

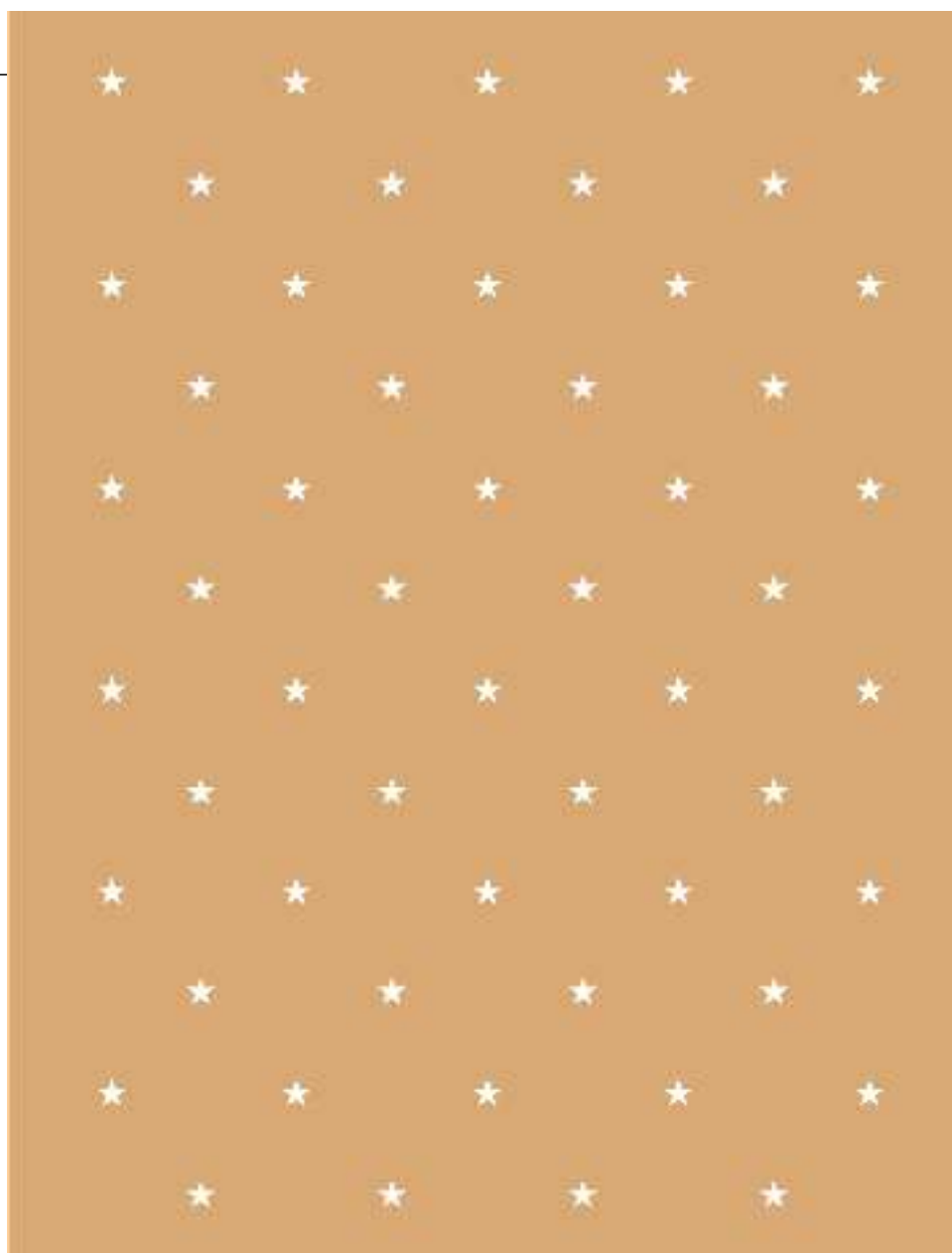
GEORGE KOTSIPOPOULOS



THE KEY
TO CREATING
MOVIE-
STAR
STYLE

Glamorous
by *George*

Cohost of **E!**'s
FASHION
POLICE



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THE KEY TO CREATING

MOVIE-STAR STYLE

HERMAN IMAGE, NEW YORK

*I dedicate this book to women who take an extra moment every day to look great, who honor and bless
all of us with their glamour.*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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the
glamour
 of hollywood
isn't what it used to be.

