

# Ewa's Story

A short book by Ewa Haziri





There was once a little girl called Ena, who was pretty and kind and lived with her sisters and her Mum and Dad in a house in Oxford.

One day she woke up and stretched her arms above her head, as she did she felt a bald patch in her hair. Then she noticed lots of her hair on the pillow.



Over the next few months  
her hair fell out everywhere  
– in her hood, on her towel  
and on her clothes.



Erin 1/2/07 October



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November

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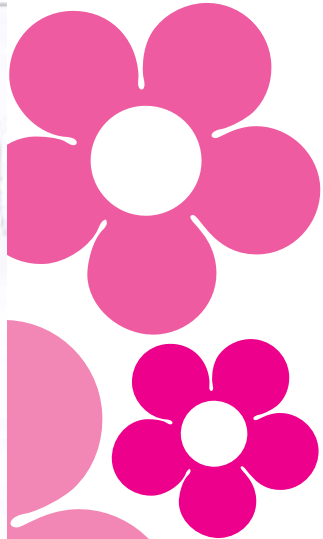
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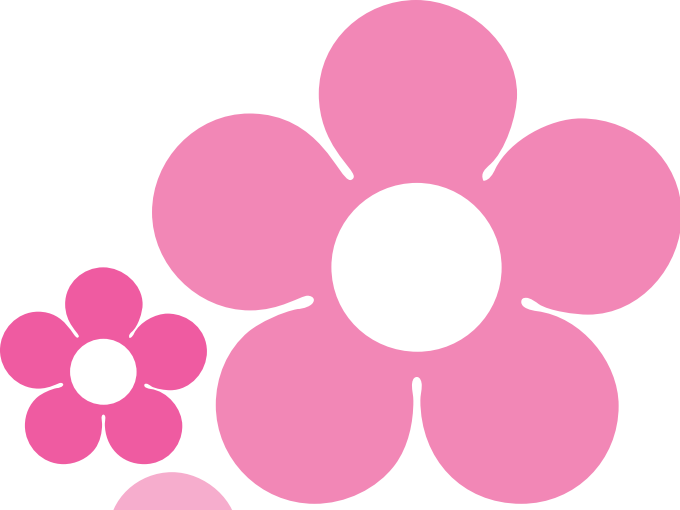
bald



I got bald

By December all her hair had fallen out!





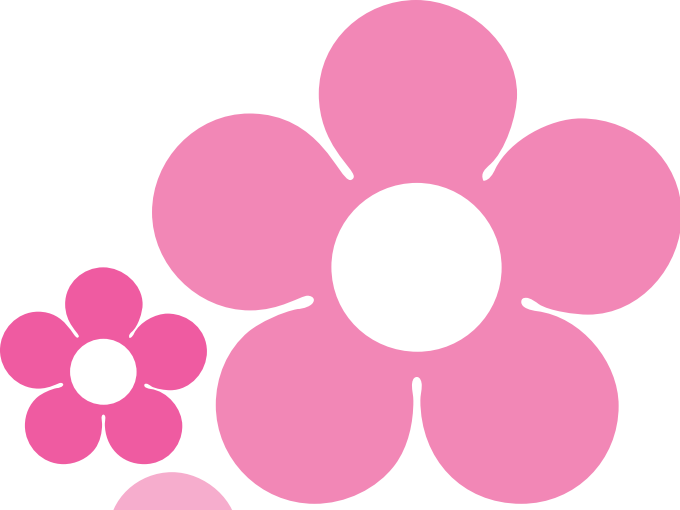
Ena felt shocked and sad. Suddenly she didn't have any hair and she hated being different. She felt angry with her body, and she was worried that she might be bullied at school.



But then on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January Ena had a wonderful day! Not only was it her birthday, but the lady from the clinic rang her home.

