

A Swimming Dream – Isabella, Year 3, NSW

There once lived a girl called Emily.

Emily had a dream and that was to be a lifeguard. You see, her mum was a swimmer, but she sadly drowned. After that her dad looked after her.

Emily's dad never ever let Emily swim. He was afraid Emily was going to get hurt. Emily didn't like that she was only allowed to swim in the shallow side of the pool. All her friends got to have pool parties and swim together at the beach. Everyone at school got to join the swimming team but her.

She tried to convince her dad, but he still said no. Emily had tried to sneak out a few times, but her dad had alarms and cameras. It was so hard for Emily because they lived in a BEACH HOUSE! Emily's dad said it was because her mum loved the beach.

Emily loved going to school, it was her favourite thing besides swimming. There was just one thing that she HATED about school -- the mean girls!

Charlotte (the meanest one and leader), Sarah (the second meanest) and Kiley (the weird one). Emily went to Bloomberg High School and was in the eighth grade. Emily was the youngest in her class, which was one of the reasons they were mean to her.

One day Emily was putting her books away when suddenly Charlotte, Sarah and Kiley came over to her.

“What are you doing little one?” said Charlotte in the meanest voice. “I'm planning a pool party, but I guess your daddy won't let you come.”

Emily's face burned.

“Sorry,” said Sarah, with a smirk on her face.

“Wait, what pool party? I wasn't invited!” said Kiley almost crying.

“It's a pretend pool party,” said Sarah angrily under her breath.

“Oh, in the pretend pool party am I invited?” said Kiley whispering.

“Girls, we have a problem here,” said Charlotte.

“Sorry,” said Sarah and Kiley together.

“What do you want from me?” said Emily.

“Nothing.” And they just left.

Emily was furious, but she wasn't going to let that get to her, because tomorrow was her birthday and she was going to try and convince her dad for the one-hundredth time to have a pool party. Emily was going to give it her all.

That night Emily lay in her bed thinking about what she was going to tell her dad. She thought of ideas like “I really want to have a pool party,” or “I would love to have a pool party please...please.” Wait, how about puppy eyes? That would never work because Dad doesn’t fall for those! What was Emily going to do? Emily thought for so long that she slowly fell asleep. She dreamt about the one thing she always dreams about, swimming!

In the morning Emily woke up with a smile on her face. She turned to face the calendar.

“What day is it?” said Emily tiredly, rubbing her eyes.

Suddenly Emily’s eyes lit up, but before she could say anything her dad jumped into her room singing Happy Birthday.

Emily looked up and there were confetti and balloons everywhere.

“Are you ok? Did you get confetti in your eyes?” said dad sounding concerned.

“Dad, thank you,” said Emily rubbing her eyes.

A bit later they were opening presents.

“This is the time,” said Emily in her head. “Dad, there is something I want to ask.”

“Is this about a puppy?” asked Dad.

“No,” said Emily, looking confused. “Well, I was hoping I could have a pool party? Please, Jane said we could use her pool.”

Jane was Emily’s friend. Jane had short curly brown hair that went up to her shoulders. She actually looked very pretty, she was also very smart, she got A’s in all her subjects. Her parents were very nice, they live in a beautiful house with a pool, a spa, a dog and a tennis court.

“Emily,” said Dad with a strict voice. He sounded like the strict teacher, Miss Marten, when somebody spoke during class. Emily knew exactly what the answer would be.

“No.”

“But...but please,” said Emily.

“The answer is no.”

Emily had a sad look on her face and quietly went to her room.

Ding, Emily got a message, it was from Jane. It said, “So what did he say??”

Emily didn’t know what to say back, if she said no Jane would get all sad and so would Emily. If she said yes, she and Jane would be happy, but she would lie to her dad. Emily slowly typed in “Yes, he said yes.”

Emily knew it was wrong, but she really wanted to have a party for her birthday. That morning Emily and Jane started to plan the pool party. They were going to invite the mean girls because they were going to push them in the pool.

