We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions — and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's the turn of singer Joss Stone

The prized possession you value above **all others...** My three dogs – a poodle called Dusty, a Caucasian Ovcharka called Igor and Maggie, a mongrel I rescued from Battersea Dogs Home. My dogs are my babies, my little buddies.

The biggest regret you wish you could **amend...** I regret listening to others in the past who pushed me in a certain direction with my work. I didn't listen to my gut instinct.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Smoking. I've smoked since I was 13. I give up every now and then, but only for a few months. I smoke about six Golden Vir-

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Me Before You by Jojo Moyes, about a lady who cares for a man who's paralysed and they fall in love. It's heartbreaking.

ginia roll-ups a day.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd go about my day,

not being both-

ered by anyone!

Right: Otis Redding. Above right: garden gnomes. Far right: Morpho butterflies

The pet hate that makes your hackles

rise... I don't like it when quiet people get talked over in a group. Everyone has a right to be heard.

## The film you can watch time and time again...

The Notebook from 2004 with Ryan Gosling because it makes me cry, then feel, 'Wow, what a wonderful love story."

The person who has influenced you most... My mum Wendy. She's kind and I've inherited from her the desire to look after people.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and

apint... Otis Redding. He was a country boy with a gorgeous voice who just cared about doing his thing. I'm a country girl too, so I think I could relate to him.

> The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Base decisions on your happiness scale. If anything comes in under five, don't do it.

The poem that touches your soul... Sonny's Lettah by Linton Kwesi Johnson, the dub poet, brings me to tears.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I love garden gnomes - they make me smile. They're so cute and cheesy. I have them scattered around my garden.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My grandmother Janet's gold ring she gave me when I was 15. I lost it at a waterpark.

The unending quest that drives you **On...** To complete my Total World Tour, during which I aim to play a gig and make a musical collaboration in every country. I've covered 126 in three years and I have 18 months to go.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm stupid! Boys often think this because I like flowers and talk about love a lot and then they're shocked that I actually have a brain.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... My mum selling our horse Freddie Mercury Firefly when I was 12 because we couldn't afford him. That made me think I needed to earn money. By the time I was 16 I had an album out.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal truckloads of cannabinoid oil to hand out to all the poorly people in Britain who want it for its health benefits.

## The song that means most to you...

Amazing Grace - the version by Eternal. I was 11 when I sang it at a wedding in front of 200 people. I was so nervous I asked them to not look at me, so they all turned away.

## The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...

I'd start the day with a walk through the forest near my home in Devon with my dogs. I'd then go to Costa Rica to follow some Morpho butterflies and sit

by a waterfall. I'd go home for lunch to have my mum's 'beanie pancakes', my favourite meal. It's homemade crepes filled with Heinz Baked Beans and Cheddar, then baked with tinned tomatoes on top. In the afternoon I'd go to the island of São Tomé off the west coast of Africa and drink from a coconut on the beach, then go exploring. Later I'd chill out on

the beach in Mauritius with my friends and family. I'd have a bottle of Sancerre and a chat. Dinner would be veggie dishes at a Moroccan restaurant in Exeter called Al-Farid. They do a great gin cocktail called Kissed By Rose which tastes like Turkish Delight. Then I'd go home for a bath and bed.

'Boys think I'm stupid because I like flowers and talk about love a lot. Then they're shocked that I actually have a brain'

> The happiest moment you will cherish **forever...** Seeing my sister Lucy marry her husband Ed under a tree in 2015 was beautiful.

> The saddest time that shook your world... When my Rottweiler Missy died last February after an operation. She was 11 and I totally adored her.

> The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To have kids one day. I always wanted seven, but I'm 30 now so maybe four is more realistic.

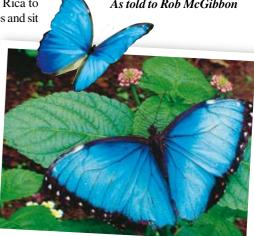
> The philosophy that underpins your **life...** Being kind is important.

The order of service at your funeral...  ${\bf I}$ want it in a field with a biodegradable box and flowers everywhere and for them to play I'm Kissing You by Des'ree, which is a real tearjerker.

The way you want to be remembered... For making people feel good - whether I made them a cup of tea or they enjoyed my music.

**The Plug...** Joss Stone, backed by a full orchestra, tours the UK in October as part of her Total World Tour. Tickets at

> ticketmaster.co.uk. ■ As told to Rob McGibbon



Colin Firth returns as a suave spy in Kingsman: The Golden Circle

- in cinemas Wednesday. Matthew Kelly opens in Desire Under

The Elms at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre on Thursday. And

Van Morrison's new album Roll With The Punches is out Friday

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Monty

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