We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s former F1 champ Nigel Mansell

The prized possession you value above all others... My health. I’ve broken my back, my neck, legs, arms and wrists and feet. I’m 62 now and my biggest achievement is that I’m still alive.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I wish I’d spent more time with my mum Joyce when she had cancer – we didn’t know how ill she was. She died in 1984 at 60 and I always think about her.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Chickenhawk, about a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War. You can almost feel the fear and bravery.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d stop criminals committing crimes. I’m a Special Constable and I hate what criminals committing crimes do to people.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Chewing gum on pavements or stuck under tables. There should be a penalty.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Time and opportunities are precious commodities – don’t waste them.

The unending quest that drives you on... The way you would spend your fantasy day... I’d wake up at home in Jersey and have a brandy and Coke, so maybe I’ll have a tipple as the sun goes down. Rosanne and I would end the day in Jersey.

The song that means most to you... The Plug... Autobiography by Nigel Mansell is published by Simon & Schuster, £20.

The company you’d most like to buy a pint with Jesus Christ would be interesting, if a little daunting!

The day Elio de Angelis died after a crash in France in 1986. I tried to get him out of the car, but it was on fire. It reminded me how dangerous racing is.

Play golf with mates at the Bellevue Biltmore club there and in the evening, we’d have friends over for a barbecue. I’m not a great cook, but I’m useful over the coals. I’ve been teetotal for 40 years but once in a while I have champagne or a brandy and Coke, so maybe I’ll have a tipple as the sun goes down. Rosanne and I would end the day in Jersey.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... When I saw a fantastic pair of legs walking down Blossomfield Road in Solihull when I was 17. I thought, ‘That’s the lady I’m going to marry’, so I pulled over and offered Rosanne a lift. We’ve been together over 45 years.

The saddest time that shook your world... The day my mother died. I had to race for Lotus the next day. I came third and my flowers from the podium were on her coffin a few days later.

The philosophy that underpins your life... No matter what’s thrown at you, dust yourself down and bounce back.

The way you would want to be remembered... For being a dogged, determined and positive person who thought the best of everyone and never did anyone down.


Emma Watson stars in psychological thriller Regression – in cinemas from Friday. BGT’s Alesha Dixon releases her new album Do It For Love on the same day. And Romola Garai is in Measure For Measure at London’s Young Vic now.

I took up magic after a crash which left me with a blood clot on the brain. It helped me recover – the best trick of all!