

ANN MERIN

Perfect Shade of Blonde



I'VE BEEN, OR tried to be, a blonde my whole life. As a child, my hair was almost white. As an adolescent, my hair darkened to a muddy blonde. At 18, I discovered highlights and never looked back. I knew my natural hair color would continue to darken, but I figured as long as I couldn't see it, it didn't exist and I could confidently maintain my illusion of perpetual bloneness.

Several years ago, I committed myself to finding the perfect shade of blonde.

Was I a Gwyneth Paltrow or a Michelle Pfeiffer? I started working with my stylist, Cari, on this process. We considered this collaboration an ongoing venture I dubbed 'Project Blonde'. Cari started tutoring me on all the ways I could get blonde. Highlights, it seemed, would only take me so far, as strands of my own natural and ever-darkening (so I imagined) hair color would always be exposed.

Another option was to lighten my whole head with bleach and then tone it. This sounded like it could be damaging to my long hair. A third option was to color my whole head two shades lighter than my own and then highlight it. I picked option three and the results were fantastic.

We continued to play with different shades of blonde and different amounts of highlights. Project Blonde so inspired my creative interest in hair color that I decided to give up a lucrative consulting career, pursue my cosmetology license and open my own salon, Beauty Heaven, which specializes in color.

Here is my top tip for keeping your hair the right shade of blonde: If you are using an all-over color to get yourself blonde, your hair may fade to a warmer shade before you are ready to have your roots retouched. If this happens, we recommend a Color Refresher using Paul Mitchell's PM Shines, which tones your color back to that perfect shade of blonde and adds a glossy shine.



Ann Merin is the owner of Beauty Heaven, a full-service salon specializing in hair color, hair cutting, Great Lengths hair extensions, eyelash extensions and makeup application.

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