We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definite answer. This week it's TV drama writer Kay Mellor

The prize possession you value above all others... An oil painting called The Barmain's Tale. I bought it for £5,000 about 15 years ago. It's dead simple, but I can look at it for hours.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not being more sensitive to my mother Dinah after I re-met my father George when I was 21. He'd left home when I was three. I was excited when he came back into my life but I wasn't aware how hurt my mum was.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... 'Be kind and have empathy.'

The priority activity if you were the invisible Woman for a day... I'm intrigued by Byron, so I'd hang out with some to see what they're really like.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting my husband when I was 15 in 1966 on a blind date. For me, it was love at first sight. We married a year later, when I was five months' pregnant. Anthony's a lovely, kind, considerate man, who's got even better and nicer with age.

The person who has influenced you most... Gordon Wright, my A-level drama teacher when I was a mature student at 27. He got me acting, which led me to writing.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Emmeline Pankhurst. She had the courage to fight for change and must have been an incredible leader.

The poem that touches your soul... 'The Cannibals'. Looking back now the illustrations were shocking. Parents should be careful what they give their kids to read.

The film you can watch time and time again... Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. They're electric together and the dialogue is brilliant. It's hysterically funny but also deeply tragic.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I'm really into dating shows and never miss Channel 4's First Dates and The Undateables. They're my guilty pleasure.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Large portions of carbohydrates, like pizza and pasta.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... I was greatly affected by reading a Rupert Bear annual when I was eight, which had Rupert meeting 'the Cannibals'. Looking back now the illustrations were shocking. Parents should be careful what they give their kids to read.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To play a Shakespearean role at the National Theatre, like Regan in King Lear.

The song that means most to you... What A Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong, which was out at the time our first daughter was born. I was only 16 and scared, but I'd see how wonderful she was and I knew everything would be all right.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd have a break from the TV.