

Ms...



Bananarama are moving house. After years up on the 11th floor of a block of flats in Holborn, the three girls have decided it's time to get their feet back firmly on the ground.

Now it's off to London's Kentish Town and a house (or to be more accurate –



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three houses) in the sun . . . But how will they handle this new domestic bliss? Can they all cook? Will there be any carpets?

No. 1 decided to set the three girls a domestic version of our famous Ms-Ms-&Ms game. . . .

& Ms



The rules: Paul Simper took each girl aside on her own and quizzed her about the other two.

Then he got all three together and each answered her own set of questions. Points were awarded for each correct answer, of course.

Can she cook eggs without breaking the yolk?

Siobhan: Yeah. She's a dab hand in the kitchen.

Sarah: She doesn't like eggs. She doesn't like the white membranes in them.

Keren's answer: Yes.

Reactions:–

Sarah: You don't like eggs.

Keren: I came back on them yesterday.

How often does she wash her hair?

Siobhan: A couple of times a week.

Sarah: Oh God! Every day.

Keren's answer: Twice a week.

Reactions:–

Sarah: (Horrorified whisper) Liar!

Keren: I don't wash it any more than twice.

Sarah: You're never out of the bathroom.

Siobhan: (To Keren) I get a point because I knew you'd lie so I lied!

What will be her most prized possession in her new house?

Siobhan: She got a portable colour TV from her mum for Xmas – probably that.

Sarah: The mug rack her auntie gave her.

Keren's answer: TV. (On hearing Sarah's answer) I'd hardly call that prized!

Does she do any exercises in the flat?

Siobhan: (Dirty laugh) Hurr! . . . No, she does occasionally but she's not devoted.

Sarah: She has the odd spurt.

Keren's answer: No. (On hearing the girls'

Siobhan: (Changing her mind) Me.

What would she do if she got a dirty phone call?

Siobhan: She used to get one. I think she tried finding out who it was and how he got the number and when she couldn't she hung up.

Sarah: She passed it on to me . . . (Then, reassuringly) I'm more experienced with that kind of thing. I just chatted him up and then Terry (Sarah's boyfriend) got on the



Siobhan: Dog Day Afternoon with Al Pacino.

Sarah: Rocky – no, she hates him! Dog Day Afternoon.

Keren's answer: The Godfather.

Reactions:–

Sarah and Siobhan: Ohhh!

Does she make better tea or coffee?

Siobhan: She never makes any! Tea, I think.

Sarah: Keren's better at squash.

Keren's answer: Tea.

Reactions:–

Keren: (On hearing Siobhan's answer) Ooh, hark who's talking!

Siobhan: I always make it for visitors.

Would she put a name plaque outside her house?

Siobhan: (Laughs) No, I doubt it.

Sarah: No. If she did it'd be 'Nonny Jean Woodward'. (Note: 'nonny' is apparently an ancient Bethnal Green phrase, the meaning of which has been lost in the mists of time.)

Keren's answer: No. If I did it would say 'Nonny-vent'!

Reactions:–

Paul: Bonus for Sarah for one word right.

Does she ever play her records too loud?

Siobhan: Yeah, but Sarah's the worst culprit for that.

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Keren

answers) Well, occasionally. Half each.

Is she at her best in the morning or evening?

Siobhan: I don't think any of us are at our best in the morning. The evening.

Sarah: The evening.

Keren's answer: Afternoon. Not in the morning anyway. Let's face it, who's at their best in the morning?

phone 'cos he wouldn't go!

Keren's answer: Just listen – and if they kept ringing, get Terry to shout down the phone in a Belfast accent.

What's her favourite video in the flat?

Sarah: No, never. She hasn't got many records.

Keren's answer: No, because my stereo's broken.

Reactions:–

Sarah: (On hearing Siobhan's answer) Oh, sure – that's you, Siobhan.

Keren: (Sarcastic) What an honest answer from Siobhan. I have to turn mine up to hear over hers!

How often does she clean her room?

Keren: More often than she touches the rest of the flat. It's the only room she cleans.

Sarah: She does that quite often. That's the only room she cleans. She just brushes all the dust out into the hall.

Siobhan's answer: Once a week.

Reactions:-

Siobhan: (On hearing Keren's comments) Untrue.

Sarah: Well, there is a kitty . . . let's just say she's always last! She did buy some washing-up liquid though.

Siobhan's answer: No. The last thing I bought was washing-up liquid. I do tend to lag behind on the kitty.

What colour will her carpets be in the new house?

Keren: A neutral colour like grey or beige.

It's all a lie. A vicious, cruel lie!

Will she spend much time decorating her new house?

Keren: Yeah.

Sarah: Yes. she'll make a good job of it. She's got very good taste.

Siobhan's answer: Unfortunately I s'pose I'll have to. As little time as possible though.

Reactions:-

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Siobhan

Sarah: It smarts!

Keren: I'm afraid most of my answers will smart.

When was the last time she did the washing-up?

Keren: I can't remember. She *might* have slipped a small wash in during the week – if we're lucky.

Sarah: Let me cast my mind back to February '82 . . . No, she does do it occasionally.

Siobhan's answer: Yesterday. I *always* do the washing-up.

Reactions:-

Keren: No chance!

Siobhan: Every morning. Bloody hell!

Is she good with money?

Keren: No, she never seems to find time to get to the bank. She's very disorganised.

Sarah: No. She always gets her cheque book handy but never quite makes the bank.

Siobhan's answer: No. I always miss the bank.

