



Getting my eyebrows done for the first time

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Eyebrows are basically the fancy frames around the windows to the soul right? Those two caterpillar-like things on our faces have always had some kind of cult status with endless trends slipping in and out of the picture and their maintenance is always highlighted. Eyebrows that are truly on fleek can definitely transform your face and that's the promise that drove an eighth grader me to a professional. I was ready to be a butterfly.

Back then, getting my eyebrows done felt like some kind of rite of passage ceremony. Some of my friends were getting theirs done and I wanted in. I was surprised my mom agreed so easily (thanks Ammu!) and I still remember to this day that I had gone right after hopping off the school bus. I recall excitedly settling down on the seat only to be reminded 10 seconds

later that this is supposed to be somewhat painful. The women at the parlour seemed almost as excited as me which, in retrospect, is usually a bad sign. I remember having to pull the skin to make it taut and feeling little hairs rain down on my face as the thread did its magic. Did it hurt? Not as much as I thought it would (I had fairly tame brows and didn't have a lot of strays). Did my eyes water? From the joy of being able to experience this slightly painful beautification process, yes! Did I emerge as a butterfly? Well, my complexion looked a shade lighter and by our standards that's definitely an improvement. The fact remained, though, that I basically looked exactly the same.

I remember my girlfriends being ecstatic. For us girls, it was the parallel of shaving the baby mustache for the first time for guys I suppose. We'd talk about it in

hushed voices and I remember getting a ton of compliments on how great they looked. Most people barely noticed. Apparently the fact that my eyebrows looked like a better version of the old ones was actually testament to the skills of my parlour lady and the beginning of my dependence on her for my monthly fix of fleek.

Fast forward a decade and I think my mom made a sneaky move that day. She saved my eyebrows before I could wreck them with the tweezers I was occasionally stealing. She drove home a lesson although I was rather slow in getting it — I didn't need to do my eyebrows and I wasn't thinking of a lifetime commitment. The few baby hairs I had as strays now grow back as angry, rebellious strays that stick out in random directions. Thankfully the boy brow trend has rolled around and seems to be here to stay. I have found my reprieve.

A brief walkthrough of makeup



ZARIN REZWANA

Are you tired of wasting money at a parlour and ending up looking like Casper's relative? Do you hate looking off fleek in your selfies? Then worry no more, because here's a noob's guide to makeup.

THE LIPSTICK

Have you ever seen patterns like war paint on a girl's arm? Well, those are lipstick swatches, hence the signs of the biggest dilemma a girl can face. There may be fifty shades of nude, and every shade bought would have gone through careful analysis of situations it can be used for. Did you think girls were only good at spying and not processing? Think again.

THE BLACK LINING

Applying eyeliner can be as sensitive as

when defusing a bomb. One wrong move and the game is over. The eyeliner can create a simple line over the eyelid, or a wing sharp enough to cut steel. The eyeliner can be black, blue, green, purple, or even VIBGYOR, depending on the person who owns it. However, it has been scientifically proven that this linear addition can beautify a face by a factor of ten, that too, as a minimum multiple.

THE EGG

The beauty blender is a soft oval thing that is used to mix the layers of make up in. normally, it is used damp, and dabbed on the face. They come in different shapes and sizes too, just like people. Except that beauty blenders have some designated work, unlike some (read: most) people.

THE SPARKLY STUFF

The highlighter can make you look like

a vampire in sunlight, especially for the cheekbones. It is applied by making a "fish face" so never be scared or entertained when someone applies highlighter - it is a crucial step involved in the reflection of light from one's face, i.e. very serious stuff. Also because Rihanna said "shine bright like a diamond". Does anyone know what to do if all you have is cheek and no bones showing, though?

THE REAL LIFE FILTERS

The foundation and concealer are the magic weapons of every make up enthusiast. Foundation is supposed to render your pores and pimples to be non-existent, and the concealer is used to hide dark circles. Also, there are different shades of a concealer that people use for colour correction. No concealer for personality correction?

Sad. Nonetheless, they are the sole reason flawless skin is not sorcery anymore - at least to the ones who can use them correctly.

THE COLOURING SET

Were you sensible in choosing colour in your kindergarten art class? If not, then tread cautiously, sire. The eyeshadow palette is intricate, and once you apply a shade, there is no going back. If you are not hoping for an alien look, then you have to make sure you do not just swish and flick the brush. The blending and intensity have to be right too. There are deeper concepts that are as perplexing as the quantum theory, so don't bite off more than you chew.

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