

"I feel whole again!"

Linda Leigh gazed lovingly at her new boyfriend, awaiting his kiss. It felt so right.... But her comfort changed to horror as the wig concealing her patchy scalp shifted off her head. Please tell me this isn't happening, thought Linda as she watched a wave of shock hit the man of her dreams.

Linda's boyfriend wasn't very understanding when she explained the situation: Fertility treatments that she had undergone over two years before left her with an autoimmune skin disease that caused her dark brown waves to fall out.

For years Linda had tried to restore her healthy mane. She visited a dermatologist who prescribed a topical cortisone treatment. When her hair continued to fall out. Linda turned to DNCB, a chemical proven to trigger hair growth. After it caused her lymph glands to swell, she concluded that wigs were her best option. The snag? Finding a hairpiece that would stay in place. "The cheaper wigs constantly moved, so I had to stop doing things I enjoyed like yoga," Linda says. "I didn't want to go anywhere because wearing an uncomfortable wig all day is draining."

Feeling that a bigger investment would get her a quality product, Linda saved \$4,500 for a custom wig. But it didn't fit much better. When her second pricey wig ended up in the trash after just one tryon, she decided to enroll in beauty school so she could design her own pieces.

Fast-forward eight years: Linda no longer worries about her wig slipping out of place. As the owner of Hair In Vogue, a salon in Brentwood, California, she makes custom wigs and extensions that look natural and fit securely. "Now men approach me and compliment me or ask me out," says Linda with a smile. "This hasn't happened to me in many, many years-it's like I am a beautiful young woman again!" Plus, she's back to enjoying yoga and other activities like sailing and dancing. "I no longer feel ashamed," Linda says proudly. "I feel like a normal woman. It's the difference between having a life and not having a life."