

Yvette... Believe it or not losing my eyebrows and eyelashes was the most devastating.

My name is Yvette and I am a mother of two gorgeous children and a wonderful husband and am looking forward to turning forty in a couple of weeks.

My journey with Alopecia Areata began at the age of sixteen when I was diagnosed with the condition by my family GP after finding several coin sized bald patches on my scalp. I remember feeling a sense of relief that I wasn't dying. As a teenager, knowing nothing about hairloss I guess I likened my experience of losing my thick locks to that of a cancer patient battling a terminal illness.

My family, friends and teachers were totally supportive and I just got on with life. I was quickly referred to a dermatologist who I continued to visit for almost two decades for cortisone injections at intervals of between 6 months and two years, as required. I was very fortunate that until recently my hair always regrew and patches were easily covered with a headband or scarf or creative hairstyles.

My luck was to change when in my second pregnancy (seven years ago now) my hair rapidly fell out completely. Believe it or not losing my eyebrows and eyelashes was the most devastating. It felt as though a large part of what made me feel female had been taken away. My husband has been the most incredible support throughout my Alopecia journey and has been a large part of me remaining confident and self assured, despite my physical appearance changing dramatically.

I guess my priority has always been to keep living life to the full and to be thankful for all the wonderful people and experiences in my life. I truly admire people, particularly women who sport a nude scalp confidently, just getting on with life. I prefer to wear a wig which enables me to embrace what life and all it has to offer. After a few interesting wig purchases over the years I finally invested in a custom made human hair wig which has enabled me to live an active lifestyle with no limit to what I can do from Bollywood dancing, mountain climbing, swimming, cycling, tobogganning, going on roller coasters. My wig has become a part of me, but after three years of wear it will soon have to retire. I am currently saving to purchase my next wig and am excited at the wonderful adventures that await.



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