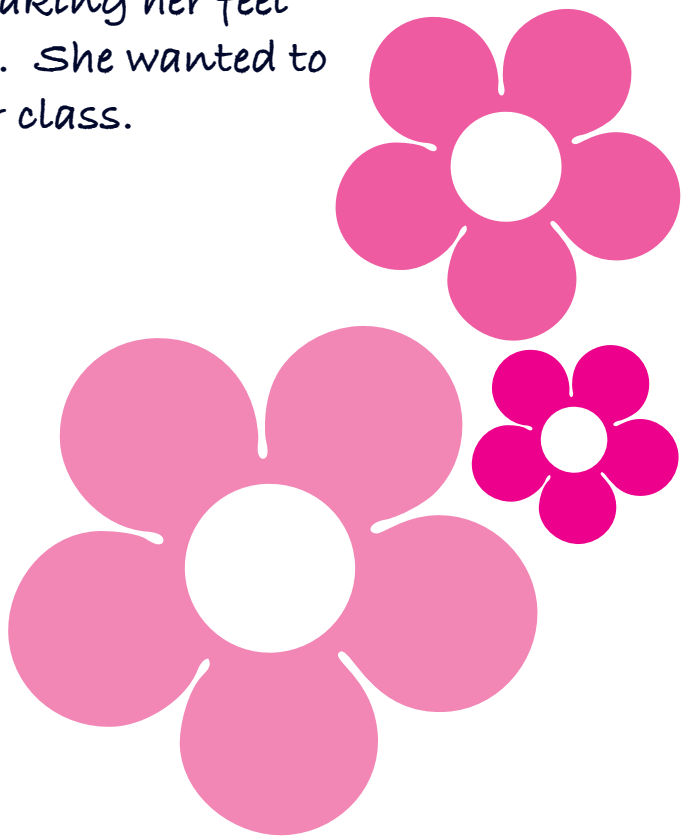
"Meet me in the hair salon at 3.00: Ena can choose a wig!"

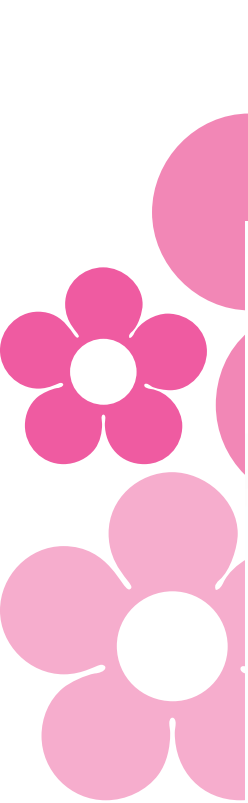
Trying on wigs made Ena feel very happy. She felt new again.



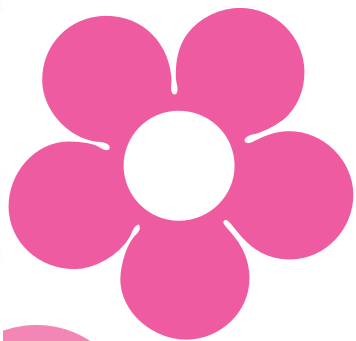
The first day Ena went back to school people asked why her hair was different, and whether she had a wig on. Ena replied "No." She was worried because people did notice the difference and she was anxious that someone might try to take her wig off.

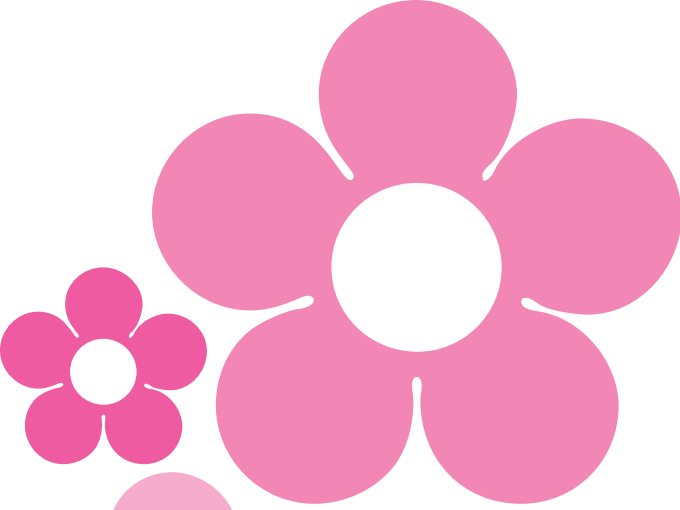
Then the children got used to it and stopped asking her questions. But as time went by she began to feel that the secret she carried about her hair was too big and was making her feel lonely. She wanted to tell her class.





