

EXTREME MAKEOVER

'I had my teeth out and my chin pinned for love'

Patricia Naylor, 55, was fed up of being single. So she decided it was time for some drastic measures to find a man...

Patricia Naylor hasn't been too lucky in love over the years. She's been single since her second husband, Mike, left in 1989. 'My love life has been zilch for a long time,' she says. 'I was widowed very young at 21. My first husband, Philip, died of cancer, and it took me a long time to get over that. He was the love of my life. I remarried three years later, on the rebound. But I had my children - Claire, 30, Stephanie, 26 and Ian, 21 - so it wasn't all bad.'

The couple were together for 15 years. 'He was in the Navy and I wanted us to settle down. We bought a house in Peterborough, but he was still away all the time. We drifted apart,' she says. 'It really knocked my confidence.' Patricia then caught tuberculosis, which left her seriously ill for two years. 'It's quite rare for people to catch TB these days because of immunisation, so I was very unlucky. I caught a chill, but I just presumed it was because I was run down from working hard and visiting my dad, who was in hospital,' she explains. 'Eventually I went to the doctor, who did a lung biopsy and diagnosed TB.'

To recover, Patricia took six months leave from her job as a team leader at an insurance company. 'I didn't want to meet anybody at that stage because all I wanted to do was get well. I looked so damn tired.'

As Patricia got better, things improved. 'I was like, "the children have left home, I'm enjoying my job, where is this man of my life?" I don't mind being alone, but there's a difference between being

alone and being lonely.' The TB really took its toll on Patricia's looks and damaged her self-esteem. 'The drugs I took to treat my illness took all the enamel off my teeth, and I always looked stressed out. My eyes were tired and I'd lost a lot of weight, so my boobs disappeared completely.'

Patricia was determined to change her appearance. She opted to go through hours of gory plastic surgery to achieve her new look. And we're not just talking a boob job here - she also had her eyes, chin, teeth and wrinkles overhauled.

The first thing Patricia had was chin surgery. 'I hated my chin and the difference is amazing. It wasn't an implant, they actually pulled it forward and pinned it.' Patricia's teeth were next. 'I had some taken out, then a row of veneers put in at the top and the bottom ones straightened and whitened.' Botox was applied to the lines from her nose to her chin, and a

more feminine.' Finally, there were her eyes. Patricia had laser treatment at the London Eye Clinic to improve her sight, and then had cosmetic surgery. 'They got rid of all the excess skin from my upper eyes and gave me a brow lift. The surgeon was such a perfectionist - he said one eyebrow was just slightly higher than

the other. They are amazing.' But Patricia admits it wasn't all plain sailing. 'The day after the surgery, I did think, "What the hell have I done? I'm going to look like Joan Rivers". My face looked like a balloon. I thought I'd gone too far, but once it all calmed down, it looked great.'

'My son cried when he saw me looking so good,' smiles Patricia. 'I look at least 15 years younger. And I don't feel invisible any more. Sometimes I forget about the new me when I look in the mirror and I get quite a surprise.' It's not the only surprise Patricia has had - she's been on a date. And a good



BEFORE
Patricia says she always looked 'tired and stressed out'



AFTER
After a boob job - and a complete overhaul of her eyes, chin and teeth

one, at that. 'I've been talking to guys on the internet for about 18 months now, and I've met lots of creepy men,' she says. 'But there was one guy, Mike, who caught my eye. We arranged to meet up. The pictures of me on the website were old, so when we met, he was bowled over. We walked and talked for hours, and went out for dinner. I'm hoping it might develop into something more. 'It was strange, though. I felt like I had a secret I was keeping from him after all my surgery. I suppose I need to get used to the new, improved me. But it's all been worth it, every last second...'

Extreme Makeover UK starts at 10pm on Thursday on Living TV. Patricia's story features on 20 October.

Patricia had her teeth treated at Perfect Smile (0845 600 8200, www.theperfectsmile.co.uk)



After an illness, Pat's body changed, especially her boobs