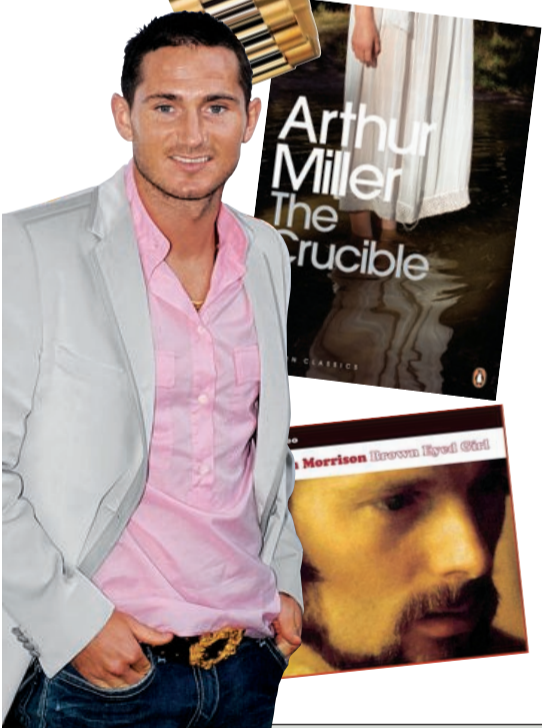




From top: the Paris Metro, The Lady Of Shalott, a Rolex watch, oil painting, Christine's fiancé Frank Lampard, The Crucible, Van Morrison



The prized possession you value above all others... A Rolex watch I bought myself when I moved to London. It was a scary, lonely time. I'd never lived away from home so it was an enormous step, personally and professionally, but I'm glad I took the plunge.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... I really don't have any regrets. If I make a decision that doesn't go to plan then I learn from it and move on. I don't dwell on regrets.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no time travel restrictions... I visited Paris for the first time with my fiancé Frank [Chelsea footballer Frank Lampard] recently. It was magical. I'd start there, then head to Val d'Isère for skiing, then to Italy to top up the tan. Frank would be with me, with family and some mates, too.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Being the last to leave a party. I always want to dance with the hangers-on when the band is packing up.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Crucible. I became fascinated by all things Arthur Miller after reading this play. I also fell in love with Daniel Day-Lewis and Winona Ryder in the film. Painfully magical.

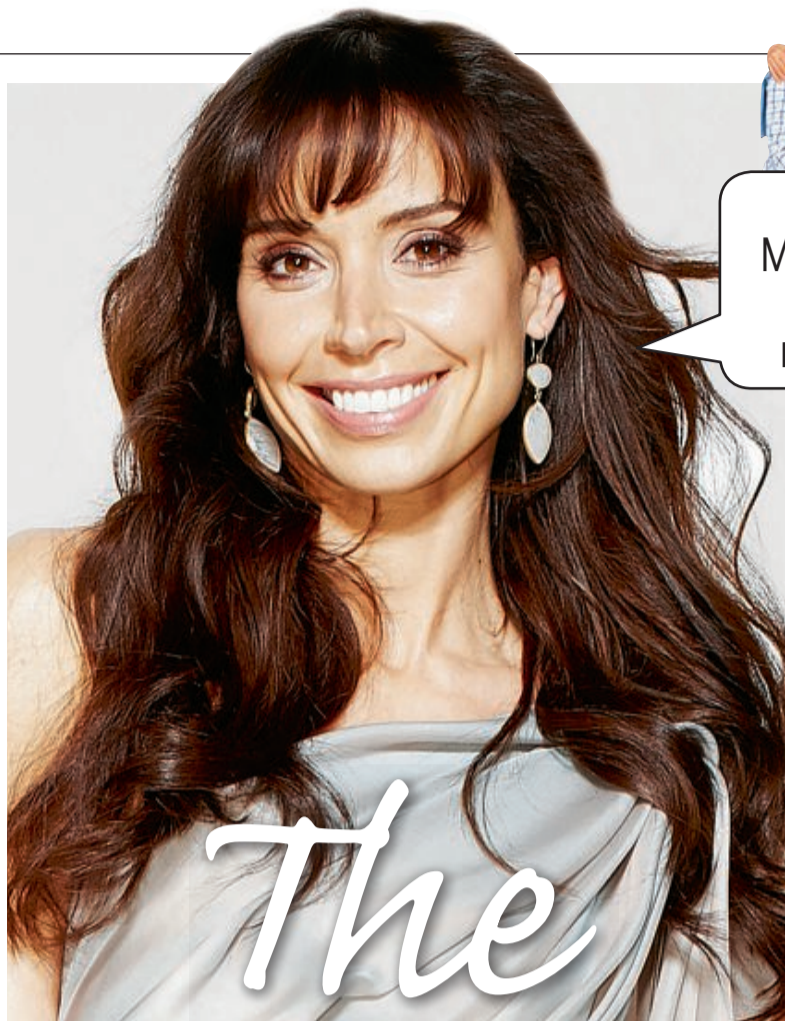
The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd follow traffic wardens and put paid-up tickets in cars before they issued a fine. I got a ticket recently, so I'm a bit bitter!

