The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s Call The Midwife’s Judy Parfitt

The prized possession you value above all others... My home in West Sussex. My late husband [actor Tony Steedman, who died in 2001 after suffering dementia for ten years] and I renovated it and it’s the place where I feel safe and happy.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not learning languages fluently. Being in a country is more pleasurable if you can speak to the natives.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Buying endless amounts of oils and potions to straighten my curly hair. None of them work!

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Elizabeth The Great by Elizabeth Jenkins. It’s the definitive story of Elizabeth I and sparked my fascination with her.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I’d sit at dinner with the Royal Family before the Brexit vote to hear what they really think.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could get back... A photo Tony took of me in Cornwall in 1961. I’m napped by the edge of the sea. Tony loved it and it reminds me of a special time. I have no idea where it’s gone.

The unending quest that drives you on... To find a part that stirs me, stretch me and frightens me.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could correct... That I’m for singletons. Then we’d go jetting off to the Maldives for a swim and snorkelling. Dinner would be with family and friends at the River Cafe in London. I’d have pasta and sauvignon blanc, then go for a walk by the Thames. The day would end at home watching the news and Call The Midwife!

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The births of my granddaughters. Tony didn’t live to see them but they were such a comfort to me.

The saddest time that shook your world... When my husband died. Tony was a huge emotional support and made me laugh a lot. I still miss him dreadfully. It’s very difficult being alone.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To do more comedy. I normally play heroic people who are suffering, but I really enjoy comedy.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Strive for what you want, but also accept what you can’t change.

The order of service at your funeral... I want it to be simple, with little fuss, and to be a happy occasion. I want my ashes put in with my Tony’s. Some are in the garden, some are in Spain and the rest are in an urn in the study!

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... The day would begin in Peru with my son David and his wife Roxanna and my granddaughters Annabel, 14 and Georgia. Lunch would be at La Colombe d’Or in St-Paul-de-Vence in the South of France. I’d have champagne and lobster. I’d spend the afternoon in the Royal Box on Centre Court at Wimbledon watching Andy Murray win the men’s singles. Then we’d go on the Orient Express to Venice for a Bellini at Harry’s Bar before...