

Jeanette Winterson

What was your first thought this morning? How beautiful my girlfriend was.

What did you eat for breakfast? Same as always: Sunny Jim wholewheat flakes, organic orange juice squeezed by me and organic toast. (In winter the cornflakes change to organic porridge oats.)

What is the most common colour in your wardrobe? Blue.

What is your favourite meeting place? Depends on the meeting. For dinners out, Melange in Covent Garden. For interviews, any neutral spot that serves cappuccino. For good friends, my home or theirs.

Which piece of architecture moves you to either heaven or hell? St Paul's because it's domed not phallic. Tower blocks because they're cynical, cheap and disgusting.

Who do you reveal your secrets to? I'd never tell everything to one person. My girlfriend and my best friend are the ones with whom I share the most.

In what do you find security? In myself, my sense of self.

How regularly do you consult your horoscope? I have a personal astrologer.

You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo? Callas arias.

Which is your city of the 90s? Amsterdam. I like canals and Venice has gone off.

Where do you wish you were living? Here, for now.

What foreign languages do you speak? French creatively - I make up what I don't know. Italian (*spaghetti*).

Where is your favourite holiday destination? I don't take holidays.

How has your diet changed in the past 10 years? For six years I have been vegetarian. For four years, entirely organic.

Do you count the calories? No.



Jeanette Winterson was born in Lancashire in 1959. She was brought up as a Pentecostal Evangelist. She has worked as an ice-cream van driver, make-up artist in a funeral parlour and a domestic in a mental hospital. She is now a full-time writer. Her first novel, *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*, was recently adapted into a BBC2 drama series. *Sexing The Cherry* is her fourth, and most recent, novel. She is currently working on her first film

Are you conscious about your fitness? Since I eat properly and run regularly, get plenty of sex, love my work, and am very happy - not at all.

Under what circumstances would you use private medicine? I have a private health plan which allows me to use homeopathic treatment at a homeopathic hospital. I will not be a party to conventional medicine.

At what age do you want to stop working? Death.

Do you really need your car? My girlfriend and I share a lovingly restored MG

(unleaded with catalytic converter).

What are you doing for the environment? Everything possible; I compost, recycle all bottles, cans, papers, re-use envelopes, don't buy packaged food. I only use Ecover and non-animal tested household products. I campaign for FoE and Greenpeace etc, and donate 10% of my income to environmental or animal charities.

What do you no longer believe in? I used to think that some things - attitudes, institutions, prejudices - couldn't be changed. Now, I think that

everything can be changed.

What would you kill for? I don't support violent resistance.

What current campaign do you most support? Anti-poll tax and rainforest crisis, but I campaign all the time over things I care about.

Do you own shares? No!

How easily persuaded are you by advertising? Not at all.

What do you now own that you had never dreamed of owning? An erototic compost tumbler.

What is the most amount of money you've spent on an item of clothing? Four hundred pounds on a suit from Nicole Farhi.

What hi-tech device scares you? Because I know so little about hi-tech devices, I continue in blissful ignorance.

How much time do you spend each day on the phone? One hour or so.

When do you listen to music? Early evening.

When are your favourite tv viewing hours? I haven't got a tv.

Which newspapers do you read regularly? None. I listen to the radio for news and current affairs, and friends send me cuttings. Newspapers take up too much time.

What were you doing when Mandela was freed? Listening to it on the radio while digging my garden.

In one word, how has the Rushdie affair left you thinking? Unchanged.

Complete this sentence: If I was dictator for a day... I'd abolish all dictatorships.

How do you personally hope to change by the end of the millennium? I don't have any long-term goals as far as personal development is concerned, only day-by-day commitment to seeing past my own full-stops. •