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This month, *Faye James* enters the world of extensions



Like breast implants, I always promised myself that I'd never have falsies of any kind. Be it nails, hair or eyelashes, the thought of having anything plastic or fake attached to my body sent ripples of repulsion through me. Tacky, yucky, yuk.

That was until I saw Katie Holmes go from detox junkie to growling goddess in what seemed to be one day. Peering closer at the photo, I read the caption – 'Katie Holmes gets back into red carpet shape by donning hair extensions'. I felt repelled, almost insulted, that she could look so good with a couple of falsies attached to her hair. But lo and behold, she looked fantastic – there was nothing fake, nor even tacky about her. Her Anna Wintour bob was now replaced with

shoulder-length, shiny, chestnut curls and dare I say it, I felt envious.

This prompted me to have a quick chat with UAE hair extension expert, Julie Powell from The Gold Salon. "Oh yes, all celebrities are having hair extensions now, and you'd never know," confirmed Julie. "Plenty of my clients owe their long, flowing locks to our Great Lengths hair extensions and everyone is none the wiser. Forget Britney Spears hair disasters, hair extensions are now so natural and so discreet you can fool anyone."

I was intrigued, so when Julie insisted I have a couple put in to sample their greatness, I jumped at the chance. She suggested I concentrated on volume rather than length so that the effect would be subtle, yet effective. Forty-five minutes

later, I boasted a thick, glossy mane, beautiful enough to rival Katie Holmes, which also looked totally natural. Off I went home with my new look, and a proud spring in my step, to flaunt it to my husband. Would he blow my cover? Nope. "Oh, your hair looks amazing. What a nice haircut," he complimented. Excellent. And off I went with a huge smile on my face.

Strangely enough, in the same week one of my pals was batting her luscious eyelashes at me. She looked radiant, glowing and positively beautiful. What had she done? "Eyelash extensions," she proclaimed. Previously I might have turned a blind eye, but my recent obsession with extensions had been whetted, and I felt compelled to try out the same. After all, just like the hair extensions, you'd have never guessed she had anything false, just long, thick and enviable lashes.

Off I trotted to Tips and Toes on Palm Jumeirah. An hour later I awoke from a blissful sleep to a glorious mani-pedi (may as well get them done at the same time for ultimate pampering) and stunning lashes. I've never had long lashes and the effect it had on my face was quite mind blowing. I now look twice as fresh, awake and even younger. I wear less make-up (no need for eye shadow or mascara) so my beauty routine has been cut in half. What's more, my husband is still none the wiser and when I want something, all I need do is toss my mane and bat my eyelashes. Extensions? Tacky, no. Essential, yes. ■

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