

MOTHER LOVE--SMOTHER LOVE A QUIZ ABOUT DORIS ROBERTS

BY
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YOU probably know her. You might even be her, if you have a “zun” (son). Mothers who are a bit too...controlling (usually but not always), they are the mothers of sons. They have trouble cutting the “fartekh” (apron) strings. For some reason, a lot of these mothers are Jewish.

If the son happens to break free and marry the woman he loves, then that “umgliklekh” (unfortunate) woman will find herself coping with the Mother-In-Law From Hell, who will be hyper-critical, dismissive and condemning of everything.

Doris Roberts (“Everybody Loves Raymond”) was born in 1925. Her mother, Ann, was Russian American. She raised her daughter in the Bronx, with the assistance of her Jewish parents, after her husband deserted the family.

She began acting on “Studio One” (1952), “The Naked City” (1958-63), “Ben Casey” (1963) and “The Defenders” (1962-63). She has usually been cast as a mother or “shviger” (mother-in-law).

Roberts achieved her widest fame for her role as Marie

Barone on “Everybody Loves Raymond.” She was reportedly one of 100 actresses considered for the role.

For her work on the show, she was nominated for seven Emmy Awards--and won four times for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a comedy series.

Grab a #2 pencil and let’s see how well you fare on this not-so-serious DORIS ROBERTS QUIZ.

1. Actress Doris Roberts has played the role of mother to

- a) Billy Crystal
- b) Bette Midler
- c) Tony Danza
- d) Marlo Thomas
- e) Brad Garrett
- f) Ray Romano
- g) All of the above

2. How does Roberts feel about aging?

- a) “You can call me an older woman - I don’t mind that at all - just don’t call me an old one, because I’m not.”
- b) “You know you’re getting older when all those wrinkle-reducing creams are not doing a darn thing.”
- c) “You know you’re getting older when ‘Zippety-Doo-Dah’ was your favorite song.
- d) “Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do.”
- e) “When I was young there was no respect for the young, and now that I’m old, there is no respect for the old. I missed out coming and going.”
- f) “The secret of aging is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age.”
- g) “Twenty years ago it was accurate to show a senior coming in for his check-up dragging his oxygen tank. Today he would be dragging his golf clubs.”

3. What is Marie’s (“Everybody Loves Raymond”) attitude about children?

- a) “Children make the most desirable opponents in Scrabble, as they are both easy to beat and fun to cheat.”
- b) “Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.”
- c) She “KVELLS” over her real life son, Michael, who is also her manager.

- d) "No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement."
- e) Little children, little joys; big children, big worries."
(In Yiddish) "KLEYNE KINDER, KLEYNE FREYDN; GROYSE KINDER, GROYSE ZORGN."
- f) Children and money make a nice world.
(In Yiddish): "KINDER UN GELT MAKHN A SHEYNE VELT."
- g) Beyond Valium
the peace of knowing one's
child is an internist.
- h) "Don't fret over married children; they will take care of themselves."

4. How does Doris Roberts feel about beauty?

- a) "A woman has to realize that at fifty she cannot keep her face and her figure. A thin woman will get wrinkles sooner than a fat one. My advice has always been: have a lovely face and sit down."
- b) "There's no magazine you open unless it's AARP, that shows a woman over the age of 45 in any other light, other than having to buy Depends or Viagra."
- c) "I'm comfortable in my own skin."
- d) I've struggled with my weight...and I live in Hollywood, where a size four is considered the chubby side...and a bit on the barely employable side."

5. Re: cooking/food

- a) Doris Roberts really cooks.
- b) Roberts was the spokesperson for the Con Agra Foods Home Initiative; the organization emphasizes proper food preparation and handling
- c) "Jews always know two good things: suffering and where to find good Chinese food."
- d) "My last meal will be 'GRIVENES'--chicken fat rendered with some onion and a dash of garlic."
- e) Doris (Marie Barone) is like every mother in the world. How can she get the kids back? With food. It's like a culinary hostage trade-off. Take the manicotti. Give me my son. Nobody gets hurt."

6. What does Doris say about her three grandchildren?

- a) When her grandson, Andrew, was 9, and examined a picture of Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden, he said, "EVE GAVE ADAM THE APPLE, THEN GOD SHOULD HAVE THROWN HER OUT AND GIVEN ADAM A TIME OUT!"
- b) "Never have children, only grandchildren."
- c) "I can't talk now, there's too much fruit in the house." (see question 11)
- d) "My grandchildren think that 'NACHES' /'NAKHES' (joy/gratification) is a CORN CHIP and that a "SHLEPARD" is a person burdened with transport.

7. Ms. Roberts loves the Raymond set, which the set decorators have outfitted like a real house. In the episode about plastic slipcovers,
 - a) Marie's living room has plastic slipcovers on the living room upholstery
 - b) The furniture is saved for mythical "good company" who never arrived
 - c) In one episode Debra convinced Marie to take off the plastic because they were so unstylish and uncomfortable
 - d) When Marie's sons sat down on the naked sofa, they looked more uneasy than they ever did on the plastic covers
 - e) All of the above

8. "Give Marie Barone a void and she'll find a way to fill it," according to her book, "Are You Hungry, Dear?" In the sitcom, "Everybody Loves Raymond," after the housecleaning is done, the cooking completed and the gossip re-circulated, she has many hours left to
 - a) calculate how to get her hooks back into her sons' lives
 - b) advise them on what they should be doing
 - c) use the benefit of her experience to avoid making poor choices and mistakes
 - d) advise Robert what every Jewish mother knows: become an obituaryaholic.
"This is how you find an apartment in New York City. What you do is you read the obituary column. Yeah! You find out who died and see the super of the building IMMEDIATELY.

