

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's Olympic heptathlete *Jessica Ennis-Hill*

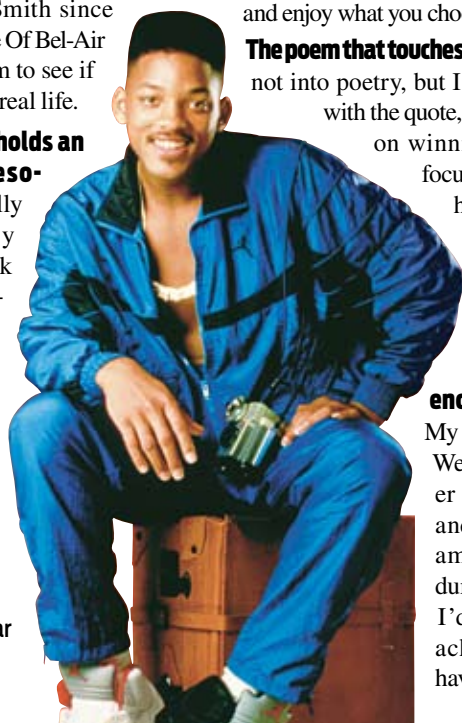
The prized possession you value above all others... My Olympic gold medal from London 2012 is so precious. It represents years of work and the realisation of a childhood dream. I also love a scrapbook my grandad Rod, 79, gave me in which he'd written details of all my athletic achievements from age 11.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I wish I hadn't worn horrible black flared velvet trousers to school when I was 15. What was I thinking!

The temptation you wish you could resist... Chocolate brownies.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I've been a fan of Will Smith since *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air* so I'd follow him to see if he's as funny in real life.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... *The Jolly Postman*, my favourite book when I was little. It reminds me of my mum and dad, Alison and Vinnie, reading to me.



Right: *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air*. Above right: an Aston Martin. Far right: pancakes and New York

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Lateness makes my blood boil.

The film you can watch time and time again... *Step Brothers* with Will Ferrell and John C Reilly was the one film on my iPad when I was travelling. It's rude, stupid and slapstick and appeals to my sense of humour.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal an Aston Martin and speed everywhere.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Be yourself, stay focused and enjoy what you choose to do in life.

The poem that touches your soul... I'm not into poetry, but I really connect with the quote, 'Winners focus on winning and haters focus on winners.' I heard it from basketball player LeBron James.

The person who has influenced you most... My husband Andy. We've been together since I was 18 and he's been an amazing support during my career. I'd never have achieved what I have without him.



The figure from history for whom you'd most like

to buy a pie and a pint... Jesse Owens, the black US athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. I'd love to know how he managed to compete despite all the racial pressures.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity. Yoga. It's calming and helps me switch off.

The unending quest that drives you on... To be a good mother and bring up my son Reggie, who's two, to be a happy, genuine and nice person.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The ability not to worry. I was fearless when I was younger and I'd give anything a go, but at 31 I'm now more aware of the possible consequences. Becoming a mum has made me even more cautious.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm always serious. That impression might have come because I was always interviewed straight after I'd competed. It was hard not to be serious then, but I have a wicked sense of humour and can easily laugh at myself.



'People think I'm serious because I was always interviewed straight after I'd competed. But I've got a wicked sense of humour'

day would end back at home in Sheffield watching a box set with Andy.

The song that means most to you... Otis Redding's *Try A Little Tenderness* was the first song at our wedding in 2013.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Nothing will beat meeting my son for the first time, but crossing the finishing line in the 800m at London was pretty good. That was the moment I knew I'd won gold.

The saddest time that shook your world... I'm constantly saddened by what's going on in the world, especially children being harmed in war zones.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I gave up playing the trombone in my junior school band when I was nine. I might have been quite successful if I'd stuck at it.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Nothing happens overnight. You have to set your mind on what you want, then work at it.

The order of service at your funeral... I trust Andy to put together a playlist of songs that'll get people crying and then smiling. I'd also like a celebration, with people sharing happy stories about me.

The way you want to be remembered... A kind person who was pretty good at running, jumping and throwing.

The Plug... Jessica hosts *VitalityMove* with DJ Trevor Nelson – two days of running and music at Chatsworth in July and Windsor Great Park in September. Sign up at vitalitymove.co.uk. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting three stress fractures in my right foot before the Beijing Olympics in 2008. I was told my career could be over. I was out for seven months, but in that time I found a new inner strength. I then hit a winning streak that culminated in gold in 2012.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd spend all day with Andy and Reggie, beginning in New York with a huge fry-up for breakfast with a stack of pancakes. Afterwards we'd enjoy the view from the Rockefeller Center and go shopping on Fifth Avenue. Then we'd check into a luxury hotel on Hamilton Island, Australia, where we had our honeymoon in 2014. We'd swim and play on the beach, then have lunch – I'd order avocado, salmon and poached eggs. In the afternoon I'd ski in Switzerland.

I've never done it before because of the dangers, but now I've retired it's top of my To Do list. Then we'd go for dinner by the river in Florence. I'd have a steak and some Chianti. The



PS...

*Ryan Reynolds stars in sci-fi drama **Life**, in cinemas Friday.*

*James Blunt's new album **The Afterlove** is out the same*

*day. And the stage version of the classic film **An American***

In Paris opens at London's Dominion Theatre on Tuesday



NEXT WEEK

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- Enjoying your Puzzle Extra? Then don't miss part four
- Monty Don on why he fell in love with mahonias
- Britain's best TV listings