The way fame and fortune has changed you, for better and worse... I could never comfortably link my name with the term 'fame and fortune', but being on telly does have its bonuses. People are always friendly if they see me out and want to chat – but that can be a downside if I'm meeting a close friend and we're trying to catch up.

The film you can watch time and time again... I adore comedies with a storyline you can relate to and I love Meet The Fockers. Who doesn't get nervous meeting the in-laws?

The person who has influenced you most... My parents have been incredibly influential, as has Adrian Chiles, but if I had to pick one person it would be Frank. He is a great man with a lot of integrity and an inner strength few of us possess. I admire his work ethic most – it's second to none.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Marilyn Monroe. I'd ask if she knew



I really love the film Meet The Fockers. Who doesn't get nervous meeting the in-laws?

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's the turn of Christine Bleakley

the effect she'd have standing on that grate with the air blowing up her dress. I guess the answer would be yes!

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Nuala McKeever, the Northern Irish writer and comic, once said, 'Christine, jump and the net shall appear.' I was worrying about moving to London, and the second she uttered those words I had the courage to go.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I nearly went to art

college, and painting with oils is a real passion. I can lose days in front of a canvas – it is the ultimate escape.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A beautiful gold ring with amethyst stones my parents bought me for my 21st. I lost it when I moved from Northern Ireland to London in 2007. I was devastated.

The unending quest that drives you on... To be independent. Mum instilled that in me from an early age. She under-

stands the freedom a woman has when she doesn't depend on anyone else.

The poem that touches your soul... The Lady Of Shalott by Alfred, Lord Tennyson is beautiful.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I popped up on telly out of nowhere. I've been working in TV since I was 17.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Moving to London to work on The One Show. I still can't believe my luck.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I can't bear litter louts. If I caught someone throwing stuff out of their car, I'd push the car in a hole and fill it with concrete.

The song that means most to you... Van Morrison's Brown Eyed Girl. Dad used to sing it to me when I was young. I'm still his brown-eyed girl.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... My sister Nicola's wedding day. I cried with happiness and pride for 12 hours solid.

The saddest time that shook your world... I vividly remember my grandmother passing away when I was ten. I sat my 11-plus not long after and held a picture of her in my hand the entire way through it. I passed, and I believe she had something to do with that.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I really don't have one. Mum taught me to appreciate what you've got, rather than mourn what you haven't. She always says stay humble and you won't have far to fall.

The philosophy that underpins your life... What goes around comes around. Every time.

The order of service at your funeral... A grand buffet, with Irish oysters and Guinness for good measure. Loads of comedians and great music. Comic Leigh Francis could host proceedings.

The way you want to be remembered... Happy, genuine and trustworthy.

The Plug... Christine co-hosts ITV1's Daybreak with Adrian Chiles, weekdays from 6am-8.30am. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

PS...

Harry Potter goes out with a bang in *The Deathly Hallows Part 2*, in cinemas now. Silk actress Maxine Peake stars in

political drama *Loyalty* at London's Hampstead Theatre.

And enjoy Elton John at Hatfield House, Herts, tomorrow



NEXT WEEK

- TV's most fearless couple reveal their jaw-dropping survival secrets
- Delicious and healthy recipes for summer salads
- Brilliant news for gardeners – Monty Don says don't mow the lawn!
- PLUS Britain's biggest and most detailed TV listings