9. When Marie ("Everybody Loves Raymond") is "UMGLIKLEKH" (unhappy), no one else in the house can be "GLIKLEKH" (happy).
 - a) True
 - b) False

10. Marie ("Everybody Loves Raymond") is famous for her
 - a) knaidel/knaydel
 - b) lasagna
 - c) "GEHAKTE LEBER" (chopped liver)
 - d) "LATKES" (If you have latkes, what more do you need?)

11. Birthday gifts often cause a dispute. One episode dealt with Robert giving his mother, Marie, a present. What made her so upset?
 - a) Robert gave her a wristwatch. She said, "It's very nice, but I won't wear it. Wristwatches always break on me. I'll put it in the vault an when I die, it can be a part of your inheritance."
 - b) Robert signed her up as a member of the Fruit of the Month Club, a club that delivers a BIG BOX of top-quality seasonal fruit every month. Marie received the first shipment--48 PEARS! She asked, "How can I eat all those pears? Please, do me a favor. Don't buy any more fruit."
 - c) Robert presented her with an album by Rick Moranis, the comic, titled "My Mother's Brisket and Other Love Songs"

12. What did Doris Roberts say to the world when she won an Emmy for her work on "Everybody Loves Raymond"?
- "I'm seventy-one tonight and I'm still kicking."
 - "When something good happens it's a miracle and you should wonder what God is saving up for you later."
 - "In this business you either sink or swim or you don't."
 - "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."
13. Which facts of life would Marie Barone discuss with Debra (Patricia Heaton), her daughter-in-law?
- "Why is there's so much clutter with the toys and stuffed animals heaped on the the stairs?"
 - "I do have eyes in the back of my head."
 - "Why is it that your children's bedrooms always appear burglarized?"
 - "Why is it that a full refrigerator and pantry always elicit the same comment-- THERE'S NOTHING TO EAT!?"
14. Doris is in the kitchen fixing ziti; Frank (Peter Boyle) will be craving it in 15 minutes. What will she yell (without walking into the living room to verify that it's true)?
- "How many times do I have to tell you we don't drink out of the carton? We're not animals. Get a glass."
 - "Frank, stop scratching yourself and wash up, the ziti's almost ready."
 - "Frank, don't use the guest towels."
15. When Marie Barone verbally attacks Robert for being single, she says,
- "You're torturing me!"
 - "You're into your 40s--and you still can't settle down!"
 - "For God's sake, do you want to die alone?"
 - All of the above
16. In episode 59, "The Toaster," Ray buys the family engraved toasters for Christmas. Everybody loves them, except Frank and Marie, who return theirs for a coffeemaker. What happens at the department store?
- Frank and Marie argue as they strategize about how to get Ray's toaster back.
 - Frank says to Marie, "Can't you just be quiet?" Marie replies, "Don't tell me to be quiet. I have a mind of my own, you know. I can contribute."
 - Marie says, "I'm not just some trophy wife."
 - Frank says, "You're a trophy wife? What contest in hell did I win?"
 - All of the above
17. Episode #94 is titled "Someone's Cranky." Robert is recovering from being gored by a bull. Yes, a bull! Rob is staying with his parents. Frank and Marie admit that Robert is driving them crazy ("mashuge"). What happens next?

- a) Robert says, "Raymond is an only child; they just forgot to tell me."
- b) Robert moves in with Ray and Debra; he sleeps on the plastic-covered couch.
- c) Robert moves back to his apartment...and when the family comes to visit, they say it smells of spoiled milk. Now it smells like a cow died in a warehouse."

18. Episode #169 was titled, "Baggage." What's the problem?

- a) There's a suitcase sitting at the foot of the stairs from Ray and Debra's vacation two weeks before. Neither Ray nor Debra have moved it.
- b) They are arguing about who should move it.
- c) Neither has said a word; they're waiting for each other to move it
- d) Frank tells Raymond, "If you move that suitcase you might as well put on a dress and change your name to Daisy-Mae."
- e) Marie tells Debra--tactfully--"Trust me, dear, it's not worth it. Go. Go move the luggage. You be the better person, hmm?"

19. Debra ("Everybody Loves Raymond") is so obsessed with her own culinary ineptitude and Marie's nagging criticism, that she breaks into Ray's parents' house to steal

- a) a prized meatball recipe
- b) Marie's favorite frying pan
- c) Marie's Thanksgiving recipe for tofu turkey

20. In 2005, the University of S. Caroline presented Doris Roberts with an Honorary Doctorate. Her granddaughter, Kelsey, commented, "It's just not fair, I have to go through four years of college and then another four years of graduate school to get my degree; you just have to get on a plane and go to S. Carolina. "But," replied the venerable actress "I had to spend 50 years of hard work to get mine."

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Who knows? "VER VAIST"?

ANSWERS:

- 1. g
- 2. a, e, and g
"c" was said by Janice Noll; "f" was said by Lucille Ball
- 3. c
"a" was said by Fran Lebowitz; b) was said by Erma Bombeck; d) was said by Florida Scott-Maxwell and g) was said by David M. Bader ("Haikus For Jews")
- 4. c and d
"a" was said by Barbara Cartland
- 5. a, b and e
- 6. a "b" was said by Gore Vidal; "shlepard" was coined by Lizzie Skurnick
- 7. e

8. a, b and c

9. a

10. b

11. b

12. e

13. a, b and c

14. a

15. b

16. b

17. a

18. a, b, c, and d

19. b

a) was said quite frequently to Robert

15. d

16. e

17. c

18. a, b, c, d, and e

19. a

20. a