

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's *ITV News* anchor Tom Bradby's turn

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not being better at tennis. My great-grandmother won Olympic gold in 1908 and my mum was a tennis coach, but in my teens I couldn't spend ten minutes on court without causing an argument. I took being a rebel to ludicrous extremes.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... *Decent Interval* by former CIA analyst Frank Snepp. It's a remarkable memoir about the chaotic end to the Vietnam War.

The priority activity if you were the invisible man for a day... I'd listen to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh chewing the fat. They appear to have a biting wit and an eye for the absurd.

The prized possession you value above all others... My battered old MacBook Air laptop. I write wherever I can and I currently have my almost finished seventh novel and several screenplays on it. Losing it would be a catastrophe.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Rudeness, especially on social media.

The film you can watch time and time again... *The Year Of Living Dangerously* with Mel Gibson and Sigourney Weaver. It's a brilliant portrait of foreign correspondents in Jakarta during the political turmoil of 1965. It helped propel me into a career in journalism.

The person who has influenced you most... Both of my parents. My father Dan was in the Navy and was an honourable man who strove to do the right thing. My mum, Sally, was a selfless force of nature. She died of cancer in 2012 aged 72 and my father was 83 when he died from a heart attack last year. I'm also grateful for my wife Claudia's wisdom and sanity.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Judas. I'm an atheist, but I'm interested in Jesus and Judas would have an interesting perspective.

Left: Judas and Jesus. Above right: a MacBook Air laptop and a glass of whisky with ice. Far right: the skyline of Hong Kong



'I spent much of my teenage years training to be a ski racer in Austria, before realising I didn't have the talent'



The temptation you wish you could resist... Talisker whisky with ice. I got a taste for it at Edinburgh University, but I'm 50 now and the morning after is getting worse.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Life is one test of integrity after another and many of them are not immediately obvious.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Rugby. My grandfather Matt Bradby won two caps for England in the early 1920s, so it was a bit of a religion in our family.

The unending quest that drives you on... To keep doing my job. The cliché is that journalists get more cynical over time, but I'm growing more idealistic.

The poem that touches your soul... If by Rudyard Kipling. It's about sticking to what you know is right.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... The deaths of my parents. Losing people you love brings your own mortality to the fore.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My ability to stare out of a window for hours. I hope to recover that skill for leisure when I get older.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... I'm always mistaken on Twitter for the American football legend Tom Brady. I don't mind taking my own flak, but I could live without copping his as well.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... Crime? No thanks. I got arrested for shoplifting aged nine. My mum dug me out of the police station and I got the Alex Ferguson hairdryer treatment for an hour. That was the end of my life of crime.

The song that means most to you... Fleetwood Mac's *Songbird* is sad and soulful.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd wake up in Alpbach in the Austrian Alps. I spent much of my teenage years there training to be a ski racer – I considered it as a career, before realising I didn't have the

talent. I'd spend the morning skiing with Claudia and our kids Jack, 21, Louisa, 19, and Sam, 17, then have schnitzel for lunch. Next we'd fly to Hong Kong, where we lived for three years, for cocktails at the Peninsula Hotel. We'd end the day in Sydney with a swim in the saltwater pool near the Harbour Bridge, then dinner at a French-Japanese restaurant called Tetsuya's – I hope I'm not paying as it's expensive.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... All my truly happy memories involve family, but I'll never forget the premiere of *Shadow Dancer*, the film I adapted from my first novel, at the Sundance Film Festival in 2012.

The saddest time that shook your world... Watching my mother die of cancer. I'd have given anything to have believed in God during that time.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I'd like to get a few more novels and films out.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Do what you think is right.

The order of service at your funeral... I'd like *I Vow To Thee*, *My Country* and *Jerusalem*, and for my children to take the mickey out of me.

The way you want to be remembered... As a good husband, father and friend who acted with integrity.

The Plug... Tom Bradby anchors *ITV News At Ten* and will host *ITV News Election 2017 Live: The Results* on Thursday from 9.55pm. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Rachel Weisz stars in romantic mystery *My Cousin Rachel* – in cinemas Friday. Katy Perry's new album *Witness* is out the same day. And critically acclaimed play *The Kite Runner* transfers to London's Playhouse Theatre from Thursday



NEXT WEEK

- Go for glory as the Daily Mail's National Garden Competition returns
- The ultimate cannelloni in part two of Gino D'Acampo's Italian meals for a fiver series
- Britain's best TV guide