The DEEPINE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s the turn of newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky

The prized possession you value above all others... A silver necklace my husband Justin had made for me. It has two round discs – one with my fingerprint on one side and our daughter Angelica’s, who’s now eight, on the other. The second disc has Justin’s and our son Arlo’s (now nine) fingerprints.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Giving up piano when I was 12 because I thought I was too busy.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Fudge. I’m 45, yet I still can’t control my sweet tooth.

The song that means most to you... I don’t have one. The Collector by John Cole in 2004. Dancing at a disco with Brendan Cole. There’s no one I can dance with on Strictly with Brendan Cole. There’s no one I can dance with.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Dog mess. It was one of the reasons we moved out of London to Sussex five years ago. The city is full of it. We have five dogs. Part of owning a dog is cleaning up after it.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Eglington jet, the founder of Save The Children. I’ve been an ambassador for nearly ten years. I’d thank her for the sacrifices she made to create it.

The misapprehension about your profession that still haunts you... That I’m a middle-class champagne drinker and travels a lot: whenever he’s away I gain a new animal!

The person who has influenced you most... My parents, Catherine and Raphael, are extraordinary people who instilled the most wonderful values in me and my younger brother, Ben. I still turn to them if I have any issues that I need to discuss.

The unending quest that drives you on... To create a more equal world. I grew up near Nairobi, Kenya, and saw deprivation that still haunts me.

The most wonderful surprise... The morning after I was married, Justin and I were baptised. I want my family and I were baptised. I want my family to always be there. I want my family to always be there.

The philosophy that underpins your life... The motto in our family is: the kindest is the winner.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I gave up art after A-levels, but I hope to take it up again.

The song that meant the most to you... Can’t Take My Eyes Off You by Andy Williams. Right after our wedding ceremony in 2005, Justin sang the first verse, then the congregation joined in with a jazz band playing outside the church. It was the most wonderful surprise.

The song that means the most to you... Dancing with a top professional dancer. There’s nothing like being guided across a dance floor as I was on Strictly with Brendan Cole in 2004. Dancing at a disco with a drunk husband is very different!

The poem that touches your soul... Desiderata by Max Ehrmann is a blueprint for life.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... When I was six, my mum told me to give some of my toys to children at an African village. I reluctantly took a doll, but when I gave it to a girl, all the other kids mobbed her and tore it apart. I was in such shock. I felt so guilty, it gave me a desperate desire to make things better.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I have straight hair! I have natural ringlets that are impossible to control without endless blow-drying. It’s perfect for Justin, he gets to sleep with two women – one who goes to bed with straight hair, and one who wakes up curly!

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I’d always go first class on the train to get a seat. The Collector by John Cole in 2004. Dancing at a disco with Brendan Cole. There’s no one I can dance with. I’d always go first class on the train to get a seat.

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