UST call it the incredible shrinking behind!

THEN

Kim Kardashian stunned friends and fans when she showed off a strikingly smaller posterior during an appearance in London on May 17 – leading to speculation that she may have had surgery or removed the "butt pads" she was rumored to wear.

But those close to the 31-year-old reality star say it isn't so. They insist she's shrunk her buns the old-fashioned way!

KIM HAS LONG MAINTAINED

that her nether region is all natural. She even flashed Xrays on "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" to prove it. But the bootylicious beauty began packing on the pounds after filing for divorce from basketball star Kris Humphries late last year, and sources say she was stunned when she realized how big she had become.

With a hectic schedule ahead of her – including three more seasons of her reality show to film, plus promoting the weight-loss





NOV

Bootylicious

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT Kin shrinks her biggest asset system QuickTrim – Kim knew she had to take drastic measures. Insiders say she embarked on a take-noprisoners weight loss and workout program and has already lost 20 pounds!

"Kim took a look in the mirror a few months back, and said, 'I look like a blimp and my rear end is massive! How can I promote a weight-loss regimen looking like this?" said a source. "She immediately got to work, determined to look her best."

Kim has cut down her diet to between 1,500 and 1,700 calories a day, giving up cheeseburgers, pizza and french fries. In their place, she's opting for turkey burgers, grilled chicken and all-organic veggie treats – like salads drizzled with her own special dressing made from nonfat sour cream, nonfat mayo and seasonings.

AND EVERY MORNING, THE

reality queen hits the treadmill before heading off to a daily Pilates workout with her personal trainer.

Beverly Hills plastic surgeon Dr. Ashkan Ghavami told The ENQUIRER that "a focused, fat-burning and muscle-toning regimen" may be responsible for Kim's striking new physique. He added that he does not believe she has undergone liposuction.

"In general, liposuctioning of the buttocks is a no-no," he explained. "It can create a lot of problems with sagging skin and cause buttock sagging to occur prematurely. I think the Kardashian camp is smarter than that, to ruin her famous derriere.

"Most likely she has been working with a trainer and dietitian."

The source added: "The difference between last August and now is stunning – and it's the inches that she's taken off her rump that are the most dramatic."

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