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FIRST-TIMER

This lip tat is about to be my longest relationship

I tattooed my lipstick on

It's technically called lip blushing, but I'm considering it a face tat for street cred.

By HANNAH CHAMBERS

Lately, my lips have given up on looking like lips. Their natural color has faded, and they just kinda...disappear into my mouth? Picture the moment when you've just caked on a full face of foundation but haven't done your lipstick yet. Yeah, like that.

Obviously this isn't a *huge* issue (my split ends are literally screaming at me to stop googling lip procedures and just schedule a damn trim; also, you know, world peace). But it's totally the kind of thing I'd fix if I could. That's why I became obsessed with lip blushing, a semipermanent tattoo-like process that defines and fills in your lips so you won't need more than gloss for a whole year or two.

With the help of *Cosmo's* beauty team (srsly, working here is the best job ever), I made an appointment with cosmetic tattoo wizard Christopher Drummond at PFRANKMD Skin Salon in NYC. He's been in the beauty industry for 25 years, so I trusted him with my face.

Also, Madonna goes there. Casual.

I told Drummond that I wasn't looking for anything dramatic. I just wanted to vamp up my natural color and enhance the shape of my lip line. He helped me find the exact right shade and then got to work inking on my new "lipstick" using a handheld tool



BEFORE

with customized needles and organic pigments. He did numb my lips first, so I barely felt anything except for a few sharp pinches. The entire procedure was shorter than an episode of *The Bachelorette*.

Drummond told me to expect dry, flaky, slightly tender lips for up to five days after the procedure. I lucked out and didn't

get any of that, although at first, my lips were way darker than the shade I picked out. Then I had a minor freak-out as it faded to look like I was rocking heavy liner sans lipstick. But by day six, there they were: my regular lips, except rosier and with a deeper Cupid's bow. (This is probs a good time to mention that lip blushing will set you back a steep \$1,500. I justified the cost

Now I describe my lips as "subtly Facetuned."



AFTER

by adding up all the \$30 lip kits I've bought and never used.)

I was really happy, but Drummond still suggested I come back in for a touch-up a few weeks later to get any spots that didn't soak up enough pigment the first time around. My only complaint is that I went in a little too early, which meant that lip blush number two was more painful than it needed to be. (Apparently, my nerves were still pissed about the whole "continuously running a needle over them" thing.) It was nothing some topical numbing cream couldn't combat. What stung a little more: the \$350 follow-up fee.

Now I'd describe the look of my lips as "subtly Facetuned"—meaning I'm still obsessed. Nobody else has really noticed, but I love knowing that my Cupid's bow is more defined and that my faded spots are gone. Also, FWIW, I've started exclusively using Aquaphor in place of my favorite lip tint because all I need is a little bit of sheen. ILU, but sorry, Benefit.