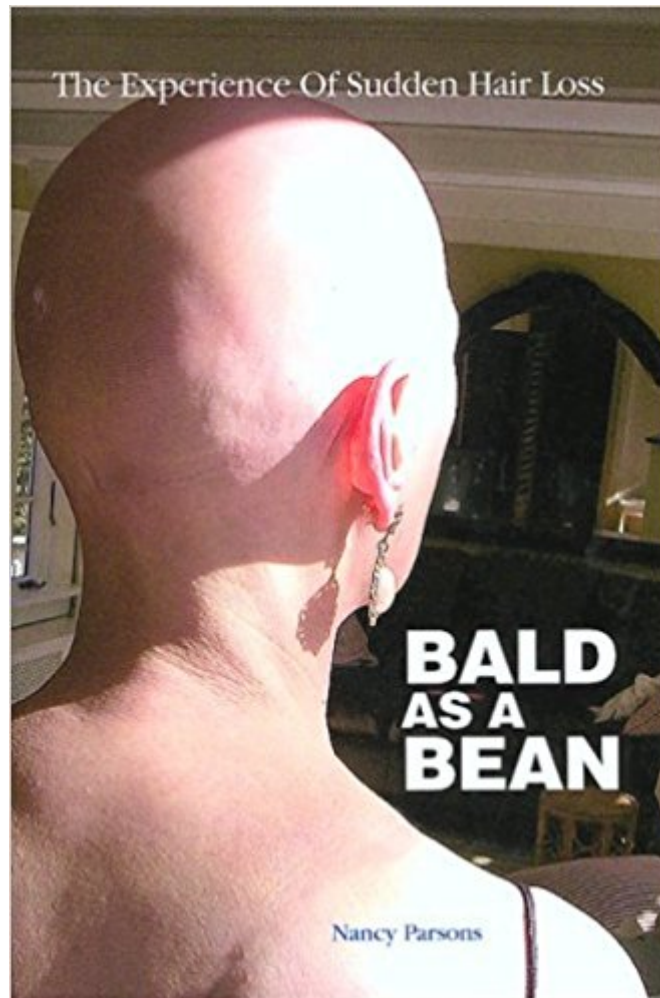




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Bald As A Bean



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Synopsis

In a society that equates youth, health and even sexual attractiveness with luxurious manes of hair, a woman who goes suddenly bald faces a nightmare of emotions: grief, loss, horror, humiliation and fear. In *Bald As A Bean*, the author, diagnosed with alopecia areata totalis universalis (total hair loss over the entire body), learns to cope with her baldness and shares her story with calm vision and touches humor.

Book Information

Paperback: 175 pages

Publisher: Nancy L. Parsons; 1st edition (May 5, 2006)

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Best Sellers Rank: #5,554,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Men's Health > Hair Loss #154303 in Books > Parenting & Relationships

Customer Reviews

Nancy Parsons is a retired advertising executive and is the co-author of *Morsels From The Better Mousetrap*. She lives and writes in North Reading, Massachusetts where she shares and office with her husband Don (an artist) and with Gwen, a retired racing greyhound.

Bald as a Bean: The Experience of Sudden Hair Loss is at the top of my must read list. The author, Nancy Parsons, draws the reader into a world turned upside down when she is diagnosed with the disease, alopecia areata totalis universalis. (total hair loss over the entire body) Nancy shares her intensive and sometimes agonizing physical and spiritual struggle when faced with this disease. From the initial shock of finding large clumps of hair on the shower floor, to the overwhelming diagnosis, Nancy chronicles the medical and holistic treatments, as well as the emotional and physical obstacles that she fights to overcome. By revealing her most intimate thoughts, Nancy eloquently affirms the statement, "Although alopecia areata is not life threatening, it is most certainly life altering." We become aware of how much society values hair, and when one loses it, the emotional loss is as significant as the physical loss. One notable theme throughout the book is that

of our natural world, particularly the change of seasons. Loss and rebirth in nature entwines itself with Nancy's physical and spiritual being, and with that comes inspirational hope. How others react to Nancy's hair loss shapes her internal struggle. Not only do her present interactions with others affect her, but her childhood experiences with her hair are discussed. Through comical reflections we see how the importance of hair is instilled in all of us at a very young age. Nancy's humor is an important defense against this disease. We see this humor when she talks about her wigs affectionately known as "the girls." A disturbing statistic about alopecia areata is revealed. One study indicated that "forty eight percent of alopecians had considered suicide." By sharing such a personal struggle, Nancy shows us that through perseverance and self reflection, one can find the strength to live with the disease. The journey of shock, denial, fear, anger, and depression, is a journey worth taking. Not only do I recommend *Bald as a Bean, The Experience of Sudden Hair Loss* to those suffering from alopecia or hair loss due to a treatment such as chemotherapy, but as well, to those who enjoy reading true stories about the triumph of the human spirit. Tracy Roberts, Write Field Services Reviewer

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