

makeover moment

Here's my story:

"I'm sick of people always telling me I'm adorable. Give me an edgy look!"

—KARLA MOSLEY, 20, COLLEGE STUDENT



before

"I Want to Look... Cool, Not Cute!"

Need a style wake-up call? Hey, we've all been there. See how one reader went from darling to diva with help from makeup master Laura Mercier and hairstylist Gad Cohen.



1. To tame Karla's mane, Cohen blow-dried it stick straight; her curls were a little too Shirley Temple. Next, he snipped her hair into a trendy concave shape and massaged in conditioning cream. Cohen sealed the deal with a flat-iron, then swept a lock of bangs across her brow for a hint of biker-chick chic.



3. This spring, bombshells-in-waiting should ditch neutrals for a splash of color. After getting Karla's skin glowing with tinted moisturizer, Mercier (broken finger and all) brushed on a copper blush, then gave Karla's upper and lower lids the post-punk-rock treatment, courtesy of a navy liner.



2. Well-shaped brows can raise anyone's cool quotient. Mercier worked the natural bend of Karla's arches, sculpting her shaggy, schoolgirl line into a sharper, more sophisticated one. The beauty gain is worth the plucking pain—as Mercier says, "A nicely designed brow screams 'stylish.'"



after

4. With so much eye and cheek color, all Karla's lips needed was a kiss of subtle sheen. A swipe of sheer, shimmery pink capped off her cool, not icy, image.

"Oh, my God! I can't even believe this is me. I feel like a total movie star."

what we learned today:

Rule 1

Smooth hair, smooth look. Focus on your ends when applying conditioning cream or you'll get the greasies.

Rule 2

Lay low on liner. "Thin streaks are trendy for spring," says Mercier. Plus, too much could create linebacker rings (not so cool).

Rule 3

Get steamy with a flatiron. Don't freak if vapors rise; heat revs up shine and hold—even during a long night of clubbing.



They look like hardware, but they're actually makeover must-haves. We used (1) Laura Mercier Tweezers by Tweezerman, \$20, lauramercier.com; (2) Kiehl's Creme de la Creme Groom Repairateur, \$25, kiehl.com; (3) Conair Straight Styles Professional Straightening Iron, \$25, at drugstores; (4) Laura Mercier Eye Liner in Bleu Marine, \$20, lauramercier.com