

This survey is not about Denise Huxtable.



Hello there. I'm Qasim.

A bit about me.

I grew up in the 80s and 90s watching The Cosby Show¹, A Different World², Fame and loving the Jacksons and of course, Prince. But all I wanted to be as a queer, brown, Muslim boy was Denise Huxtable. She was everything. She had style, was edgy and quietly rebellious. I often thought about how much of Denise I can appropriate as a bearded man.

Google her if you don't know who she is - now.

Let's start playing. More about me later (if we meet). By now you should know that from 1984 to 1993, Lisa Bonet played Denise Huxtable on The Cosby Show and A Different World.

Will the real Denise Huxtable please step forward.

¹ "The Cosby Show" ran for eight seasons beginning in 1984 and is often given credit for the success of future generations of the sitcom genre. Addressing the dynamics of an upper-middle class family and how they deal with teenage issues (with a comedic approach), "The Cosby Show" was one of the most beloved sitcoms in TV history. It is no longer one of the most beloved sitcoms in TV history. (Wikipedia)

² The series, A Different World (a spin-off of The Cosby Show) originally centred on Denise Huxtable and the life of students at Hillman College, a fictional, historically black college in Virginia. It was inspired by student life at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). (Wikipedia)

Denise Huxtable showed us that 'it's okay to be a freak', says Bonet.

1. Have you ever felt, in retrospect, as though you have lived out the life of your favourite TV sit-com character?
a. Yes (Name Character). _____ b. No.
2. I have, do you want to talk about those parallels?
a. Yes, please. b. No, thank you. c. Well, I'm here so I might as well.
3. If I could be the most beautiful woman in the world, I would be:
a. Denise Huxtable
b. Denise Huxtable
c. Denise Huxtable
d. Other: _____
4. If you have ticked Other, explain why your chosen person is worthier than Denise Huxtable for the honour of most beautiful woman in the world:

5. Have you ever applied more make up on one side of your face than the other?
a. Yes. b. No
6. I lived Denise's life. I travelled and worked as a photographers assistant, worked with young people with learning challenges, reworked every single hairstyle she had, nurtured dreadlocks and even got married to person with a child from a previous marriage. Are you most like the Denise Huxtable that grows up to become:
a. A fashion designer
b. A teaching assistant working with children with learning challenges
c. A photographer's assistant
d. A stay at home mom
7. Design an outfit [sideways] that you think Denise Huxtable would wear.

8. Which of the following songs do you want to dance with Denise to:
- a. Moody's Mood for Love
 - b. Pump Up the Volume
 - c. It's A Wonderful World.
 - d. I don't know these songs, but I want to dance to _____.
9. Find somebody in the room, and dance with them, or in their direction.

10. Tell me three things about your first crush that you haven't told anyone else. _____

11. Would you tell your mom that when you were at your best friend's bridal shower, your best friend confided in you that she was pregnant, and that her pregnancy was the only reason for the marriage?
- a. Yes
 - b. No

12. Draw a hat/head piece for Denise.



13. How would you describe your parents?
- a. Crazy
 - b. Funny
 - c. Boring
 - d. Calm and collected

14. Who were you in high school? (Select all that apply)

- a. The jock
- b. The class clown
- c. The trouble maker.
- d. The valedictorian

15. Are you close to your family?

- a. Yeah, pretty close
- b. Sure, we always got along
- c. No, I don't like them.
- d. Kind of, but we don't talk much

16. What is the most childish thing you still do?

17. Describe a time when you let someone take the blame for something you did? _____

18. 'Both of my parents would say they were atheists, so where I inherited my connection to God I don't know. But it was natural. No bible, no Torah, just the love of religion.' (Bonet, 2011)

Do you belong to an organised religion?

- a. Yes, please specify: _____
- b. No
- c. Sometimes, please specify: _____

19. What is Ramadhan?

- a. A time to reflect
- b. A time to rebalance
- c. A time to detox
- d. A time to re-watch all 8 seasons of Cosby Show

20. Words that best describe your choice of hairstyle are:

- a. Soft, long, flowing.
- b. Classic, neat, sophisticated
- c. No-fuss, low-maintenance, natural.
- d. Trendy, head-turning, unique

21. Eye shadow?

- a. Glittery pastels
- b. Sophisticated look with clear, non-frosted shades
- c. Natural, cool pink or warm peach tones
- d. Rich shades with vibrant colours to complement your eye shadow

