The prized possession you value above all others... Our six-month-old bulldog, Royal Empire My Fair Lady -- or Dot for short. She was a surprise from my husband, Brian, and is like my fifth child. The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Not fighting hard enough to have my late father, Bo, at my first wedding in 1990 (to cameraman John Turnbull). My mother insisted that if I invited him, she wouldn't turn up. She put me in an awful position, but I should have stood my ground. He died five years later and, to this day, I am still furious with my weakness.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... Me, Brian and the children would take a dip in the cold sea off the Swedish coast, before picnicking on herring and bread, with schnapps for the grown-ups. We'd end the day back in England eating a big roast dinner in front of a roaring fire, before curling up with popcorn, hot chocolate and a movie. The temptation you wish you could resist... A Swedish chocolate milk drink called O’Boy. The taste brings back happy childhood memories.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... A Child Is Born by Lennart Nilsson. He took ground-breaking pictures of conception, pregnancy and birth. I was about ten when I first read it and the miracle of life took my breath away. I knew then that my only ambition in life was to become a mother.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd pop into a coffee shop and listen to strangers chatting about their joys and woes. The way fame and fortune has changed you in the better and worse... It has brought me some amazing opportunities, such as being taught to ice skate by Torvill and Dean. However, it has made me a bit of a recluse. People have such strong preconceptions about me that it is exhausting trying to break those down. The result is, I tend to go out only with very close friends.

The most awkward time and time again... Paper Moon, starring Ryan O’Neal and his nine-year-old daughter, Tatum. It is about the complexities of a father-daughter relationship, I watched it with my father when I was a kid and it always reminds me of us.

The person who has influenced you most... My late father. He died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage in 1995, aged 53. He wasn’t without his faults, but he was such a kind and loving man. I always felt that everything would be OK when I was with him. I loved his wicked sense of humour and he taught me to laugh at myself. And, boy, have I needed that skill!

The thing you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Picaso – I’d ask him about his art, his beliefs and, of course, his love of women. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Always acknowledge your mistakes and say sorry. You will be surprised how far that will get you.

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: author and TV star Ulrika Jonsson

As told to Rob McGibbon

Girls Aloud’s Kimberley Walsh steps into Amanda Holden’s shoes as Princess Fiona in Shrek The Musical. Rowan Atkinson is Johnny English Reborn, in cinemas now. And Katherine Jenkins’ new album, Daydream, is out on Monday.