YES, WE'VE GOT GORGEOUS CELEBRITIES draped in couture on loan. We've got huge stars dripping with borrowed baubles from the world's most prestigious designers and jewelers. But what happened to that certain movie-star magic? The enduring qualities that made Hollywood classically glamorous are nowhere to be found on today's red carpets.

I miss iconic women. Especially today, looking out into a sea of overnight boldface names, many of whom are defined by dalliances and headline-making disasters. I long for the return of the real movie star: the allure, the wit, and the mystique.

As a stylist, red-carpet commentator, and cohost of the show *Fashion Police*, I witness the good, the bad, and the ugly on a daily basis. Growing up, I loved fashion and went shopping with my older sister constantly. I have always been fascinated by how clothes change over time, and how trends shift first on television shows and then, later, on the streets of the small town where I grew up. For instance, did you notice how differently the cast of *The Brady Bunch* was dressed at the beginning of the show, when it was prim and mod (what we would now call *Mad Men* style), than toward the end, when their clothes became much more groovy, with oversize collars and huge bell-bottoms? If you don't know what I'm talking about, DVR the show or watch a few clips online. Marcia and her siblings did a complete wardrobe change, as did *Wonder Woman* and the ladies of *Charlie's Angels* a decade later, this time from bell-bottoms to straight-leg pants.

Maybe it's just me noticing these things, but pop culture is a great place to observe fashion change. That's part of what I do on *Fashion Police*, and it's an important part of my job as a stylist. I work with celebrities, models, and ordinary women to help them look their best from head to toe.

But while I am constantly surrounded by a bevy of screen-worthy beauties and television superstars who are counted among the world's most gorgeous women, I still find myself asking, "Where have all the movie stars gone?"

Sure, I see plenty of *celebrities* during awards shows and Hollywood functions, but let's be clear: A movie star is not the same thing as a celebrity. Movie stars are of a different breed, and their staying power is absolute. In today's world, celebrities are a dime a dozen, and we count "Real Housewives" as style icons, but possessing true movie-star quality means shining brighter than anyone else in the room and commanding the right kind of attention with grace.

The world needs more movie stars, not just on-screen and at premieres but on a practical everyday level. Just think how much more beautiful and pleasant your office, favorite bar, or local Starbucks would be if people ditched the frumpy clothes and grumpy attitudes and instead opted for

elegant ensembles and charming manners on any given Thursday. This is not some pipe dream—with the advent of inexpensive but beautifully designed clothing available nationwide, elegance is within everyone's reach. And *Glamorous by George* will show you the way.

There's too much unsightly reality in the world today. Girls dressed in disheveled or skimpy ensembles have become ubiquitous. Short shorts, hooker heels, and minidresses have reached new heights, leaving little to the imagination and even less to be desired, fashion-wise. Take a character like Christina Applegate's Kelly Bundy from the 1980s–1990s show *Married, with Children...* At the time, she was seen as trashy and extreme—a poster girl for slutty groupies, clad in a bustier top, skintight skirt, and an acid-wash denim jacket draped loosely around her shoulders. Today the Kelly Bundy look is relatively tame and would pass for something we see fourteen-year-olds sporting in the pages of a chic, glossy magazine like *Teen Vogue*. The lack of class in clothing and media may signify a shift in the way we live, but it doesn't mean that we have to abandon the magic, mystery, and glamour that give a movie star his or her timeless shine.

I would love to bring back the refined elegance of the movie star en masse. But since I can't convince the whole world all at once, I'll start with one woman at a time. Creating movie-star style may seem like a lot to do, but in *Glamorous by George* I'll show you how to look glamorous—and make it seem effortless—one chapter at a time.

As a stylist, I help clients and celebrities look great by choosing styles and fabrics that flatter their bodies and hide their flaws and by using colors that complement their complexions and personalities. I'll guide you through every step my clients take to help you find your inner movie star, from the style and color palette in your clothes to your tasteful demeanor. Luckily, presenting timeless glamour doesn't require a celebrity budget or securing a film debut at the Cannes Film Festival—just a state of mind.