Does she do much shopping for the flat?

Keren: She's well behind on the kitty. Me and Sarah are always well ahead.

Sarah: Puce or dusky grey – whatever colour that is!

Siobhan's answer: I'm toying with the idea of pale blue at the moment.

Reactions:-

Sarah and Keren: That's grey, innit?

Does she sing in the bathroom?

Keren: She sings *everywhere*! Bill from downstairs is always complaining.

Sarah: Oh yes. High, piercing songs – everywhere.

Siobhan's answer: (Slightly embarrassed) Occasionally.

Does she ever leave all the lights on?

Keren: Yeah, she tends to go out and leave the fire blazing, the lights on, the TV – the whole darn lot!

Sarah: Lights, fire, video, music – everything. *And* when she falls asleep.

Siobhan's answer: (Innocently) Me? No, not really.

Reactions:-

Siobhan: (On hearing the others' answers)

Siobhan: (On hearing Sarah's compliment) Why, thank you!

Karen: Yeah, but we're both wrong!

What's her worst habit?

Keren: It's gotta be not cleaning up. Although she will insist when she answers this, 'I always clean the bathroom'.

Sarah: Going to empty the rubbish bins, breaking the bag and then leaving it for somebody else to clear up.

Siobhan's answer: Leaving pots to soak, perhaps?

Reactions:-

Siobhan: (On hearing the first part of Keren's answer) I *always* clean the bathroom.

Keren: Yeah! I told you – one bonus point!

Siobhan: (On Sarah's) Oh yes. I am a *bit* negligent with the bins.

Does she ever hog the phone?

Keren: She's never off it. But I don't mind because she always gets up in the morning to answer it and me and Sarah can lie in.

Sarah: Yes, she does.

Siobhan's answer: I'm the only one who answers the goddam thing.

Reactions:-

Paul: Bonus to Keren for thoroughness. ■





What's the best meal she cooks?

Siobhan: Gammon steak.

Keren: Her old favourite used to be cauliflower cheese but I'm not sure if she still does that. She does a fry-up in the morning and the odd Sunday roast.

Sarah's answer: Bacon and eggs.

Reactions:-

(Keren applauds then goes for a bonus . . .)

Keren: And what's the other one you used to be good at?

Siobhan: *(Hopefully)* Gammon steak, wasn't it?

Sarah: *(Roars with laughter)* Cauliflower cheese.

Keren: There you go! One point and one bonus.

What was the last thing she bought for the flat?

Siobhan: I don't know. I guess I could chance my arm with Ajax.

Keren: Probably a bottle of washing-up liquid.

Sarah's answer: Gas.

Reactions:-

Keren: What'd you buy gas for? I said washing-up liquid.

Siobhan: *(Proudly)* I bought that.

Keren: I didn't know that so I assumed Sarah bought it!

Will she have any pets in her new

house?

Siobhan: We've all been toying with the idea of getting dogs but I don't think she plans to get one. So, *no*.

Keren: Terry!

Sarah's answer: We may have a dog.

Reactions:-

Siobhan: *(Triumphant)* Ah ha!

Mel *(Sarah's best mate, who has been playing quiz hostess, interrupts):* No, you

said *no!*

Siobhan: I said she *might*.

Paul: One to Siobhan.

Does she clean the bath after she's used it?

Siobhan: As far as I know.

Keren: Yeah.

Sarah's answer: Yeah.

Who does she most hate on TV??

Siobhan: There's a lot of contenders for this one! She particularly detests the girl with ginger hair on *That's Life*.

Keren: I dunno – that's all we do, sitting in front of the TV picking fault with people!

Sarah's answer: Max Bygraves.

Does she eat many chocolates?

Siobhan: She's not a chocolate girl, actually. When she does, I'd say she goes for ordinary bars.

Keren: Not many. She likes mini-rolls.

Sarah's answer: No. If I did I'd have Minstrels.

What would she do if an angry neighbour came to the door complaining about the noise?

Siobhan: Hide in her bedroom!

Keren: Stand with her hands on her hips and tell them where to go.

Sarah's answer: Probably just stand there

Sarah: I didn't cower – I didn't even hear him that time.

Paul: Full point to Keren for accuracy; half to Siobhan.

Does she put the top back on the toothpaste?

Siobhan: We all have separate toothpaste. I'm sure she does though.

Keren: As far as I know, yeah. But she always squeezes her toothpaste from the middle.

Sarah's answer: Yes.

Reactions:-

Paul: And there's the chance of a bonus . . .

Keren: *(Prompting)* It's a complaint I get from Terry to do with the toothpaste tube.

Sarah: Oh, I squeeze it from the centre.

Does she ever watch breakfast TV?

Siobhan: Well, I haven't ever seen her.

Keren: I've not noticed it.

Sarah: No.

Does she leave empty beer cans lying around?

Siobhan: She doesn't really drink beer.

Keren: No, she doesn't drink beer. She probably has to pick up Terry's!

Sarah's answer: I don't drink beer.

Reactions:-

Keren: My exact quote, I believe.

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Sarah

and say sod off, like I did last time!

Reactions:-

Siobhan: *(Indignant)* I answered the door last time and she cowered in her room!

AND THE COUNT-UP . . .

Third with 12½ was Sarah, second with 13 was Siobhan and yes, first is Ms Keren Woodward with a gigantic 16½!

Reactions:-

Sarah: Keren was pushing for the bonuses though.

Keren: *(Philosophically)* You have to push, Sarah, if you're going to get anywhere.