At about lunch time, Emily came downstairs, she looked at her dad and apologised “wink, wink”!

She asked if she could go to Jane’s house for a playdate.

“Ok, but I will tell Kate and Dan no pool,” said Dad.

That day Jane’s parents were having a date night and Jane was in charge. She also had to look after her little sister April. April was 4 years old and had long blond locks.

When they got to Jane’s house, her parents kissed Jane and April’s heads then they ran out the door.

“They must be really excited, the last time I saw them like this was Disneyland,” said Jane laughing. After that, Jane and Emily grabbed their phones and started sending the invites.

“What are you doing?” said April.

“We are sending invites to the pool party,” said Emily not knowing that Jane had not told April.

“I’ll give you twenty dollars if you keep your mouth shut,” said Jane.

“Thirty,” said April.

“No way,” said Jane shouting.

“I’ll have to tell Mum and Dad,” April said sounding proud.

“Fine,” said Jane in an annoyed voice.

Meanwhile, at Charlotte’s house, Charlotte, Sarah and Kiley were doing their homework.

“Ugh,” groaned Charlotte.

“Why does Miss Martin make us do homework on the weekend,” shouted Kiley.

“Just because we talked in class?” said Sarah with her head on the table dramatically looking like she was going to die.

“Look! An invitation to a pool party, from that little girl Emily,” said Sarah rolling her eyes.

“Wait,” cried Charlotte. “Emily is not allowed to swim.”

“And it is at Jane’s house,” said Sarah.

“What do we do?” Kiley asked.

“Let’s go to her house and tell her dad and get her in trouble,” said Charlotte.

“But that’s MEAN,” cried Kiley.

“But we ARE mean,” shouted Sarah.

“Let’s bounce girls,” said Charlotte impatiently.

As they walked to Emily’s house, Charlotte quickly reminded them, “Remember, speak politely and pretend you don’t know anything.”

“Hello Mr Hermann, is Emily home?” smiled Charlotte.

“Hello girls, sorry Emily is not home, she is with Jane.”

“Oh, I am sorry, I forgot she is at the pool party,” Charlotte said politely.

“What pool party?” asked Dad with a frown.

“You didn’t know? She is having a pool party at Jane’s house,” said Sarah looking surprised.

“It’s going to be so fun,” cried Kiley.

“Well, I better go check,” said Dad angrily.

As Dad rushed to Jane’s house, little did he know something astonishing was going to happen.

At Jane’ house the girls were preparing the party. Everything was ready, this was going to be the best party ever, thought Emily.

Suddenly Emily heard Jane shouting at April.

“DO NOT go into that pool”

“I have been going to swimming lessons,” said April.

“No, if you drown Mum and Dad will kill me”.

“Fine.” cried April.

Jane rushed back to the kitchen to finish the cupcakes.

“CRASH!!!”, Emily heard some noise in the kitchen and got distracted. “SPLASH!!!”, oh no, April fell into the pool!

“Help,” cried April, “I can’t swim.”

Emily panicked but without hesitation jumped into the pool. At that exact moment her dad had arrived. Emily swam as fast as she could to the deep end and carried little April on her back out of the pool.

Emily ran to Dad and said, "I'm so sorry!"

"You think I'm angry? Frankly I'm so proud," said Dad.

"So, I'm not grounded?" asked Emily.

"No," chuckled Dad. "You looked like lifeguard just there."

"Well, they have lifeguards sign ups next week, can I go?" Emily said crossing her finger and toes.

"Uhm...ok!!" said Dad.

"Yes," screamed Emily.

"What happened here?" said Jane as she came out looking concerned.

"I fell into the pool," confessed April, "but Emily saved me!"

The week after Emily went to the life guard sign ups.

"I got in," she cried when she got home.

From that day on her dad never doubted Emily's swimming or anything she does.

Emily is now older and she is a professional lifeguard just as she dreamed. If you walk on the beach, you might still see her saving lives.