

The Deprogrammee



When Viola first visited the Church of Ladders, she was searching for an outlet for her irrepressible teenage angst. And the charismatic Reverend Pringler was only too happy to accommodate her. While calmly listening to Viola's Esperanto-tinged rants, he slickly began to ply her with coercive psychological mechanisms. Soon, she was espousing every wacky tenet on which the Church was based (No. 14: For every action there is an equal and opposite bowl of polenta. No. 38: Blood and water don't mix, but they make an interesting cocktail.) while becoming further removed from reality. Finally, her alarmed mother hired Exit Counselor Betty Dinklaker to snatch Viola from the church. She put up no resistance at all. In fact, Betty said she seemed utterly quiescent – a condition that, even after years of deprogramming coupled with an all-polenta diet, the young woman continues to exhibit.