You may think that movie-star style is beyond your reach, but I promise you it's not. Some of the biggest, most iconic, gorgeous, and now-established movie stars made the same leap you're about to make. When I was an assistant stylist, I worked with Charlize Theron on a shoot for *Esquire* magazine when she was a mere model. She was bubbly and upbeat and running around the set half-naked and fully wild. She was like many other model-actresses I had worked with, but there was a spark to her that stuck with me. About a year later, we crossed paths again, on a photo shoot for *InStyle* magazine. This time Charlize was on the cover. She wasn't a half-naked wild child running around the set but instead a golden goddess in our midst. It was apparent through her gracious nature and the elegant way she carried herself throughout the shoot that she had made the transition from model-turned-actress/quasi-celebrity to a bona fide movie star. That day, I felt like I had witnessed an exceptional change—which ultimately led Charlize to winning an Oscar.

LET'S GET STARTED

We can begin your movie-star style makeover in this very introduction. Here are ten extraordinarily easy things you can do right now to bring out your inner movie star:

- ★ **1.** Chic sunglasses are a movie-star must. Find a pair that's trendy, but more importantly they should perfectly suit your face shape. Take photos when you try on new shades if you must, or bring along a friend who will be honest with you about what makes you look great.
- ★ **2.** Stand up straight! Posture is everything. Have you ever seen a movie star slouch?
- ★ **3.** Be calm and pleasant to everyone, especially the nasty bullying types. It's really hard for someone to be mean to you while you're being extra nice back.
- ★ **4.** Be gracious, smile, and say please and thank you even in the most taxing circumstances.
- ★ **5.** Yes, Mama always said to wear clean underwear just in case you were in an accident, but what about wearing a cute outfit in case you become swarmed by paparazzi, accidentally walk through a TV shoot, or even worse, run into an ex or high school rival!
- ★ **6.** Send thank-you notes. It's not old-fashioned, but timeless, classy, and gracious.
- ★ **7.** Brush up on current events before a party, so you are informed and have interesting opinions to contribute.
- ★ **8.** Wear a little something sparkly regardless of the time of day. I said a little; don't go crazy. Pick a bracelet, a pendant, a nice ring, or even a scarf that has a touch of glitter to make your look stand out.
- ★ **9.** Stop saying "I would look like her too if I was a movie star with money to hire a personal trainer, stylist, chef...etc." That's just a lame excuse lazy people tell themselves. Movie stars are not lazy. YOU are now a movie star so you are not lazy.
- ★ **10.** Track suits and workout clothes are for the gym. Period. Replacing your favorite "running around" sweats with an actual outfit (nothing crazy, think a relaxed, yet chic striped top and great jeans) will make you carry yourself with more composure and confidence. Even wearing a chic or elegant matching set of pajamas at home instead of worn-out yoga pants will make a difference in your attitude.

That transition, and its lasting impression, is what I want for you.

WHEN I'M REPORTING on red-carpet fashion, looking like a movie star is what everyone is trying to do, and hearing that they look like a star is the ultimate compliment. When people—from grannies to fashion magazine editors—use the term, it means that an actor or actress looks stunning, exudes the spirit of a screen legend, and is successfully conveying his or her own brand of modern-day iconic glamour.

But here's a big secret no one will tell you: Dressing for the red carpet and having movie-star style is easier for the average woman than for a celebrity. Think about it: Celebrities are being photographed from every angle possible, *in high definition*, whereas you can choose which angle is the best for each and every outfit you take photos of, and you just have to look gorgeous in real life. (To be entirely truthful, some of the dresses we critique on *Fashion Police* actually work in person but photograph terribly. Or the photographer has taken the worst angle on an actress possible. Or it truly is terrible.)

However, just because you're not going to be in front of paparazzi doesn't mean you can't be just as glamorous as an actress on the red carpet. I'll show you how to use the same tools of the trade that movie stars do when you're getting ready for your next date, job interview, or an average Monday. But it's important to note that channeling true movie-star style doesn't just exist on the red carpet or in looks alone. It's a collection of distinguished qualities that effortlessly transpire in one's daily life. In *Glamorous by George* I'll show you not only how to achieve a movie-star look but also how to project the grace and timelessness all true stars share.



More so than anything else, movie stars are movie stars because of the way they carry themselves. A movie star holds his or her head high, the face is relaxed, and the overall presence is flush with confidence. *Confidence* trumps most things.

A modern-day movie star like Julia Roberts is a perfect example. I recall the first time I worked with her on a photo shoot, when I understood immediately that she possessed all the makings of a true movie star. Roberts is enigmatic, kind, and carries herself with confidence. When she smiles, you immediately know she's the real deal, and when that smile is directed at you, *you* feel like a movie star. I took a lesson from that: The truly glamorous make those around them feel glamorous and special.

