

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's breakfast TV's Naga Munchetty

The prized possession you value above all others... My husband James gave me diamond stud earrings for my 30th birthday [she's now 42] and they're the only pair I wear.

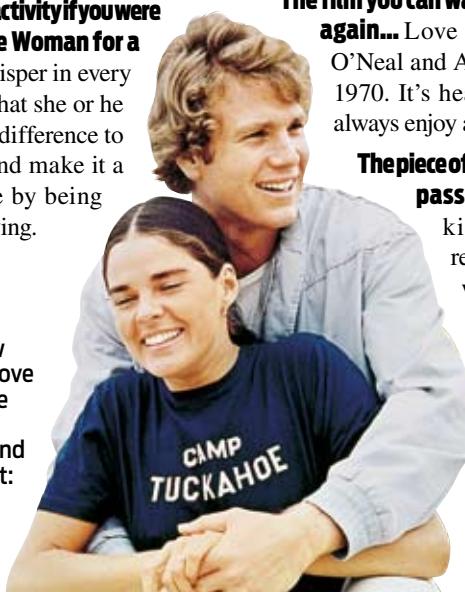
The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I wish I'd committed more to my studies. I'm so hungry for knowledge now and regret not taking advantage of the marvellous teachers I had. If I'd learnt more, I'd be far better company now – and better at pub quizzes!

The temptation you wish you could resist... Red wine and champagne.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, a powerful tale of love, cruelty and revenge that I studied at A-level. It was the first book I'd read that didn't sugar-coat life.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd whisper in every child's ear that she or he can make a difference to the world and make it a better place by being kind and loving.

Right: Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw in the film *Love Story*. Above right: golf clubs, ball and tee. Far right: a temple in Chennai, India



The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People who think their mobile phone is more interesting than the person sitting opposite them at dinner.

The person who has influenced you most... James. He's completely comfortable in his own skin, so what you see is what you get. I judge people by how they get on with him. If they don't like him, they're the ones who are not worth knowing. He's definitely my better half and without him I'd not be nearly as happy, or feel as secure about who I am.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Nina Simone. She was an amazing singer/songwriter and activist.

The film you can watch time and time again... *Love Story* with Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw from 1970. It's heartbreaking and I always enjoy a good cry over it.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Be kind to people and remember that those who are cruel are probably far unhappier than you.

The unending quest that drives you on... To learn something new every single day.



The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Golf. I've been playing for nine years and it's helped me mature because you have to be calm and focused to play.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... Our two Siamese cats, Kinky and Ronnie, who passed away last year. I miss them every day. We have two rescue cats now.

The poem that touches your soul... *Still I Rise* by US civil rights activist Maya Angelou. It's so powerful.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... Some people presume I'm thick-skinned because I have to be tough when I'm asking people questions for my job, but I get as hurt as anyone when I'm insulted.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Nearly being thrown off my English literature course in my first year at Leeds University. I was spending more time with my boyfriend in Kent and thought I could scrape by with minimum work. From then on I threw myself into university life.



'Some people presume I'm thick-skinned because of my job but I get just as hurt as anyone when I'm insulted'

with happy music blaring from all rooms. I'd cook a fabulous barbecue with lots of chilli sauce, ending with bananas stuffed with dark chocolate KitKats. The day would end in bed with James and our two cats purring contentedly on the floor next to us.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... I always cherish the simple things – at the moment, the sweetest strike of a golf ball on a beautiful day will always make me smile.

The saddest time that shook your world... My two cats dying. Until then I hadn't experienced real grief.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To speak more languages. There's nothing better than being able to speak to locals in their mother tongue when you're travelling.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Be kind, and life is short – so live it to the full.

The order of service at your funeral... No funeral – just a big party with lots of loud, happy music, plenty of dancing and red wine, champagne and gin. I don't mind people also having a good cry, but then cracking on with life.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who liked to laugh, loved with all her might and did her best to live a good life.

The Plug... Naga presents BBC Breakfast, watched by 6.5 million people every morning. Watch on BBC1 from 6am every day. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd rid the world of anyone who's cruel to animals or children.

The song that means most to you... Prince's *Sign 'O'* The Times always makes me smile, even though it's about drug abuse, gang violence and poverty.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd spend all day with James, starting in Japan with a traditional breakfast. We'd feed the deer in Nara Park before going hiking in the mountains of Kamikochi. After a delicious spicy lunch in Chennai, India, we'd head to Bolivia to walk in the awe-inspiring Valle de Dali. I'd do an hour of gentle yoga on top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, then it'd be golf with James – the first nine holes at Castle Stuart in Inverness, the back nine at Bearwood Lakes in Berkshire. I'd freshen up with a warm rainfall shower on a beach in the South of France before going back to our home in Hertfordshire on a hot summer's evening,



PS...

Pop star Harry Styles plays a soldier in *Dunkirk* – in cinemas on Friday. Lana Del Rey's new album *Lust For Life* is out the same day. And *Girl From The North Country*, featuring the songs of Bob Dylan, is on at The Old Vic in London



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