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AVIVA
DRESCHER

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*Earlier this week, I was fortunate to have lunched with Aviva Drescher (rumored to be starring on this season's *The Real Housewives of New York*), at our favorite Upper East Side diner, 3 Guys on Madison Avenue. Over our Corfu salads, two born-and-bred New York City gals chatted about growing up in New York, falling in love, getting hearts broken, overcoming tragedy, the importance of philanthropy, and ultimately, living the fabulous life in New York.*



Across the table from Aviva at 3 Guys.



Corfu salad at 3 Guys.

Aviva is a tall, thin, striking blonde who exudes a quiet confidence. You would never guess that beneath her simple and elegant dress, she was wearing a prosthetic leg.

Born and raised in a privileged Upper West Side home, Aviva never anticipated her life would take such a drastic turn when she was 6 years old and a horrific accident severed her left foot. Since that day, Aviva has been tenacious about not letting this tragedy define her.

Aviva's background is quite impressive. After attending the prestigious The Fieldston School as a child, she went on to earn a Bachelors of Arts degree from Vassar College, then a Master's in French Literature from New York University, and then a Juris Doctorate from The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Aviva explained she also found love and happiness in spite of her affliction. After her first marriage fell apart, at a chance meeting at Bed Bath & Beyond Aviva met Investment Banker **Reid Drescher** as their young children played together in the aisles. She explained that it was only a matter of time before the two got married and grew their family together.

The Dreschers now have the quintessential contemporary modern family on the Upper East Side of New York City, with four children - **Harrison, 10, Veronica, 9, Hudson, 4, and Sienna, 1**. Aviva said she rarely misses a night when she can personally tuck her children into bed.

When I asked her how she has stayed so positive, she smiled and said, "being an amputee has never been a dominating factor in my life. I have not allowed wearing a prosthesis to define me. I am lucky to wear a prosthesis. I could have died and I am thankful to be alive, while many others don't get that second chance. In no way should losing a limb ruin anyone's life. Amputees can do anything anyone else can."

For this reason, Aviva has made it a life-long mission to help other amputees who can't afford a prosthesis. Within her leadership role at **One Step Ahead** [2], Aviva continually teaches her family the importance of giving back.

She passionately explained that she "recognizes what I have overcome and feel a moral responsibility to help others. Wearing a prosthesis to me is what it feels like for others to put on a pair of glasses. If I can transfer this ease to other amputees, than I have successfully given back. Through my foundation [One Step Ahead] I can help other people, especially kids, to lead normal lives. I am grateful to live such a fulfilling life with 4 amazing children and an incredible and devoted husband."

At the core, Aviva is down-to-earth, wise, and personable. After only knowing her for all of two minutes, she offered to share her favorite 3 Guys dish, the Corfu salad, with me. And after 45 minutes of sharing her life story in the booth of a diner, she leaned over and gave me a big hug, feeling grateful for everything she has in her life.



Aviva with her husband Reid.