So you weren't born with a naturally megawatt smile and endearingly infectious laugh? You don't have a movie-star figure? Don't sweat it! Most of us are in the same boat. A lot of women who aren't exactly prom queen material in their youth evolve to be gorgeous and glamorous on the inside and out.

When we talk about movie-star magic, we are often talking about the leading ladies of Hollywood's Golden Age, whose image and legacy still influence the way stylish people dress, fix their hair, do their makeup, and essentially walk and talk. Thus, when you look for inspiration on movie-star style, stars of that era like Katharine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, and Elizabeth Taylor—as well as their present-day contemporaries Emma Stone, Natalie Portman, and Angelina Jolie—are great examples of how to present timeless style and luminous presence both on-screen and off.

RED CARPET LOOKS VS. HIGH FASHION

★ **There's a big difference between red-carpet style and high fashion, though certainly some actresses bring high fashion to the red carpet. One of the most fun things about working in this industry is observing and commenting on custom couture looks and high-concept fashion worn at red carpet events. (A great example of this is Lady Gaga wearing a dress made of meat.)**

This is part of what we talk about on *Fashion Police*, and though I completely encourage you to keep an eye on these looks and discuss their merits with your fashion forward friends, wearing high fashion or couture clothes is not required for red-carpet style.



Your hosts: *The Fashion Police* from left: Kelly Osbourne, Joan Rivers, Giuliana Rancic, and moi!

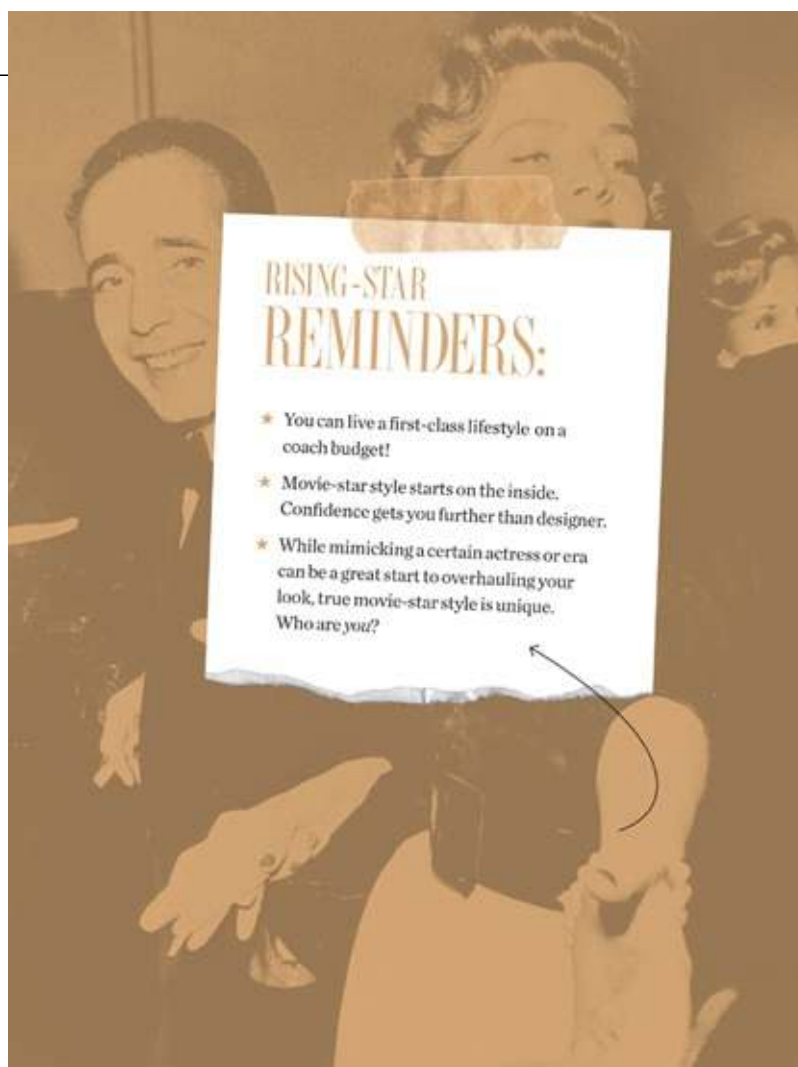
~~Part of the fun in transforming yourself is dreaming about who you want to become, or what look and image you want to present to the world. Do you want to be a bombshell, like Sophia Loren or Scarlett Johansson? Or are you more of an intellectual beauty, like Katharine Hepburn or Cate Blanchett? Perhaps you're a minimalist, like Gwyneth Paltrow or Catherine Deneuve? Or would you prefer to be more of a model-actress type who embraces trends at the edge of fashion, like Keira Knightley or Marlene Dietrich?~~

