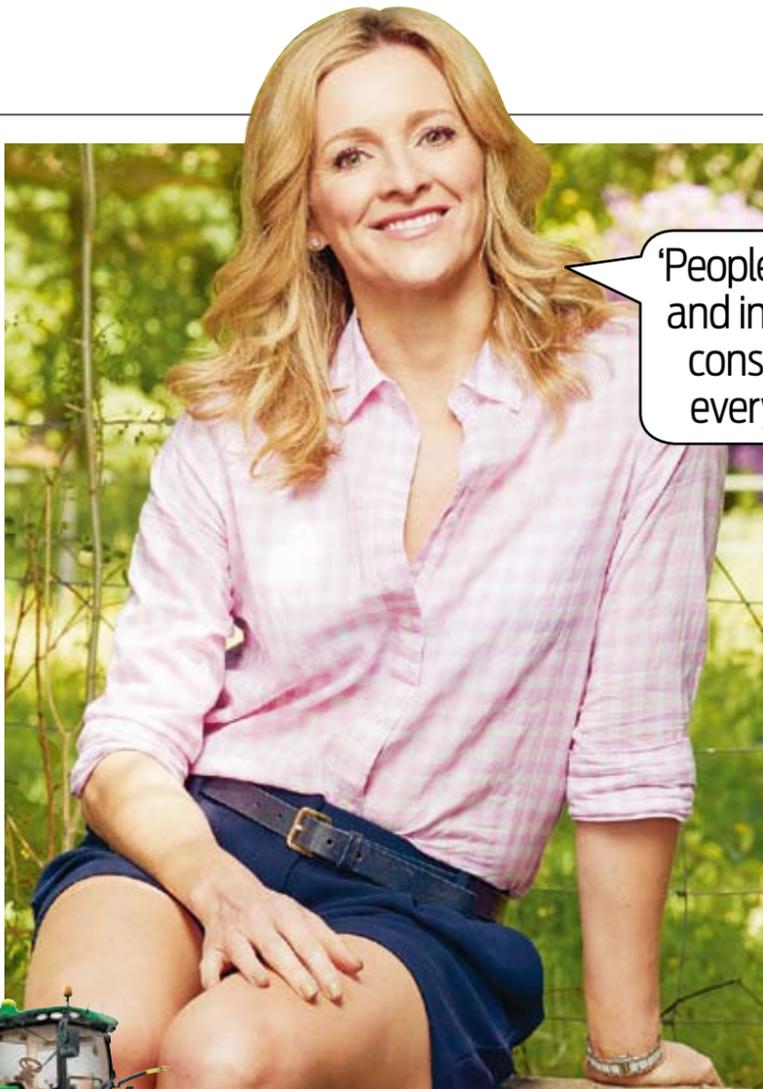


The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's presenter Gabby Logan's turn



'People think I'm really together and in control but I'm not. I'm constantly juggling to stop everything crashing down'

The prized possession you value above all others... My Metrin skin creams – nothing else feels right on my skin. Once I left them somewhere and got my husband Kenny [former rugby player Kenny Logan] to drive 60 miles to collect them.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Being voted off Strictly Come Dancing in 2007 before Kenny! I went in week four and he lasted until week nine. He teases me that he's the better dancer, but I tell him he was just more popular.

The temptation you wish you could resist... The delicious homemade bread you get in restaurants.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend. I read it when I was 13 and really connected to his awkwardness.

The person who has influenced you most... In my 20s it was my mum Christine. In my 30s it was my husband. I'm 42 now and I try to see the world through the eyes of my ten-year-old twins Reuben and Lois.

Right: Queen Elizabeth I. Above right: a John Deere tractor. Far right: a leopard cub

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Rice left on plates that blocks the dishwasher! It's happened three times recently and I have an idea who's responsible...

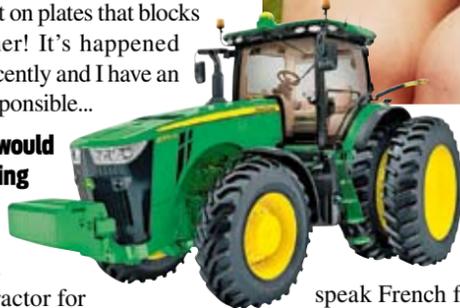
The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal a

John Deere tractor for Kenny, who dreams of owning one. He was brought up on a farm and had pictures of tractors on his bedroom wall instead of supermodels.

