

KATIE'S CUT FOR \$20

You don't need a celebrity bank account to sport this summer's hottest haircut. Our Eloise Parker took a deep breath and went for the chop.



Posh Spice got it first, and now, though she denies copycatting, new best friend Katie Holmes has cemented the boyish bob as this summer's major hair trend.

Proving this isn't just a look for ex-Spice Girls and A-list moms, Sienna Miller, Rosario Dawson and Selma Blair have also sported their own hip versions of the new gamine look du jour.

And what could be better for the long, hot summer ahead than a short, cool, low-maintenance crop?

It sure beats the Britney buzz cut, and if Katie can do it, well, so can I.

Following Katie's lead, I decided it was high time to take the plunge and liberate myself from my own lanky, long locks.

"Summer's a great time to get

this cut — it's very low-maintenance and it makes a statement," enthused Ivory, my hair stylist at Dramatics NYC, a salon that proves you don't need Katie's megabucks to get her movie-star look, offering walk-in wash and cuts from just \$20.

"It's becoming very popular. It all started with Victoria Beckham," she added, confirming that an increasing number of

clients are asking for the distinctive look.

Luckily, this is one style that works for almost anyone.

"A bob is very versatile — I think everybody's sick and tired of extensions. Just ask your stylist to make sure it's cut along the jaw line and longer toward the face," Ivory advises would-be crop stars who want to capture this fresh take on the classic bob.

Sitting in the stylist's chair as Ivory lopped off my 10-inch ponytail, I wondered if Katie suffered the same momentary panic as I did, or worried what her other half would think when she strolled in postchop?

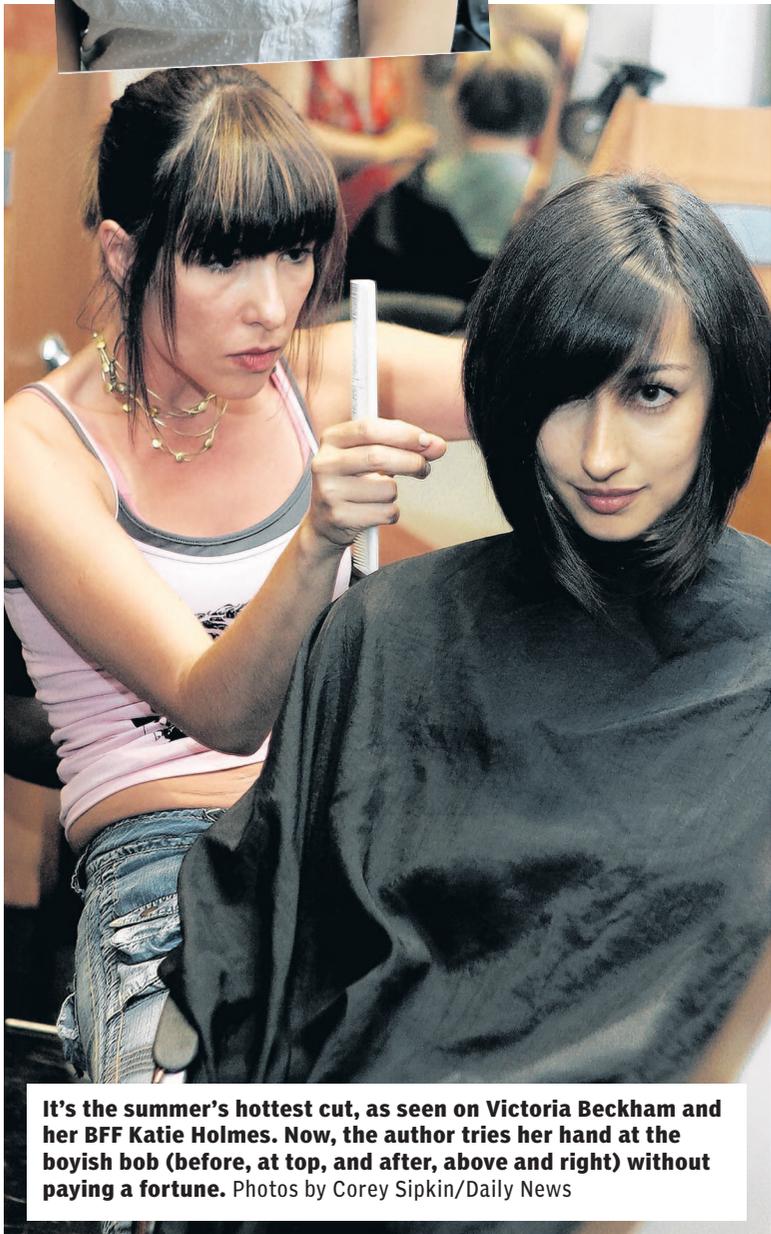
Judging by Tom's adoring gaze, he's as happy as my husband is with my dramatic new look.

Feeling strangely lighter and certainly more polished than I ever did with long hair, I found myself doing a double take every time I caught my reflection in a store window on the way home.

A few days later, I'm still sold. It's definitely easier to style, cutting off several minutes of blow-drying time with the help of a round brush and a slick of serum.

And for those of us who don't have Posh and Katie's army of top stylists at the ready, Hollywood hair has never been easier.

Dramatics NYC has nine locations throughout Manhattan. To find your nearest salon, visit dramaticsnyc.com.



It's the summer's hottest cut, as seen on Victoria Beckham and her BFF Katie Holmes. Now, the author tries her hand at the boyish bob (before, at top, and after, above and right) without paying a fortune. Photos by Corey Sipkin/Daily News