

GREED: I bet you can't do it.

SLOTH: (to GREED) What are you doing?

GREED: I'll bet you all my towels you can't be nice to the virtues.

ENVY: I could do it.

GREED: I'll bet all my towels and my snorkel collection plus the fins, you can't be nice for five minutes.

SLOTH: The fins too? Serious.

ENVY: I can. I can do it. I'm a nice person.

GREED: You're a vice through and through.



ENVY: I could be nice. I want to be nice. Sure I do. I'll be the nicest person in the whole world!

GREED: So be nice.

ENVY: Ok I will! For five minutes?

GREED: Five minutes.

ENVY: *(calling off)* Hey girls! Girls! Come over here! *(to herself)* I can do this.

GREED: Your blood is green and you couldn't be nice if someone paid you.

ENVY: I can do five minutes.

SLOTH: I wish I had popcorn.

KINDNESS, GENEROSITY and ZEAL enter.

ZEAL: Hey there!

KINDNESS: Hi there!

ENVY: *(squealing)* Hi!

GENEROSITY: What's up? Did you decide to join us after all?

ENVY: I sure did.

KINDNESS, GENEROSITY and ZEAL squeal. They all throw their arms around ENVY and hug her.

ENVY: Easy, easy.

GREED: *(to SLOTH)* She's not going to last one minute.

SLOTH: Shh. I don't want to miss anything.

ENVY: And I wanted to thank you again for the shirts. They're very nice. *(she smiles at GREED)*

KINDNESS, GENEROSITY & ZEAL: Aw.

KINDNESS: You're so sweet.

ENVY: I was thinking, I was thinking about maybe switching sides too. Maybe coming to Camp Virtue. See what it's like.

The three girls squeal.

GENEROSITY: That is so great. You'll love it. We have so much fun.
KINDNESS: *(to GREED and SLOTH)* Are you sure you don't want to come too?

GREED and SLOTH shake their heads.

GREED: We're awful busy.

SLOTH: Real busy.

ZEAL: Ok then. Let's go!

The three VIRTUES lower sunglasses from their heads on to their eyes. They weren't wearing the glasses in the previous scene.

ENVY: Whoa, whoa. Where'd you get those?

ZEAL: What?

ENVY: The sunglasses. The matching sunglasses.

KINDNESS: The counsellors gave them to us.

GENEROSITY: We all got them.

ENVY: What for free? They just gave them to you?

ZEAL: Sure. Didn't you guys get any?

ENVY: No we didn't get any. We didn't get any free cool sunglasses. Our counsellors suck!

SLOTH: Here we go.

ENVY: But it's fine. It's fine. It's perfectly fine. *(she takes a breath)* I'm not bothered in the least. Nope. I think it's great you got free cool sunglasses. *(she talks through gritted teeth)* I'm happy for you.

GENEROSITY: We've got tons of extras.

KINDNESS: You can have two pairs if you want.

ZEAL: You can have some sunscreen too.

ENVY: Sunscreen?

GENEROSITY: Our counsellors really look after us.

ENVY: They gave you sunscreen?

KINDNESS: The really cool kind that comes in funky colours.

ZEAL: So cool. Oh Envy! You can wear green on your nose to match your swim suit!

The girls squeal as if that is a good idea.

ENVY: Do you have to squeal! Do you really have to squeal!

KINDNESS: We're just happy.

ZEAL: And excited.

GENEROSITY: We can't help it! Sunscreen is exciting!

ENVY: Did you get anything else? Did you get free cars? Free vacations in the Caribbean? Free money? Are you swimming in money over there? Are we going to fill the lake with money and race in that?

GENEROSITY: Hey – do you need any goggles?

ZEAL: Free goggles for everyone!!!

The girls squeal.

ENVY: Don't squeal! I can't believe how dense you three are! Just go back to your part of the beach, your sunny side and your stupid tee-shirts and your free stuff that we never get.

GENEROSITY: Does that mean you're not coming over?

ENVY: No I'm not coming over. I'm never coming over!

VIRTUES: (*genuinely disappointed*) Awwwwwwwwwwwwww.

KINDNESS: If you change your mind let us know!

ZEAL: Looks like we're about to get started.

GENEROSITY: See you later! May the best camp win!

They squeal and exit. ENVY holds her head and groans.

SLOTH: That didn't take long at all.

ENVY: I have such a headache.

GREED: Now that everything's back to normal... (*sits back down and resumes counting*)

SLOTH: You do realise, that if you had just been nice you probably would have got all that free stuff too?

ENVY: Shut up.

SLOTH: Shutting up. (*settles down and closes eyes*)

ENVY: My head is killing me. I'm freezing. Gimme a towel.

GREED: No. I need them.

ENVY: For what?

GREED: None of your business. Don't touch that towel, don't touch it.

ENVY: (*looking off with a sigh*) Why do they always get the sunny part of the beach?

GREED: 1. 2. 3. 4. ...

ENVY: We're starting. Do you guys want to go? (*there is no response from the others*) Yeah, me neither.

ENVY sighs. There is the sound of a cold wind blowing

— THE END —