The film you can watch time and time again... Airplane!. I watched it with my dad [ex-footballer Terry Yorath] aged eight and didn't really get it, but I've grown to love it. The script is brilliant.

The song that means most to you... Mr Blue Sky by ELO cheers me up when I sing it in the car.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Queen Elizabeth I. She was such a strong woman and made so many big decisions –



I'd like to know who she trusted.

The unending quest that drives you on... To

speak French fluently. I've been learning since I was at school and use teach-yourself CDs in my car, but still can't speak it properly.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Follow your passions in life – and don't worry about puberty!

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The ability to run long distances. I used to run half marathons, now I can only do 5km.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Architecture and interior design. My dream is to design and build a house.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To finish my first children's novel. An entire draft is done, but I'm struggling to find the motivation to do the rewrites that will make it better.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd spend the day with a leopard and her cubs, watching her hunt.

The poem that touches your soul... WB Yeats's He Wishes For The Cloths Of Heaven, which I first read in my 20s. It's about respecting the dreams of others.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm really together. Some of our friends call us the 'Turbo Logans' because they think I'm so in control, but I'm not at all slick. I'm constantly juggling to stop everything from crashing down.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... My brother Daniel's sudden death [in 1992, aged 15, from the heart condition hypertrophic cardiomyopathy]. It was devastating and changed everything for my family and I forever.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd wake up on an idyllic island in the Indian Ocean with all the family and have a breakfast of exotic fruit, eggs and coffee by the beach. Then we'd go on a long bike ride in the Swiss Alps and ski

for hours at Grindelwald in the shadow of the Eiger mountain. We'd have lunch – fresh fish, salad and vegetables – at the Eden Rock hotel on St Barts in the Caribbean. Afterwards I'd swim in a lake in Vermont, then we'd head to Los Angeles because the kids love it there. We'd have a Japanese dinner of wagyu beef, sushi and tempura with a glass or two of sauvignon blanc. The day would end on a cold wintry night at home in Buckinghamshire.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Waking up after an emergency blood transfusion when I lost half my blood giving birth to the twins. Finally being with them was blissful.

The saddest time that shook your world... Nothing has ever come close to the shock of Daniel's death. It still brings so much sadness because new landmarks come and go. He would have turned 40 this year.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Do your best and just keep going.

The order of service at your funeral... I want a big garden party with plenty of wine and music and I want people to wear bright colours and be happy.

The way you want to be remembered... She always had a spring in her step.

The Plug... Gabby Logan presents the BBC's coverage of the RBS 6 Nations which starts today on BBC1 from 1.30pm with France vs Italy, then Scotland vs England. ■

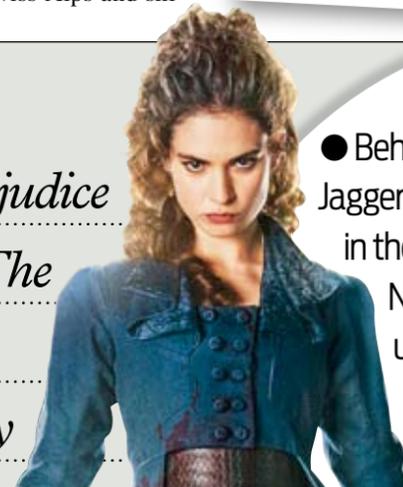
As told to Rob McGibbon



PHOTOGRAPHS: PERSIL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK, ALAMY, GETTY

PS...

War And Peace's Lily James is Lizzy Bennet in Pride And Prejudice And Zombies – in cinemas from Thursday. Matthew Perry's The End Of Longing opens at London's Playhouse Theatre on the same day. And Suede's latest tour starts in Glasgow on Monday



NEXT WEEK

- Behind the scenes on Mick Jagger's TV drama Vinyl – set in the music business in 1970s New York
- How to dish up the ultimate Valentine's Day dinner
- PLUS Britain's best TV guide