



The Wages of Sin

The capital vices, otherwise known as the seven deadly sins, are all, in essence, failures to love God as much as loving oneself, and failure to love one's fellows as much as loving oneself. However, they are also the sins which *entice*, the sins which lead others into corruption through the paths of pleasure and folly. The sins which the free-thinking have begun to regard as "human nature," and no longer to be disapproved of.

You have a lesson that you will teach the world, here in the Holy See.

You have gathered evidence on seven capital sinners, and to each of them you will offer a choice: publically confess and repent, or suffer and die. You have gathered incontrovertible evidence on each. To each you will provide this evidence (anonymously is probably safest), and give them two days to publically confess and publish the blackmail, or you will kill them.

Pride : James Bond (Rickland Powell)

Everyone has heard of "Bond. James Bond." No one has heard of Lou Quintero, or Mervin Corley, or Madeline Peters, or any of his *other* partners, all of whom were integral to the missions that Bond claimed full and dramatic credit for in his (well-publicized) memoirs. Some of them were even killed in the line of duty, and even those have been relegated to the sidelines in Bond's fictionalized life, appearing only as tragic motivation. You have acquired the actual MI-6 classified reports, and cross-referenced them with Bond's memoirs.

Envy : Emmett Fleischer (Zak Fallows)

Anyone who knows much about Fleischer has probably heard him speak about his wife, his analogies likening the relationship with a spouse to the relationship with God. What is less well-known is that his wife was originally engaged to be married to Fleischer's brother, until his "accidental" death. Fleischer was, of course, investigated, but had an airtight alibi: filmed by his rectory security camera at the time that the death took place. You have uncovered evidence that the alibi was faked — a much longer security tape, never seen by police, that showed the clock and timestamp being reset by Fleischer. The death was murder, but the sin was envy.

Wrath : Giacomo Tinagli (Cassie Huang)

Most would pity Tinagli for the tragic death of his young daughter four years ago — a fall from a balcony with a loose railing, a family shattered forever. A tragic accident — or so all the final police reports said. The original forensic reports told a different story, of bruises consistent with having been brutally shaken, of the fall occurring after death. However, these original reports were replaced, within hours, by others indicating a death by accident. Perhaps the medical examiner was threatened, perhaps he was bribed — for whatever reason, Tinagli got away with it. But only until now, because you have the original reports. Again, the death was murder, but the sin in this case, wrath.

Sloth : Leroy Jenkins (Eli Stickgold)

It is part of their historic tradition that Texas legally executes more criminals per year than any other state or country in the world. Six years ago, Clarence Sawyer was executed for a brutal rape and murder. Browbeaten by police in to a confession and abandoned by his wife and friends, Sawyer's spirit was broken and his mandatory appeals foundered. A few months before his execution was scheduled, a new DNA testing procedure was accepted for use in rape cases, and old evidence began being tested. The day of Sawyer's execution, the testing had been finished, and the lab put in a call to the governor's office to inform Jenkins that Sawyer had been exonerated, where he was... asleep. He slept through the

phone call, no pardon was issued, and Sawyer was executed. You have the phone records, and the answering machine message, condemning Jenkins for the sin of sloth.

Avarice : Lt. Danielle Crispin (Bertha Tang)

You would think that greed would be something the Swiss Guard would screen for. Or that someone whose principal desire is money would find a more lucrative job. But not Crispin, who seems to have made up the difference in salary by selling security information to thieves. You have photos of the information changing hands, and you have bank deposit records for the bribes, sufficient to make it clear that Crispin has fallen into the mortal sin of avarice.

Gluttony : R.K. Priyamkara (Beth Baniszewski)

Every belief system has a set of principles to follow, and nearly all of them impose limits on the physical appetite. The giving up of meat on Friday, or of foods for Lent is one you have abided by all your life. But a kosher Jew eats no pork or shellfish, as a sacrifice to God, and a Hindu eats no beef. Except for the Indian ambassador, Priyamkara, who sets herself no such limits. She gorges herself on whatever takes her fancy, including steak, in privacy or anonymity, while still putting forth the face of a devout Hindu. You have the pictures and the restaurant receipts to show her slide into gluttony.

Lust : Desirae Van Kirk (Erin Price)

One of the most popular movie stars in the world, Van Kirk is certainly lusted after by millions. But that, in itself, is not a sin. What is a sin is her behavior. Though engaged to be married to Mario Cammarata, she is currently embroiled in a torrid lesbian affair with Andrea Worhall, flaunting both God's law and her vow of commitment to Cammarata. You have the photos sufficient to prove Van Kirk's tawdry corruption by the sin of lust.