So one Friday everyone sat in a circle and Ena sat in the teacher's chair with a big smile on her face.

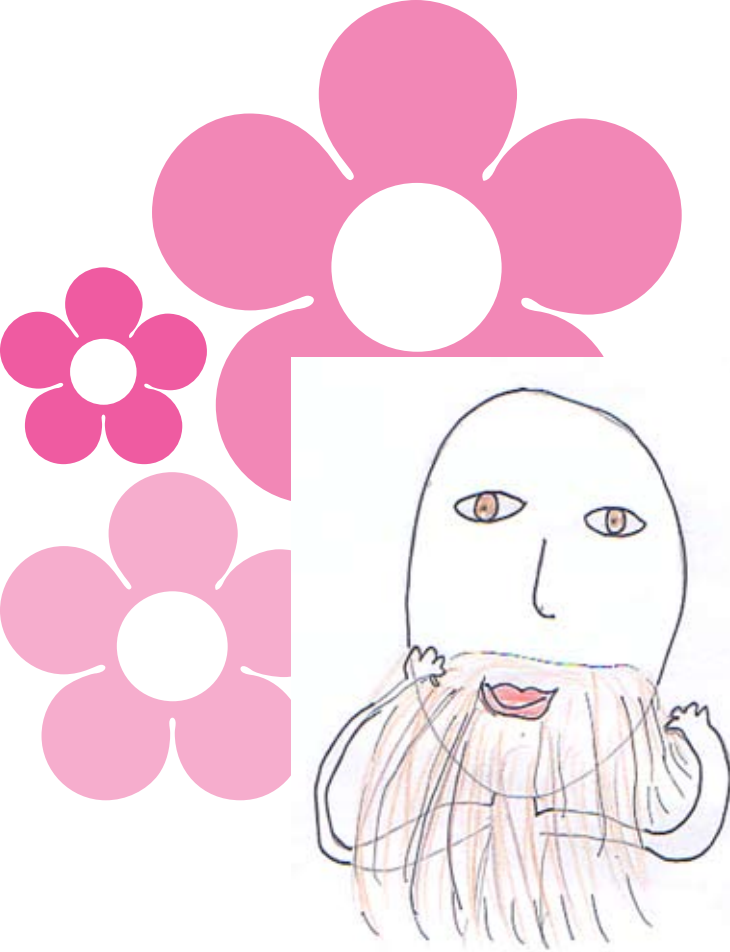




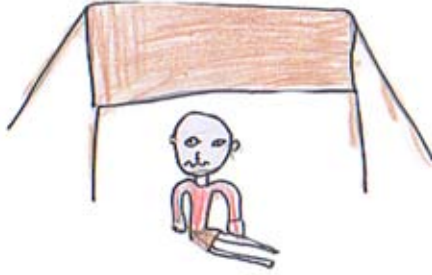
Bravely she told them, "I have a wig on." They were so silent. She told them about her condition, 'Alopecia', and explained that all her hair was falling out, including her eyelashes and eyebrows, "But you can't catch it!" she reassured them.

Then she took her  
wig off to show them.  
Everybody's eyes  
widened and some people  
put their hands up to  
their faces but then they  
started to say kind  
things.

