The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s ITV News anchor Tom Brady’s turn

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not being better at tennis. My great-grandmother won Olympic gold in 1908 and my mum was a tennis coach, but in my teens I couldn’t spend ten minutes on court without causing an argument. I took being a rebel to ludicrous extremes.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Decent Interval by former CIA analyst Frank Snepp. It’s a remarkable memoir about the chaotic end to the Vietnam War.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d listen to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh chewing the fat. They appear to have an interesting perspective. I’m an atheist, but I’m interested in Jesus and Judas would have an interesting perspective.

The person who has influenced you most... Both of my parents. My father Dan was in the Navy and was an honourable man who strove to do the right thing. My mum, Sally, was a selfless force of nature. She died of cancer in 2012 aged 72 and my father was 83 when he died from a heart attack last year. I’m also grateful for my wife Claudia’s wisdom and sanity.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Judas. I’m an atheist, but I’m interested in Jesus and Judas would have an interesting perspective.

The prized possession you value above all others... My battered old MacBook Air laptop. I write wherever I can and I currently have my almost finished seventh novel and several screenplays on it. Losing it would be a catastrophe.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Rudeness, especially on social media.

The film you can watch time and time again... The Year Of Living Dangerously with Mel Gibson and Sigourney Weaver. It’s a brilliant portrait of foreign correspondents in Jakarta during the political turmoil of 1965. It helped propel me into a career in journalism.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Talisker whisky with ice. I got a taste for it at Edinburgh University, but I’m 50 now and the morning after is getting worse.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Life is one test of integrity after another and many of them are not immediately obvious.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Rugby. My grandfather Matt Brady won two caps for England in the early 1920s, so it was a bit of a religion in our family.

The unending quest that drives you on... To keep doing my job. The cliché is that journalists get more cynical over time, but I’m growing more realistic.

The poem that touches your soul... “It By Rudyard Kipling. It’s about sticking to what you know is right.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... The deaths of my parents. Losing people you love brings your own mortality to the fore.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My ability to spend ten minutes on court without causing an argument. I took being a rebel to ludicrous extremes.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Do what you think is right.

The order of service at your funeral... I’d like I Vow To Thee, My Country and Jerusalem, and for my children to take the mickey out of me.

The way you want to be remembered... As a good husband, father and friend who acted with integrity.

The Plug... Tom Brady stars in romantic mystery My Cousin Rachel – in cinemas Friday. Katy Perry’s new album Witness is out the same day. And critically acclaimed play The Kite Runner transfers to London’s Playhouse Theatre from Thursday

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NEXT WEEK

● Go for glory as the Daily Mail’s National Garden Competition returns
● The ultimate cannelloni in part two of Gino D’Acampo’s Italian meals for a fiver series
● Britain’s best TV guide