22. Denise's hair style you most identify with?

- a. Middle parted, ironed hair
- b. Dreadlocks
- c. Afro
- d. Curled and set

23. Which style of makeup do you wear most often or like the best?
- Soft & Pastel
 - Deep muted shades
 - Neutral, one or two colours at a time
 - Different colours & techniques, intense shades
24. You have just a few hours to yourself. You:
- Curl up by the fire, drink tea and read a crime novel
 - Shop for antiques. Catch up on current events. Volunteer at a local charity
 - Take a long walk. Play with your puppy. Cook a special meal for your mate
 - Soak in a hot tub. Get a manicure. Read an academic journal
25. Which overall fashion style best describes you?
- Feminine, soft, flowing clothing. Vintage styles and accessories
 - Tailored clothing, sophisticated styles, simple lines; quality fabrics
 - Simple, natural and always comfortable; relaxed separates
 - Fashion forward styles; I like creating a statement with my apparel
26. You're meeting friends for a casual dinner. You would most likely wear:
- A long skirt, blouse, wrap, belts and boots
 - A turtleneck with slacks, alligator belt, and gold earrings; tailored pant suit
 - A knit sweater or button-down oxford with jeans and boots; everyday handbag
 - A suede or leather skirt or pants with a bold-print blouse; Westwood handbag and vintage jewellery
27. Please read the following quote to someone or aloud to yourself.
- "When I think back to that time, I just recall my own naivety and my own love for the craft and how it felt to pursue my career. I don't feel the same about my work now as I did when I was a kid. Then I was an 'actor' and I was going to move to New York and 'study' and I'd watch all the old movies and really concentrate on becoming somebody. Now the whole process has shifted. It's more internal. I am much more connected to something larger than myself. That's how I'm feeling now. So when I think of myself as an actor today, I think of it more as an opportunity to represent the spirit and do something powerful and positive to help uplift humanity. It's become less personal and more of a mission to participate in something exceptional."***³
- I love her. Isn't she just so profound? Yes. Yes.

³ Lisa Bonet, Untold 1999.

28. Your signature accessories are:
- a. Antique jewellery, shawls, vintage evening bags
 - b. Pearls, fine leather handbags and pumps
 - c. Everyday purse, sandals or boots, watch
 - d. The latest designer shoes, purses, belts, sunglasses and jewellery
29. What are the challenges of being married to a handsome divorcee and a good father? _____

30. What is it about somebody that makes you fall in love? _____

31. Why are you in a relationship?
- a. I like hanging out with my sweetheart. We do fun stuff with family and friends and they like me for who I am
 - b. It's been so long, I kind of forget
 - c. I feel like I can't get out
 - d. I'm not in a relationship
32. How often do you and your sweetheart talk and text?
- a. We talk and text when we both have time
 - b. We talk and text from the time we get up to the time we go to bed
 - c. I have to answer their calls and texts right away or they get angry or scared
 - d. I don't have anyone to talk and text
33. If your partner asked you to change your earrings because you were meeting their mom for the first time, would you?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
34. If your partner pretended to be Prince and sang 'If I were your girlfriend', which statement would give you butterflies?
- a. Remember to tell me all the things you forgot when I was your man
 - b. Take care of you and do all the things that only a best friend can
 - c. Let me dress you, I mean, help you pick your clothes before we go out
 - d. Run to me if somebody hurt you, even if that somebody was me

35. If you break up someday, how would they handle it?
- a. They would want to be friends
 - b. I've tried to break up a couple times, but we keep getting back together
 - c. I think they would stalk me
 - d. I have no one to break up with
36. Have they ever cheated on you?
- a. I know for a fact that they have not
 - b. Yes, but we decided to stay together
 - c. Yes, but they said it was my fault because I wouldn't give them what they needed
 - d. No one cheats on me
37. Look around the room and unassumingly look somebody in the eye and break up with them.
38. Look around the room and unassumingly look somebody in the eye and start a new relationship with them.
39. How has your life changed since you started this new relationship
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40. If you were me would you keep looking for that love you never found? Yes (and for how long): _____. No.
41. Read the following to someone in the room, or in their direction:

'I see you walking with her and you really look like you're in love. Boy she's really got you. She's the one you're thinking of. I've been watching baby. To see just how far you would go. When you move, be careful. Because I think that there's something you don't know. I bet she's got a boyfriend that she's not telling you about.'

Go to Youtube, type 'I bet she's got a boyfriend' by Shanice and listen to those lyrics as you complete the survey.