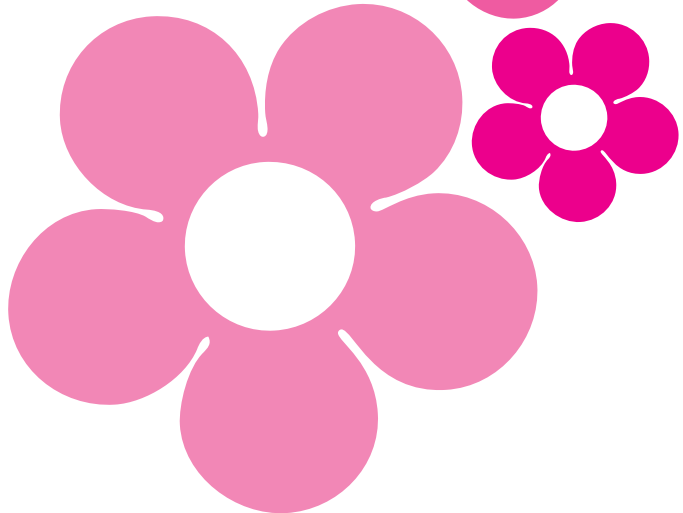


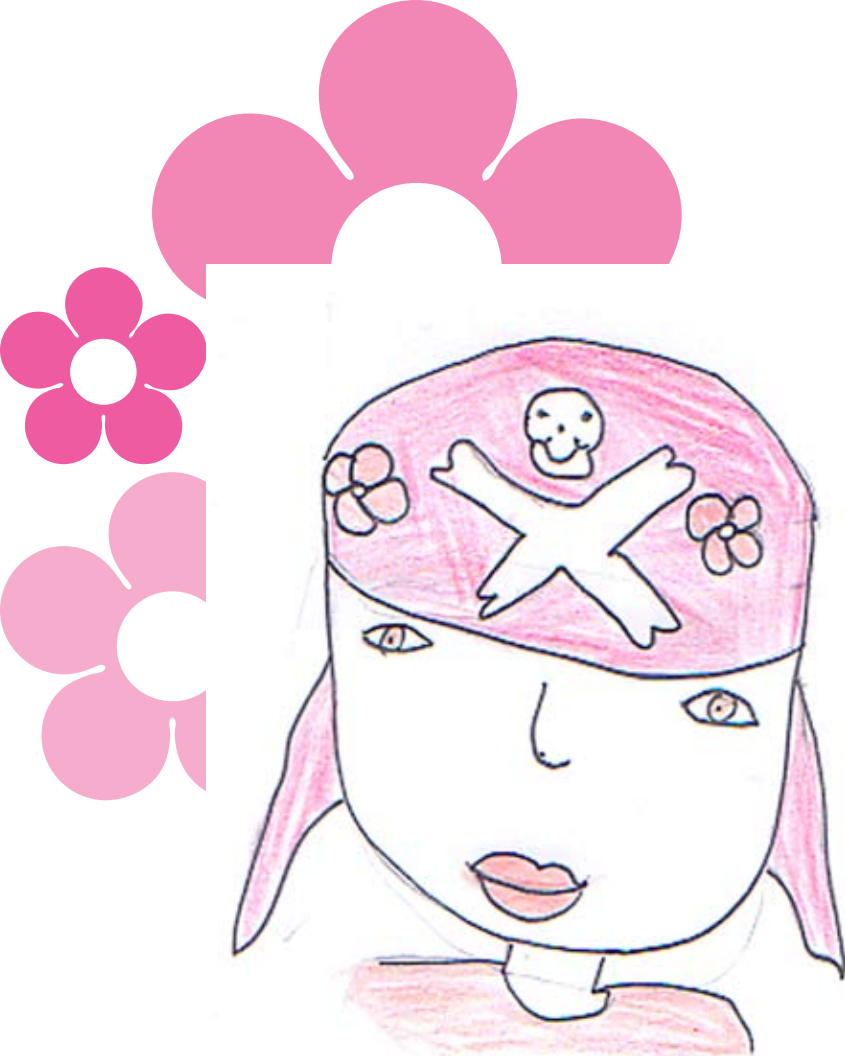


Ena made everybody laugh by wearing her wig like a beard. She passed it round for everyone to hold it. They asked her, "How does it feel?" "Is it itchy?" She explained that it was itchy, and so she would like to take it off in lessons now that they knew.



Ena was very happy to be able to do her lessons without her wig on, although if someone else who didn't know her secret came to the classroom she would whiz under the table and hide!





In March Ena decided it was time to be the 'Bandana Queen'! The first day she wore one instead of her wig people stared, but then they got used to it. Ena made sure her friends were around her in the playground and at lunchtime. She wore her hood up too.

