



The Barrels were a Jewish family from New York who had an only child: Iris. From an early age, Iris loved fabrics. She watcher her mother work magic with accessories and scarves every day.



Iris' grandmother kept dozens of bags full of the most wonderful treasures: little scraps of fabrics in all shapes, colours and patterns. Iris spent long evenings playing with them, picking her favourites to take home.



When teenage Iris got money from her mother to buy an outfit, she was in her element. Finding the perfect dress for her wardrobe was fun, but doing it at the right price was even better. With the money left, she could also have lunch!

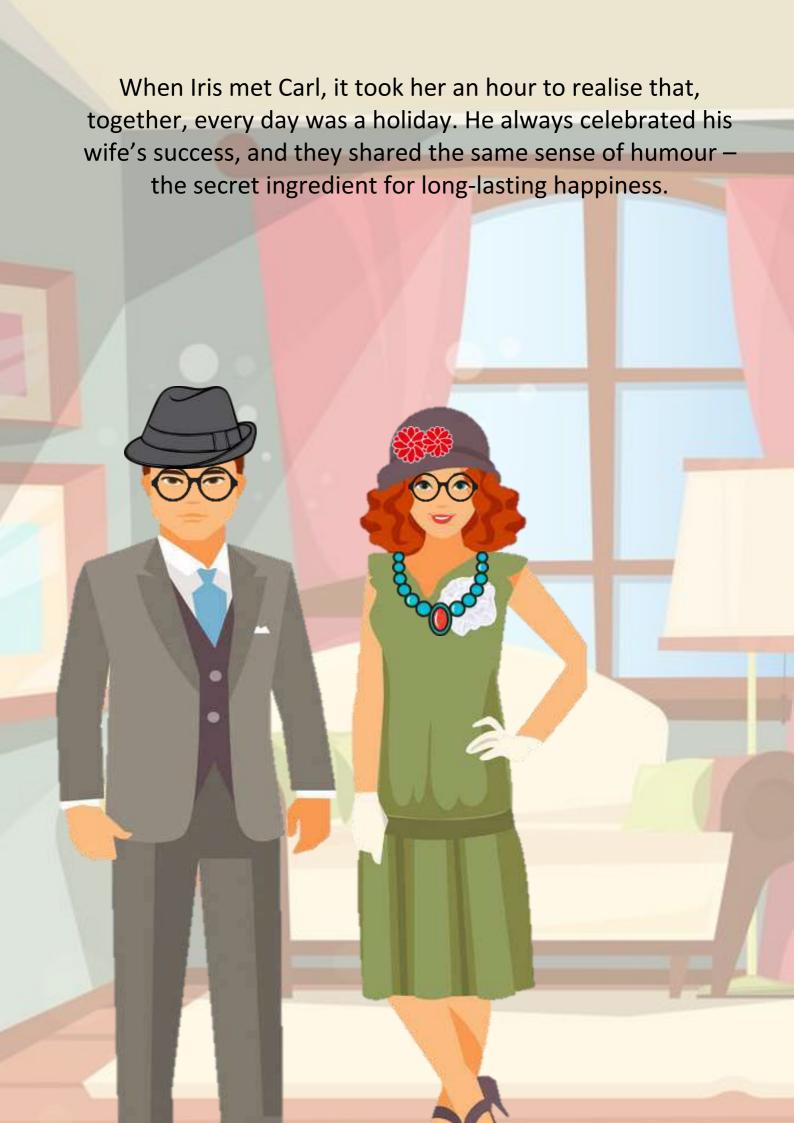






Her first job was an assistant to an interior designer. Soon, Iris stepped out on her own as a decorator. She loved searching for materials and figuring out how they would look in her clients' homes.

















And the being the rarest bird in the world of fashion, little Iris showed the world just how fun and wonderful life can be when you let yourself shine.





Born in Astoria, New York, little Iris Barrel arrived to Samuel and his Russian born wife, Sadye. Her parents owned a fashion boutique and glass-and-mirror business, and Iris grew up close to her grandparents, who fed her passion for style.









Throughout the life of their business, Iris and Carl travelled the world, buying pieces of unusual textiles and handmade clothes, sometimes from tiny communities in remote villages. Back in New York, she wore these pieces to high society parties and fashion events, expressing her love for world culture.



But although she was well-loved in New York circles, it was a call from the curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2005 that propelled Iris to the world stage. Aged 84, Iris' wardrobe went on display in an exhibition for everyone to see: hundreds of necklaces, jackets, dresses and shoes.



The show was styled by Iris, and people fell in love with her personality – and her wacky combinations. Almost overnight, Iris' star grew to be one that the world could learn from: how to have fun, be good to others and express yourself, whatever your age.



