

ANN MERIN

# Finding the Right Stylist



**TEN YEARS AGO** I left behind my beloved hometown of New York City to create a new life in LA. I was particularly saddened to leave my long-time stylist and I also dreaded having to find someone new. Eventually I buckled down and started my search. I flipped open a well-known woman's beauty magazine that had recently published their picks for LA's top colorists, and I studied the list.

I narrowed my options to three pricey candidates, booked my appointments and anticipated the perfection the magazine beauty editors had described.

Candidate 1 stuck my foiled head under a dryer and left me so long the aluminum singed my scalp and the bleach burned off large chunks of my waist-length hair. Candidate 1 now makes frequent appearances on television as a hair expert. Candidate 2 disappeared often to the bathroom and nodded off during my service. Candidate 2 was a drug addict who was sent to rehab. Candidate 3 produced ok results but talked nonstop to her assistant about how she intended to leave her job, which she did.

After a move to Orange County, I ended up in the chair of Cari Sluder, who was my dream come true. It wasn't just that she was the most gifted colorist I'd ever been to. Cari consistently took the time to understand my goals and helped me achieve even the smallest change with total dedication and flawless results. She was always informative and honest, and even divulged the formula she used to achieve my perfect blonde. If I was particularly busy at work, Cari would see me on her days off, come in early or stay late. I'm proud to say that Cari Sluder is now the Creative Director for Beauty Heaven, where she oversees a group of stylists hand-picked for their dedication to the same kind of quality and understanding of customer service. After all, finding the right stylist shouldn't be so hard.



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.

## CONTACT US:

949.309.2462

[www.beauty-heaven.net](http://www.beauty-heaven.net)

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