

# FEATHER FAUX PAS

One writer thinks this hair trend is “fowl”

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## » STEP 1: WANT

While Americans were tying feathers into their tresses, I was studying in Spain. And in Spain, there were very few feathers—although there was a strange proliferation of greasy mullets, Obi-Wan Kenobi rat tails, and short bangs.

I spent hours upon hours paging sullenly through my American friends’ Facebook pictures, envying their cutting-edge feathers more and more with each click. I was thrilled to find a hair trend I liked after living so long in a land of not-so-enticing hair fads. Feathers were so flashy and different. I immediately decided adding a feather into my hair would be my first priority when I returned to the United States.

## STEP 2: ACKNOWLEDGMENT

What I found at home was not what I’d imagined. It was a feather-pocalypse.

Big feathers, small feathers, neon feathers. Feathers with beads. Feathers with sparkles. Somehow during my six months out of the country everyone—and her mom and kid sister—had woven feathers into her hair.

“Had everyone been attacked by those aggressive ladies at the hair extension kiosks in the malls?” I wondered. I had, after all, been a hapless victim of their handiwork multiple times. The magic curling iron, the super-fast straightener, the Swarovski butterfly clips—those are some determined women.

I couldn’t do it. I simply couldn’t bring myself to get a feather—not with my little sister’s friends and “cool” moms prancing around with glitter-pink feathers in their manes.

Weeks after this disappointment, I tried—in vain—to fill my featherless void with silent words of comfort: I can’t pull it off anyway. I’m better without one. I can’t afford it. I’ll get short bangs or an Obi-Wan Kenobi rat tail instead—no one here has those yet.

And then, one fateful day, I discovered that Steven Tyler joined the hair feather flock. I wiped away my featherless tears and saw the unfettered reality before me: This has gone too far.

Are we too busy knotting more feathers into our hair to see the truth? Are we blinded by the feathers’ plastic-y softness and mass-produced dye patterns? Feathers are taking over.



## STEP 3: ONLY YOU CAN SAVE MICK JAGGER

Just consider all of the innocent, dried-up rock stars’ reputations we can save by saying “no” to feathers in the future. Will Adam Levine still boast of having “moves like Jagger” if Mick has a long peacock feather tied into his hair? And how will Ke\$ha decide whom to kick to the curb without first comparing him to Mick? We must stand up for our has-been rock gods. The careers of pop musicians looking for words that rhyme with swagger depend on it.

## STEP 4: A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Helpless rock stars aside, I can only wonder what else we’ll start fusing into our locks. Will we stop at nothing to individualize ourselves with organic materials? Ribbons of faux-snakeskin? Braids made of pleather? Why don’t we go green and tie in recyclables while we’re at it? Perhaps pieces of Campbell’s Soup cans, pop tabs, or sea glass? These potential fads, sparked by hair feathers, pose health—and fashion—risks.

## STEP 5: MAKE PEACE

I still like you, and I still like your feather. Secretly, I’m jealous of it. Feathers will always hold a special place in my heart. But do you really want to have the same hairstyle as Steven Tyler and those moms who still shop at Abercrombie & Fitch? Do you want to take away Ke\$ha’s rhymes?

If you answered “no” to any of those questions, reconsider your feather. It might be time to let it go and opt for a glamorous strand of puka shells or Swarovski crystals instead.

Trust me, the hair extension kiosk women will be happy you did. **DM**