The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s former Dallas star Linda Gray

The prized possession you value above all others... My home, deep in the country north of Los Angeles, which I built in 1973. It’s ranch-style, very warm and welcoming.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not finishing my biology studies. I quit college when I was 19 because I was having fun flying around making TV commercials.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Collecting cookbooks! I have around 200 and I’ll never manage to cook everything in them.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Four Agreements by Mexican healer Don Miguel Ruiz. It reminds you to live with integrity.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I love dogs, so I’d go inside the brain of a dog to learn what they think of humans. Sadly, all my animals have died now.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Abuse of any kind. With what’s going on in the world, humanity needs a good cleanse.

The film you can watch time and time again... I love Casablanca. I admire its richness and attention to detail.

The person who has influenced you most... My grandma Betty, who was so wise. She told me to treat my friendships gently, like grains of sand in my hand. I was 15 when she died, but I still feel her and hear her voice.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Bette Davis. I love how feisty she was. We had dinner shortly before she died in 1989, she was wonderful.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Follow your dreams, always be curious, read, and don’t forget to be kind.

The uniquely interesting that engages your curiosity... Quantum physics. I’ve studied it since the 1980s. I still do workshops and classes.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... Time. I’m 77 but have the energy of a 20-year-old. I need to live until 150, I have so much to do!

The unending quest that drives you on... To keep learning. I even watch the Great British Bake Off because I’m curious to know how they bake such wonderful things.

The poem that touches your soul... Anything by 13th-century Persian poet Rumi. His writings are timeless and poignant, and still so relevant.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be the Pied Piper that inspires people of my age group to get more out of life.

The philosophy that underpins your life... To strive to be better each day and do everything with love.

The order of service at your funeral... I want lots of white flowers and for people to have fun, share memories and scatter my ashes in the places I loved.

The way you want to be remembered... As a good human who lived with curiosity, passion and kindness.

The Plug... Signed copies of Linda’s memoir The Road To Happiness Is Always Under Construction are available on her website lindagray.com.

As told to Rob McGibbon

PS...

See Daniel Day-Lewis in his final film, Phantom Thread, in cinemas Friday. Justin Timberlake’s new album, Man Of The Woods, is out the same day. And Ben Whishaw opens in Julius Caesar at London’s Bridge Theatre on Tuesday.