That I’d worried less as I
our newspapers, magazines
- photographs: Gordon Sermek, Getty Images, Rex Features, Alamy

The prized possession you value above all others. The four rings on my wedding finger are all very significant — my wedding ring, my mum’s wedding ring and the engagement rings of my granny and mother-in-law. Each represents someone very dear to me, but sadly all three women are no longer alive.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... That I’d worried less as I was growing up. I was always anxious about whether I’d find a career I loved or be able to afford to buy a house.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier was the first grown-up book I read, when I was aged about 12. I still remember the vivid sense of place and the brilliant description of a young woman trying to find her way in the world.

The film you can watch time and time again... Some Like It Hot. Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis are a wonderful comic pairing.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I’d love to move among lions and elephants.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People talking loudly on mobile phones, especially on public transport. The temptation you wish you could resist... Pessimism. My job involves reading about terrible problems and I find it increasingly hard to remember there’s a lot of good in the world too.

The person who has influenced you most... I first presented with Alastair Stewart on ITV’s London Tonight in 1993, and he taught me a huge amount about newsreading and journalism.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I’m a good dressmaker. When I was a student I made all my own clothes, and earned good money making ball gowns and wedding dresses for my friends.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... I would have bought a cappuccino. I’d spend the morning skiing in Val d’Isère and a palazzo in Tuscany.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... Youth. I’m 53, and one of the oldest women on TV.

The unprompted question that drives you on... To make a secure home for my husband Paul and our children, Molly, 14, and Joe, 12. I’m fortunate to have a job that helps us live well and have lovely holidays, but kids are expensive.

The poem that touches your soul... I’m not at all religious, but I find the hymn ‘Lord, you are my shepherd’ incredibly moving.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... When I was a City dealer a friend suggested I do a screen test for TV Tokyo’s business programme. I ended up on Japanese TV every day and everything that’s happened since is down to that.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... There’s a misconception that all women on TV are ultra-competitive and hostile to each other. Actually, all the female newsholders get on well.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I’d be a serial squatter and move between other people’s gorgeous properties. On my list would be Richard Branson’s Necker Island and a palazzo in Tuscany.

The song that means most to you... David Bowie’s Changes takes me back to time, but I hope I’m always kind.

As told to Rob McGibbon

‘It’s not true all women on TV are hostile to each other. Actually, all the female newsholders get on well’


NEXT WEEK
- Secrets from the set as The Durrells returns for series two
- Make the most of spring vegetables with Antonio Carluccio’s recipes
- Britain’s best TV listings

Photography: Gordon Sermek, Getty Images, Rex Features, Alamy

PS... Gemma Arterton takes the lead in wartime drama Their Finest — in cinemas Friday. The new album from Texas, Jump On Board, is out on the same day. And The Philanthropist, with Lily Cole and Simon Bird, opens at London’s Trafalgar Studio One on Thursday.