The airline tycoon—failed budgie baron—doesn’t bear grudges... even against his former enemy British Airways. But he’s still stung by ‘hurtful’ speculation about the Virgin Galactic disaster... and nervous about the prospect of his own space flight

What is your earliest memory? Honestly, I don’t have a memory of me at the age of six, but I do have a memory of going to school on the bus in the morning when I was six. In fact, I think I was six. I’m not sure whether it was the first or second day of school, but I know that I was excited to go to school and I remember seeing other children on the bus. I remember thinking that I was going to learn new things and make new friends. I was also excited to see my classmates and teachers. From that day on, I knew that I would love going to school and learning.

What sort of child were you? I was a very active child. I loved outdoor activities, such as playing sports and exploring the natural world. I was also a curious child, always asking questions and seeking knowledge. I was not afraid to speak up and share my thoughts. I was an extroverted child, always looking for new experiences and adventures. I was also a good listener, always willing to listen to others and learn from their experiences.

Describe the best night of your life. I believe the best night of my life was the night of my wedding, which took place in a small church in a rural village. It was a beautiful day, with blue skies and gentle sunshine. We were surrounded by the love and support of our family and friends, who came from all over the world to celebrate with us. The ceremony was amazing, and the reception was a lot of fun. We danced, laughed, and enjoyed each other’s company. I felt very happy and content on that day.

And what has been the toughest...? The toughest experience I have had in my life was the Virgin Galactic test flight accident in Mojave. It was a tragic event that caused the loss of life and injury to all the people onboard. It was a very difficult time, and I had to face the reality of losing a loved one and dealing with the aftermath of the accident. It was a time of sorrow, pain, and grief. I had to learn to cope with these feelings and keep going.

Who would be your dream dinner date? If I were to choose a dream dinner date, I would have Sir Richard Branson as my guest. I have known him since we were children, and I have always admired his courage, determination, and talent. He is a true leader, and I respect him for his achievements. I would love to hear his stories and learn from his experiences.

Which living person do you despise the most and why? I don’t despise anyone. I believe that everyone has the right to be who they are, and I respect their choices. I don’t judge people, I choose to love them.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse? I don’t think I overuse any particular words or phrases. I try to be concise and direct in my speech. I think that it is important to communicate clearly and effectively, and I try to do that in my daily life.

What is your best and worst character trait? My best trait is my ability to adapt and learn from my experiences. I am a quick learner, and I am always willing to try new things. I have a positive attitude and I am always looking for ways to improve. My worst trait is that I can be too direct sometimes. I can be blunt and honest, and that can sometimes hurt others.

Which books are you reading at the moment? I am reading a lot of books, but I don’t have a specific list of books that I am currently reading. I enjoy reading a wide variety of books, from fiction to non-fiction, and I am always looking for new books to read.

Which living person do you most admire and why? I admire Sir Richard Branson because he is a true leader, and he has achieved great things in his life. He is a risk-taker, and he is not afraid to take on new challenges. He is a true innovator, and he has made a significant impact on the world with his businesses and contributions.

I’m worried I’ll be sick when I go in the spaceship... Inside the head of... Richard Branson

The Virgin Way: How to Listen, Learn, Laugh and Lead is out now, published by Virgin Books, priced £20

THE LAST WORD

THE LAST GIANT YOU SAW

Gravity. The effects are brilliant.

THE LAST BOOK YOU READ

South: Ernest Shackleton’s account of his triumphant voyage on the Endurance to Antarctica. A storehouse of storytelling. They are the two mammoths for me. They have given me all kinds of sticky spots, but they have also brought extraordinary excitement into my life.

THE LAST TV SHOW YOU LOVED

The Bridge – I love these Scandinavian series. They really draw me in.

THE LAST GIANT YOU WENT TO

The Rolling Stones gig with special guest at the O2 in 2012. It was a fantastic gig, and I honestly don’t think that we have been sponsored at a last gig that was as good.

LAST THING YOU WANT TO SAY

See you up there, wherever there is...