

# Starch of the Spirit

By John Cospers

## CHARACTERS

A Shirt (2 people)

A Blouse (2 people)

A Dress (2 people)

A Sock Puppet

*A table is center stage. When the lights come up, Blouse, Shirt, and Dress are all on stage. Each character is portrayed by two actors. One actor is in the garment, with their face sticking out of the middle, either through a hole cut into the garment or by leaving some buttons open. The second actor is behind the first and has their arms through the armholes of the garment. This actor does all the arm movements, while the one whose face sticks out speaks. Each garment should be long sleeve. A grocery bag is next to Dress with some spray bottles full of water labeled Faith, Sweetness, Caring, and Prayer. An iron is also within reach.*

BLOUSE: There she is again. Look at that Dress.

SHIRT: I know.

BLOUSE: So pretty and clean and wrinkle-free. Like she was pulled off the rack yesterday.

SHIRT: I know.

BLOUSE: I haven't looked that good since Little Timmy's first birthday party.

SHIRT: I can't even remember the last time I was that straight and pressed.

BLOUSE: Seems no matter what I do or how long I iron, I can't get these wrinkles out.

SHIRT: Makes you mad, doesn't it?

BLOUSE: Mad, bitter... makes me wanna see to it she has an accident involving cranberry sauce.

SHIRT: Or falls under a bus! We'll see how pristine she looks then!

DRESS: Hi there, Shirt. Hello, Blouse.

SHIRT: Why hello, Dress. Don't you look amazing today?

DRESS: Really?

BLOUSE: Aw, cut the false pride, Dress. You know you look amazing. All pretty and pressed like you were bought yesterday.

DRESS: Stop, you're embarrassing me.

SHIRT: Oh no, it's we who are embarrassed. I mean we look like cheap second-hand garage sale material next to you.

DRESS: No.

BLOUSE: It's true. I don't know how you do it, but you always manage to look better than us.

DRESS: Really, it's nothing. Deep down in my fibers, there's no difference between you and me. I just have a different way of keeping myself in shape.

BLOUSE: Yeah?

SHIRT: You don't have any secrets you want to share, do you?

DRESS: I would love to share, though it's really no secret.

BLOUSE: Then tell us already! What is it about you that's so different?

DRESS: Starch.

*Blouse and Shirt exchange a quick look.*

SHIRT: Starch?

DRESS: That's right, girls. Starch. It's the secret to staying wrinkle-free and looking good.

BLOUSE: Tell that to Dr. Atkins.

SHIRT: How exactly does starch work?

DRESS: It's simple. I'm sure both of you have tried ironing yourself, right?

BLOUSE/SHIRT: Yes.

DRESS: But no matter how hot you get that iron, you can never get those wrinkles to stay gone.

BLOUSE/SHIRT: Right.

DRESS: *(pulls the bottles from the bag)* Well, girls, that's where the starch comes in. Here, I have some of my favorite brands handy in this bag.

BLOUSE: Sorry, Dress, but how exactly are those starches going to remove our wrinkles when an iron can't?

DRESS: Irons only touch the outside of you. But these starches get into the very fibers, transforming you from the inside out.

SHIRT: Well let's have it. What sort of starches do we have?

DRESS: Well first, we have some Faith.

*Dress squirts Faith in Shirt's face.*

SHIRT: Faith?

DRESS: That's right, Faith is the first starch. When that gets inside you, you'll start to feel like a new garment almost instantly. It's powerful, and it fills you with strength you never knew.

BLOUSE: Hey, pass some of that down.

*Shirt takes the Faith bottle and sprays Blouse.*

DRESS: After faith comes Sweetness, or as another brand calls it, Kindness.

SHIRT: Pssh! We certainly don't have any of that.

DRESS: Well now you do. *(spraying Shirt)* When you have faith, you can't help but be sweet and kind. It comes from the inside out. Can't you feel the wrinkles melt away?

*Shirt sprays Blouse.*

BLOUSE: I do feel different.

DRESS: Now for another great brand, Caring and Compassion. *(sprays Shirt)*

SHIRT: Hey, Blouse. You have to try this!

*Shirt sprays Blouse.*

BLOUSE: That's amazing. You need any more? I can spray you.

SHIRT: No thanks, it's my pleasure to share it with you.

DRESS: Wow, I can see the difference already.

BLOUSE: Me too. But won't these things wear off in time?

DRESS: Not when you add the final starch. Prayer!

*Dress sprays Shirt, who sprays Blouse.*

DRESS: Prayer is essential for keeping your Faith strong, and for helping us maintain a Kind and Caring exterior.

BLOUSE: I can't believe how different I feel.

DRESS: Of course, there's one more thing. Don't forget to iron it all in.

SHIRT: Allow me.

*Shirt irons Blouse. Sound effect of sizzling water.*

BLOUSE: My turn!

*Blouse irons Shirt. Sound effect of sizzling water.*

DRESS: Wow, will you look at that?

SHIRT: Blouse, you look gorgeous!

BLOUSE: So do you, Shirt. I can't believe a few simple starches changed us.

DRESS: Believe me, make these starches part of your every day life, and the whole world will say—

*Sock puppet pops up from beneath the table.*

SOCK: Wow! Look at those shirts! How can I look as good and wrinkle free as they?