It's OK if you don't know which "type" you want to emulate yet, or you think you might be a cross between two different styles. (I know plenty of women with bombshell outsides who rock an intellectual beauty style, as well as some who dress like model-actresses on special occasions but are minimalists most of the time.) It's also OK to be a little intimidated by the process of changing your look and aiming for movie-star style. You might be thinking, "I could never look like Emma Stone" or "How do I compare to Audrey Hepburn?" When you watch awards shows and see Angelina Jolie looking perfect, it's easy to think, "I will never be like that."

But I'm here to say you can! Not in a literal sense, of course—reading this book will not turn you into Angelina Jolie, unfortunately. But being iconic and looking like a movie star isn't just reserved for actresses. You can be your own icon—everyone can—by working with what you were born with and embracing what is best about your looks and personality.

You may not be wearing the most expensive dress, and you may not be the most famous person in the room, but you can certainly carry yourself as though you are. People will notice. Movie-star glamour begins on the inside. Let's say that again, because it bears repeating: Movie-star glamour begins on the inside. How do you go about this? Confidence is key, but so are graciousness and good behavior. You can be a low-maintenance person who doesn't fuss too much about clothes or makeup, but that doesn't mean you have to live your life without elegance. Or you can be a traditional glamorous person on the outside, hair done, jewelry in place, and nails manicured, but let the attention to detail extend to how you treat people with grace and kindness. (Or both!)

Think of this book as the red carpet rolled out to you—helping you make glamour easy to recognize and implement in your everyday life no matter who you are, where you live, or how much money you make. ★



Incorporating movie-star style can seem like a daunting task. To help ease your transition, I've included a list at the end of each chapter recapping its lessons. These checklists will allow you to keep reading without forgetting a single tip or trick, and they can act as reminders after your inner movie star debuts!



dressing like a *movie star* (*on an extra's budget*)

THE FIRST STEP IN CREATING MOVIE-STAR STYLE involves a COSTUME change. Movie stars look great on the red carpet, in magazines, and even in candid photos because everything they wear flatters their natural beauty while simultaneously projecting their personality and style. In theory, your closet should do the same. I say “in theory” because that’s not how most people’s closets are in real life. Most people have a few things that work but more pieces that simply don’t work, that are too big or too small, that don’t flatter their shape or complexion, that are outdated, or that hold sentimental value and not much else. Needless to say, a movie star would not have this closet. That’s why you’re reading this book and coming to me for advice, because I’ve seen movie stars’ closets. (And I have a movie-star-worthy closet myself!) A movie star has had her closet curated so that each and every piece she owns makes her look—and more important, feel—glamorous, timeless, and fabulous. But you don’t have a stylist. Until now.

In this chapter, I will explain how I style my clients, and I’ll teach you how to be your own stylist—a classic movie-star move! We’ll not only clean out your closet but also pinpoint what’s working for you now, what will work for you in the future, and what you should be shopping for from this moment forward. We’ll also do your colors (that sounds so eighties, but whatever, it *works*) to figure out which shades you can wear and which you should avoid so you never appear blah again. From what hair colors work best to what shoes to keep, this chapter will help you clear your closet and build the foundation of your movie-star style.

Color Is Black and White

WHEN IT COMES TO COLOR, camel is my enemy. Though its creamy beige-brown is a beautiful shade I like when other people wear it, wearing camel myself always makes me feel off. I feel that way because that particular shade of tan-beige-brown makes my complexion look sallow, sickly, and yellowish—ew! Most of us have a color or two that we don’t like because it makes us look terrible, since only people with skin tones at the very ends of the spectrum—the palest of pale (think Anne Hathaway) and

the darkest of dark (think Viola Davis)—can pull off wearing any shade of every single color on the planet. That's why I say color is black and white. Some of us (like Anne and Viola) are lucky enough to be at the ends of the spectrum and can wear anything. But most of us vary, from skin tones that are very cool (black) to very warm (white).

