

Win! **2x**
£100
Crack our **CODE BREAKER**
and discover the winning word...

Code BREAKER

Each number in the grid below represents a different letter.

We've placed one starter word in the grid which shows you that **4 = W, 8 = E, 2 = N** and **25 = D**. We've also filled in all the **Ws** for you, and you can do the same for the **Es, Ns** and **Ds**. All 26 letters of the alphabet will appear - keep track by crossing them off at the bottom of the page.

4	8	2	25		18	8	14	19		24		19
26		11		3		5		3	15	19	8	26
3	19	19	3	6	5	8	26	24		8		3
2		8		16			19	10	21	24	23	
20	8	14		1	2	25	1	8			2	
14		8		10		26		25	11	2	11	26
8	2	19	10	19	14	8	25		13		11	
	8		2			3		8			12	
	24		6		10	17	21	10	2	20	8	24
10	19	6	7	23		8		2		8		1
	14		8	3	26	2	24		19	3	21	
18	8	22	8	14			10		19			26
11		3		14	3	2	25	24	14	10	25	8
18	3	2	9	11		10		19		2		17
24		8		4	10	19	7		11	20	14	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	N		W				E					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
											D	

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

FINISHED? Now, from the top, list the letters in the yellow squares for the winning word! Write it on the entry coupon, enter online, phone or text. See page 57.

Our Lives

Stairway to HELL

I went to a friend's barbecue and woke up five weeks later in hospital. What the heck had happened to me?
By Taleese Penna, 38



Me

As my husband Shane pulled into the driveway, I couldn't wait to get out of the car. 'Are we ready?' I called out to my kids Kyron and Azalyah in the backseat. 'Yeah!' they cheered. We'd left our eldest, Flynn, at home to housesit while we went to my friend Alana's house to watch a rugby final on TV. We'd planned to have a barbecue in the garden, and we had the perfect day for it. Alana had put on a huge spread with steaks, sausages, and salads - and it all looked delicious. 'Get stuck in!' she said. 'There's plenty to go around.' We were joined by some of her other friends and their kids and, while the children went off to play pool, us adults chatted on the patio and watched the rugby with a few drinks. When the match finished, I called over to Kyron, 'I

haven't seen your sister in a while, where is she?' 'It's OK. She's playing pool in the basement,' he replied. I got up and made my way inside with Kyron, heading towards the basement. But, as I placed a foot on the first of 12 steps at the top of the dark, narrow staircase, something awful happened. I lost my footing and, next thing I knew, I was plummeting towards the tiled floor like a sack of potatoes. Then blackness. When I opened my eyes

'It's OK. She's playing pool'



In hospital

ambulance which arrived within minutes, and I was rushed to A&E where I had emergency surgery. My brain had begun to swell, so surgeons spent five hours removing the left side of my skull to relieve the pressure. The operation had saved my life. In the days and weeks that followed, I was in and out of a coma and battled life-threatening sepsis, meningitis, as well as blood clots which nearly killed me. I had three seizures, too, and went into kidney failure. 'We thought you were going to die,' Shane said. 'I'd been given just a 10% chance of survival and Shane admitted he'd prepared the kids to say goodbye to me. 'In case the worst happened,' he said. I couldn't believe it. My family had been through hell but I didn't remember any of it. But then one day, I got up for a shower and looked in

the mirror and it hit me. 'Oh my God,' I cried in shock. I had no hair and half my skull was missing. Now, I'd seen myself, the memories slowly started to come back. They were hard to deal with and I was also in a lot of pain as I'd broken bones in my spine and shoulder too. One operation followed another and, after my skull was reattached, I was well enough to be transferred to a rehabilitation centre where the doctors and nurses were amazing. They got me back on my feet and, 81 days after the accident, I was finally able to go home. The children were waiting for me as I finally walked in

'Mum, we've missed you!'

through the door. 'Mum, we've missed you!' they cried. It felt incredible to be home but, while I was lucky to have survived, realistically, I knew I was still at the start of a very long journey. 'I can't do things like I used to,' I said to Shane. I couldn't focus properly and when I woke up I'd often find I was dizzy. Over time, I regained some strength, although I wasn't able to cook or clean much. One of the biggest blows was not being able to work. I'd been a beautician and had just set up my own business, but I had to give up that dream because I was so tired all the time. The very worst thing, however, was totally losing my sense of taste and smell. Not being able to enjoy food was one thing, but I couldn't smell smoke or tell if food had gone bad. This whole ordeal has left me with a lot less independence and Shane and the children unfortunately, have paid a price too. However, doctors say I'm recovering well and, while I know life will never be the same again, a year into my recovery I feel so grateful to be alive. I'm hoping that time will heal the physical and emotional scars and I try to live in the moment, rather than thinking about what-ifs. Still, it's crazy to think how one fleeting moment can change your whole life.



Me and Shane

By Danielle Lett and Hatie Bishop