



FIT FOR LIFE

The eyes have it

Carol Westmorland says suffering from distorted vision can have its advantages

Being told that you are 'the most beautiful girl in Carlisle' has to be up there, somewhere near the top, of a girls' dream - if you happen to live in Carlisle. It seems a very nice stranger - who happened to be a man - believed this to be so when he encountered my sister Joanne in a well-known, newly refurbished, supermarket; an unlikely setting.

Telling her story later, her husband Mike unkindly guffawed. Asking their nine-year-old boys Finn and Theo if they knew that their mum was 'the most beautiful girl in Carlisle', their reply? Yes. Said instantly and in unison. Deadpan. Case closed.

It is possible that many of us wander around gazing upon the world before us with distorted vision.

I suffer from astigmatism. Although 'suffer' may be too strong a word. My cornea is not perfectly curved, meaning my left eye struggles to process light. Add to this my belief that when I address someone who is to my left the person to the right answers. They are in front and a little distance away. This happens often. I have concluded that I must look at them skewwhiff. My attempts, until now, to do something, anything, about it have been limited.

Unable to find a pair of glasses that work only last week I pushed out the good lens of my lovely glasses to see if that could assist. I have owned said glasses for some time and felt they deserved better than sitting in my desk. It did not.

I may, on occasion, believe the letterbox - from



'I HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SWERVE AROUND AN UNSUSPECTING BUG WHILE CYCLING'

a very long distance - is a person but, from a safety point of view, I miss nothing. I have been known to swerve around an unsuspecting bug while cycling. This is true - it is possible to avoid unnecessary suffering (certain death) to all creatures great and small.

To conclude: I agree with our stranger. Sister Joanne is 'the most beautiful girl in Carlisle'. After all beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But, I would say that, wouldn't I?



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