You probably have heard that you look great in a color, have a preference for one color over all others, or even notice an abundance of one color in your closet. And that's totally fine—if that color works for you, of course! If you wear it constantly and none of your stylish friends have stopped you, it probably does. My primary rule for color is: If you feel good in a color, and people compliment you on it—"Oh, that color is so nice on you"—then wear it. If you don't feel good in a color—for any reason—don't wear it! Simple as that.

Some people simply hate a particular color. For one of my clients, it was purple. She hated it, and even though she looked amazing in a violet sweater I begged her to try on, she refused to buy it because she hated the color so much. And though I hate to put something that fabulous back on the hanger instead of in my client's shopping bag, I had to agree. If you hate a color, you shouldn't wear it.

But keep in mind that looking bad in one shade doesn't necessarily mean you look terrible in all facets of that shade—or that you'll look horrid in it forever. It's like sushi—at first, you may not like it, but after your palate expands a little bit more with texture, you love splitting a special roll topped with a little bit of eel. A lot of my clients (and friends) claim they don't look good in one basic color (say, red) because someone at some time in their lives didn't think a certain tone was right with their skin tone at that time. But your skin tone changes with the season (more on that coming up!), and shades alter a lot within the same color family. For instance, brick red is totally different from strawberry red. Be careful about what you think you "know," because you might be wrong. Even changing your hair color slightly can alter how you look in different shades. Next time you shop, try on a color you claim doesn't work for you—because it might work on you today, even if it didn't yesterday.

It's important to remember that even if you love a certain color, especially if you have a lot of pieces in those shades within your closet, you should make sure all of its shades work for you, either by following my rules (up next!) or by asking a friend or colleague: "Do I look good in this?" Surveying the public is always helpful, because they have a more objective perspective than you do. Shades vary a lot within color families, so a cool sky blue is different from a warm navy. So even if a friend tells you navy is a no-go, you shouldn't automatically nix the entire blue section of H&M.

It's also important to remember that just because you love a color, that doesn't mean it works for you. (Hello, camel!) After all, a lot of people love UGG boots and Crocs, both of which I'm mentioning here only because they are the perfect example of how loving something does not make it fashionable.

HAIR APPARENT

George's quick guide to cut and color



Great lengths: *Michelle Williams going long in 2001, mid-length in 2006, and short in 2011.*

Length

Long hair has become insane. With the immense popularity of extensions and weaves, I see tons of women sporting limp locks. Frankly, if your fake hair doesn't look real or is scraggly, that's not movie-star style. If your hair ends up looking lifeless long, you would be better off rocking a shorter style, like a bob or a pixie, that is equally, if not more, chic. Keep in mind hair just past your shoulders is still long hair—don't go crazy trying to “go” long, because anything past that is truly a girlish look. Thus, I advise that women should only wear their hair past chest level before the age of 35-ish because after that it tends to look tacky.

Classy looks you'll never age out of include short cuts, shoulder-length hair, and/or layered cuts no longer than your chest. It's also helpful, after 50, to lighten your hair around your face to soften the overall look.

And, lastly, if your hair cut, color, or style resembles a Real Housewife, go to a salon. Stat. No, seriously. Drop the book and go NOW!

Color

Many women color or highlight their hair, including movie stars and celebrities. But celebrities tend to pull it off better because they tend to follow nature's lead. For instance, Emma Stone can rock blonde hair and her natural reddish brown because she has hazel-colored eyes. Your hair color (whether it's dyed or natural) should match your eye color.

BLUE, GREEN, OR HAZEL: Lucky girl, you can dye your hair nearly any color you want! Just look at Scarlett Johansson—she's been a redhead, a brunette, and a blonde in her movies, and always looked natural and beautiful.

BROWN: Be careful if you go blonde! If you go too golden, it can look trashy. Celebrities with brown eyes who wear blonde hair—and I don't condone this—like Carrie Underwood, Britney Spears, and Jessica Simpson (see, no movie stars, just pop singers!) tend to have a mix of blonde highlights and lowlights with brown undertones to make it look more natural. (Because blonde hair and brown eyes doesn't happen naturally, though brown hair will lighten with sun exposure. That's why people have lighter hair in the summer. Trust me. It's science.)

Another option that works for brown-eyed gals is platinum blonde, like Gwen Stefani, because it's obvious that the color is unnatural.



sample content of Glamorous by George: The Key to Creating Movie Star Style

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