
Elizabeth Noble

The Friendship Test
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First record: *Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?* by Culture Club. I hope you are asking about singles, not albums, because that was Olivia Newton John's *Physical*, which isn't quite as cool.

Favorite movie: I mostly only watch things once, but for Sunday afternoon purposes, *Gone With the Wind*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *The Sound of Music* will do nicely. My husband may not have married me if he had known about this.

Accessories: Bags and shoes. Bags because they are a non-weight-related purchase. No one ever looked me up and down appraisingly and told me they didn't have a bag in my size. Shoes because I have tiny feet, about which I am excessively vain — they are my only tiny bit.

Vodka or gin, red or white: Gin. With ice and a slice. I'm *British*. And white. Preferably Viognier. But if you really want to please me, it's a big glass of Cointreau, no ice, for me, thanks.

When I am happiest: When I am awoken with breakfast in bed by my wonderful husband and two adorable daughters after a four-hour lie-in.

Favorite heroine in literature: She's no glamourpuss, but that *Ántonia*, in Willa Cather's *My Ántonia* — she's got guts.

Favorite hero in literature: You can keep your brooding Darcys, Rochesters, Heathcliffs, and de Winter's — who needs it? I prefer a twinkle in the eye. Rhett Butler, I say.

Favorite modern author: Armistead Maupin. I read the entire *Tales of the City* series in about a week fifteen years ago, and I re-read them every few years. I love them more every time.

Favorite classic author: Has to be F. Scott Fitzgerald. Those books make you ache.