With the support of her class Ena felt more confident, "Now I want to tell all of Year Three and Four... in fact I want to tell the **WHOLE SCHOOL!**"

So at the end of the next assembly the Headteacher invited Ena up to the front. Holding Ena's hand kindly, she told all the children the story about Ena's hair. They listened in surprise, sitting very quietly, and when the Headteacher said how brave Ena was, everybody clapped.





It's not easy having no hair and Ena has positive days and other days when it is hard, however she remembers what her cousin told her:

"It doesn't matter if you don't have hair, you're still the same person inside."

## What is Alopecia?

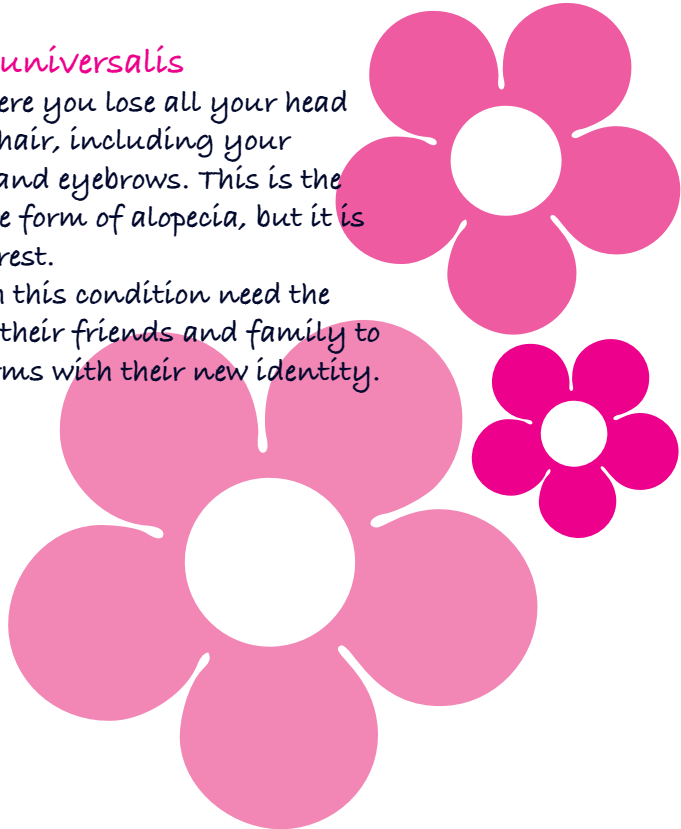
Greek: alopecia - a disease in which the hair falls out.

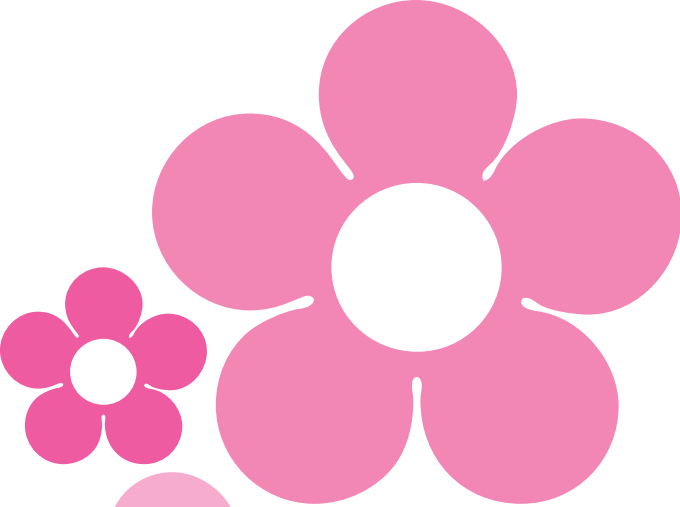
Alopecia is more common than many people think. We often don't notice people who have the disorder because they may cover up their hair loss by changing their hairstyle or by wearing a wig.

## Alopecia universalis

This is where you lose all your head and body hair, including your eyelashes and eyebrows. This is the most severe form of alopecia, but it is also the rarest.

People with this condition need the support of their friends and family to come to terms with their new identity.





This is a story about a brave girl who is surviving with Alopecia. She would like to share her story with you all, to help people understand this condition better.

If you would like to give Ena feedback please do so via:  
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